

April 2016

Catherine Woolley Correspondence

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Catherine Woolley

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WOOLLEY, Catherine

lives Passaic, New Jersey

earlier books: GINNIE AND GENEVA, \$2.00, 1948, Morrow
I like trains, \$1.00, 1944, Harper
TWO HUNDRED PENNIES, \$2.00, 1947, Morrow
DAVID'S HUNDRED DOLLARS, \$2.50, 1952, Morrow
LUNCH FOR LENNIE, \$2.00 1952, Morrow
RAILROAD COWBOY, \$2.00, 1951, Morrow
GINNIE JOINS IN, \$2.00, 1951, Morrow
DAVID'S RAILROAD, \$2.00, 1949, Morrow
SCHOOLROOM ZOO, \$2.00, 1950, Morrow

February 2, 1953

Miss Catherine Woolley
c/o William Morrow & Company
425 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Miss Woolley:

While noting HOLIDAY ON WHEELS for our "Maine in Print" list which appears quarterly in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, we became curious about its author. Were you yourself from this state? Our search for information has so far been unsuccessful.

The Maine Author Collection inspires our present letter. You may be living quietly so near us that you already know of this permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people or about the state; or perhaps not. These volumes are almost all inscribed presentation copies, a valuable and growing testimony to the versatility and creativeness of our writers. The varied inscriptions lend a special distinction to the books, and range from pen-and-ink sketches to tributes to Maine, and from autobiographical highlights to poetry. Of course there are all kinds of books in the collection: children's stories, cook books, novels, biographies, histories, volumes on art, religion, law, travel, fishing. It is an exhibit of which we are extraordinarily proud, and which constantly attracts visitors and students.

It is always a glad day when we can welcome a new Maine writer. We are not unacquainted with your earlier books, but for the first time it has occurred to us that you may be from Maine. At any rate, perhaps David would like to join the Maine Author Collection, because it does include books with Maine settings, such as Gladys Hasty Carroll's, Louise Dickinson Rich's, Gertrude Robinson's, some of Margaret Wise Brown's, Ben Ames Williams', and the Haders' charming Tommy Thatcher, for instance.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

SCHOOLROOM 200, \$2.00, 1950, MOTTOW
DAVID'S RAILROAD, \$2.00, 1949, MOTTOW
GINNIE JOINS IN, \$2.00, 1951, MOTTOW
RAILROAD COWBOY, \$2.00, 1951, MOTTOW
LUNCH FOR LENNIE, \$2.00, 1952, MOTTOW
DAVID'S HUNDRED DOLLARS, \$2.50, 1952, MOTTOW
TWO HUNDRED PENNIES, \$2.00, 1947, MOTTOW
I Like trains, \$1.00, 1944, Harper
GINNIE AND GENEVA, \$2.00, 1948, MOTTOW

February 8, 1953

Thank you very much indeed for writing me. I may be sure that I shall stop in to call on you.
Catherine Woolley 71 Park Avenue Passaic, New Jersey
Maine Author Collection
February 7, 1953

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

It was very pleasant to receive your letter, even though I am not a Maine author. Like many other Jersey people I have spent many happy vacations in Maine, and the idea for "Holiday on Wheels" came to me in its entirety en route from Boston to Portland by train summer before last.

There has been no attempt in the book to reproduce actual places or routes. David took the bus from Portland to Wiscasset, and the resort town where he sees the big fish and admires the baby seals is Boothbay Harbor. The cabin where he visits is one where I have often staid with good friends.

I traveled from Boothbay Harbor to Rangeley (where, incidentally, the young nephew who is the original of David was in camp), and this in general is the territory David and Daddy cover on bicycle, though perhaps on secondary roads a bit to the south. As for the camp where the family is reunited, the prototype was York's (is that name right?) at Rangeley, though here again there is no attempt to reproduce exactly.

If after this explanation you would still like to have David in the Maine Author Collection, I shall be happy to present the collection with a copy.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Jan

Thank you very much indeed for writing me. If I pass through Augusta on some future jaunt, you may be sure that I shall stop in to call on you and see the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Wheeler

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

February 13, 1953

Miss Catherine Woolley
71 Park Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey

Dear Miss Woolley:

It is fun to have David's journey explained a little. This is frequently the way, it seems -- our authors say "Well, the town is a little like so-and-so, and I spent a summer at so-and-so, but it isn't really any particular place." We're always interested to know it, though, because we are constantly being asked just these things.

As for David's joining the Maine Author Collection, we think it would be a wonderful idea, because he is really of Maine, isn't he? And as our earlier letter explained, some of our favorite authors are "adopted" -- though Ben Ames Williams used to resist that phrasing: he said he adopted Maine. We do try to include books with a Maine background, and books written by people closely identified with the state, as well as by authors born in Maine; so we think HOLIDAY ON WHEELS would be a delightful and suitable addition.

Good luck to his literary career.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

February 13, 1953

Miss Catherine Woolley
71 Park Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey

Dear Miss Woolley:

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am mailing you today a copy of "Holiday on Wheels," so that you may be on the lookout for it.

It is nice to have David join this collection, for he thinks Maine is a very nice place indeed.

Sincerely,

Catherine Woolley

Feb. 25, 1953

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Jan

March 11, 1953

Miss Catherine Woolley
71 Park Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey

Dear Miss Woolley:

It is indeed kind of you to inscribe and send for the Maine Author Collection a copy of your story, HOLIDAY ON WHEELS. We add it to the exhibit with pleasure, and with warm thanks to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection