## Correspondence Between Governor Baxter and State Library Regarding Collection of Rare Maps and Plans

[Link to document in Digital Maine](http://digitalmaine.com/baxter_docs/1/)

Transcription:

[underlined] Returns and Permanent Loans [/underlined]

[underlined] BAXTER MAPS [/underlined]

December, 1944.

[indented] Ex-Governor Baxter called for and took away

with him the [underlined] RARE MAPS & PLANS,[/underlined] in presence of Miss

Stuart and Mr. Rolfe, who assisted in taking maps to

Gov. Baxter's car.

[end page 1]

BAXTER MAPS [In red ink, underlined in black ink]

September 12

1944

Dear Percy,

I of course deplore the fate which seems certain to deprive the State Library of an item of high value and one which we have held in trust all these years with real pride and care, respecting your wishes we not make public use of the maps. There have been many times when we would have been glad to refer people to them and we do have from time to time students and research workers who prize the opportunity to view such material.

They are right in the vault near the front where those of us on the staff have occasionally looked at them to refresh our memory and knowledge of these beautiful maps. I realize how inadequate our facilities for display of certain prized items and we have lost certain ones by withdrawal for that reason. I have mentioned this regret of ours in my report which is about to be published. As long as we are without adequate facilities I presume we cannot blame people for removing highly prized items which ought to belong here but if ever the state does provide a dignified set-up for its library many of these things will be gone.

When you come for the maps could I persuade you to take the box which we have stored for you, containing papers. We want very much to build some shelves in that section of the vault but have hesitated to ask for this space occupied by the box. Now that

[end page 2]

papers which I believe you said were personal.

Yes, I think the meeting in Waterville should be a good one. We are all looking forward to it and Mr. Griffeth is so enthusiastic he does I am sure it will be a grand success.

Everything seems to be [illegible] along fairly smoothly with one or two major blows mixed in for good measure, just to keep me from being too complacent, one of them being your contemplated removal of the precious maps!

My chief ambition at present is to leave this place without leaving any letterhead bearing my name! I am still using up Henry Dunnack's and we just completed crossing out on/7,000 letterheads sheets bearing Mr. Hall's name, a line which no longer applies! So much we are doing for the poor tax payers of Maine who still insist we are wasteful.

I shall be glad to see you when you come as I have not had a glance all summer.

Sincerely,

[end page 3]

562 Congress Street [red ink typed]

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER

PORTLAND, MAINE

September

eleventh

1944

Dear Miss Stuart -

I have had an inquiry in regard to the large volume of "Rare Maps and Plans" now stored in your vault in the State House.

On thinking the matter over I may conclude to sell these maps for I doubt if they will ever be used by the people of Maine. It seems too bad to just have them stored in the vaults of the State House.

Some time before long I shall be passing through Augusta and suggest that you have the Maps placed where I can obtain them on short notice. May be they are stored in the back of the vault and if you will have them put in a position in the vault where they can be taken by me I will call for them.

I hope that you and all the good people in your Department are well.

Friend Griffeth tells me that there is to be a convention of the Maine Library Association at Waterville before long and no doubt he will make it an interesting meeting. He really takes a very lively interest in Library matters.

With my best wishes to you and your mother.

Sincerely,

[signature] Percival P Baxter

To -

Miss Theresa C. Stuart

Librarian Maine State Library

Augusta

Maine.

[end page 4]

*Transcription produced by the DigitalMaine Transcription Project*