Naomi Averill Correspondence

Naomi Averill 1905-1992
Mrs. John Edward Elliot 1905-1992
Naomi Averill Elliot 1905-1992
Kurt Wiese 1887-
Hilda McLeod

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AYERILL, NAOMI (Mrs. J. Edward Elliot)
Born in Thomaston, Maine, 1905.
Donald Culross Peattie, the author of *A Child's Story of the World*, the September selection for Intermediates, was born in Chicago in 1898. His father, Robert Burns Peattie, was a journalist and his mother, Elia Wilkinson Peattie, was a novelist and essayist. After graduating from Harvard, *cum laude*, Mr. Peattie was occupied for a number of years in botanical research in the United States Department of Agriculture. Recently he has given most of his time to writing.

Mr. Peattie has written several novels. In 1935 he wrote *An Almanac for Moderns*, which was awarded the first Gold Medal of the Limited Editions Club for the book written by an American author, during the preceding three years, most likely to become a classic. Last year *Green Laurels* by Mr. Peattie was published. It is the sensitive and beautifully written story of the naturalists—or the out-door men, as Mr. Peattie calls them. Many of you will enjoy reading *Singing in the Wilderness*, an exquisite and fascinating story of the great American naturalist, Audubon.

Kurt Wiese, who illustrated two of the September selections—*China Quest* and *Jasmine*—has illustrated a great many books for boys and girls. He was born in Germany in 1887 and has lived all over the world. He has traveled in China, Russia, Siberia, Australia and Brazil.

Naomi Averill, who is Mrs. J. Edward Elliot in private life, was born in 1901 in Thomaston, Maine, where she now lives. She studied art at the Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, New York. She has written and illustrated one book, *Choochee*.

The cover this month is by Anna Parker Braune. It is one of the many delightfully gay illustrations for *Honey Chile*.
Mrs. J. Edward Elliot
Thomaston
Maine

Dear Mrs. Elliot:

Or perhaps we should say, "Dear Miss Averill," since it is because we have discovered that we can add your name to our literary roster that we write to you at this time. It is always welcome news to add another author to our list.

Perhaps you will be interested in the Maine Author Collection, if you do not already know of this project. It was started some years ago, and now includes, through the generous interest of our authors, several hundred volumes, most of them inscribed and presented. These books are for exhibit purposes only.

We hope that we may be privileged to include an inscribed copy of your book CHOOCHEE, with these others, and that we may expect more books as well as illustrations from your pen.

Very truly yours

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BY

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SECRETARY
October 14, 1937

Mrs. J. Edward Elliot
Thomaston
Maine

Dear Mrs. Elliot:

Soon the privilege of seeing and reading your book, CHOOCHEE, will be ours, for we have of course placed an order for it, to be included in the traveling libraries, which contain juvenile literature. We do not have juveniles of modern fiction for individual loan, so we will not be able to purchase copies for the general lending section of the library, but we are still hoping that you will want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection, about which we wrote you this summer.

Please accept our congratulations on this book, and our very best wishes for its success.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY
THOMASTON MAINE

DEAR HILDA MCLEOD,

HERE IS AN INSCRIBED COPY OF MY ESKIMO BOOK FOR THE MAINE AUTHOR COLLECTION OF WHICH YOU WROTE SOME TIME AGO.

I AM VERY HAPPY TO MAKE THIS MODEST CONTRIBUTION AND HOPE THAT YOU MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO OVERLOOK THIS SEEMINGLY NEGLIGENT ATTITUDE ON MY PART.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

[Signature]
November 19, 1937

Mrs. Naomi Averill Elliot
Thomaston
Maine

Dear Mrs. Elliot:

The delightful book CHOOCHEE which you have so kindly inscribed, has been received, and we add it to the Maine Author Collection with great pleasure,

The illustrations are enchanting. How young readers will adore them, and the story of the little Eskimo's adventure! In fact, we are already very fond of both Choochee and Pup-pup.

Thank you so much for presenting the copy to the Maine Author Collection. We send you our congratulations upon an attractive and appealing book, and our best wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

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