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Oscar Cargill Correspondence

Oscar Cargill 1898-1972

Hilda McLeod Jacob

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June 24, 1963

Dr. Oscar Cargill
New York University
New York City

Dear Dr. Cargill:

Your book, THE NOVELS OF HENRY JAMES, should have had congratulatory word from us long ago. With the increasingly serious interest in James' work, your own book makes a welcome contribution to this study, and we hope you are finding that it is in satisfying demand.

When we learned that you are a Maine native, we determined to write to you about the Maine Author Collection. This, as perhaps you know, is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or written about the state. Most of the three thousand volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions of an original and distinctive nature, such as autobiographical highlights, tributes to Maine, pen and ink sketches, verse. We also gather biographical and critical material, so that our information on Maine writers may be as complete as possible.

We hope, of course, that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of your book to be included in the Maine Author Collection. Our good wishes go to you, and a hope that there will be more such books of literary criticism from one so well qualified to comment.

Sincerely yours,

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Oscar Cargill, a native of Livermore Falls, Maine, and a street is named for the family, is head of the All-University Department of English at New York University and has also taught at Michigan State University, Marietta College and the University of Southern California. In 1964 he was a member of the Poetry Jury of National Book awards given by N.Y.U.'s Alumni Federation. A native author of "The Novels of Henry James" and of "American Literature: A Period Anthology," he is editor of anthologies from the writings of Henry James, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau and of "American Literature: A Period Anthology."