September 2015

Anna E. Coughlin Correspondence

Anna Emma Coughlin 1864-1957

Ruth L. Rogers
City of Rockland Public Library

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

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COUGHLIN, Anna E.

Vinalhaven, Maine, 1864
November 13, 1936

Miss Anna E. Coughlin  
Rockland  
Maine

Dear Miss Coughlin:

May we add our congratulations to those of your many friends upon the publication of SHORE NEIGHBORS. It is indeed delightful to know that another Maine poet has used Maine as a background so frequently in her writing.

Possibly you know of the Maine Author Collection. It is an exhibit collection of the works of Maine authors, and includes several hundred books, most of them inscribed presentation copies. The collection was started about fifteen years ago, and is constantly increasing in size and interest, and is a significant representation of Maine's prominence in contemporary literature.

We would like to add SHORE NEIGHBORS to the collection, and we hope you will want to inscribe a copy for us. We are very grateful for the interest and generosity of our authors, for they make this collection possible. At your convenience, we would also appreciate some biographical material for our files.

Please accept our cordial invitation to visit the library and the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta, and also our very sincere congratulations upon SHORE NEIGHBORS, which we anticipate with pleasure.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

Secretary
December 1, 1936

Miss Anna E. Coughlin
70 Broad Street
Rockland, Maine

Dear Miss Coughlin:

Thank you for the autographed copy of SHORE NEIGHBORS, which we have received and are proudly adding to the Maine Author Collection.

The poems in your most attractive book are delightful! They are full of Maine's drama and humor and beauty. We hope that this will not be the last of your books, and that we may have every one in the Collection.

We will be very grateful for some biographical information, at your leisure. We do like to have such material on file about our authors, and since it is often difficult to find it in print, we frequently have to ask for further kindness in this matter. Most of our writers are glad to send us this data, and we hope you will be willing to write a few paragraphs for us.

May we extend our very best wishes for a successful continuance of your literary career.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY

SECRETARY
April 15, 1944

Miss Anna E. Coughlin
70 Broad Street
Rockland, Maine

Dear Miss Coughlin:

The autographed copy of MASTER MARINER AND OTHER POEMS has been received, and we are again delighted with the perception and grace of these lines. It is a beautiful binding, too: the format provides a worthy setting for the lovely verse.

Please accept our thanks for your kindness.

We believe we omitted the enclosure of a return envelope in our previous letter. This is for your convenience in sending the biographical information which we mentioned.

We hope that many poetry lovers will have the good fortune to enjoy this work; it is a book the author of which we are proud to claim as a Maine writer.

Sincerely

hmj

Secretary

Encl--1
March 30, 1944

Miss Anna E. Coughlin
70 Broad Street
Rockland, Maine

Dear Miss Coughlin:

When your first delightful book of verse was published, you were kind enough to inscribe and present a copy for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection. Now we note that another volume, MASTER MARINER AND OTHER POEMS.

Please accept our congratulations upon its debut, which is warmly welcomed in book columns. May a wide circle of readers enjoy these poems.

We hope you will want to inscribe a copy of MASTER MARINER AND OTHER POEMS for the Maine Author Collection. It would give us pleasure to place it beside your earlier work.

Perhaps at your convenience you would be so generous as to send us a biographical sketch. We seem to lack this information, and we like to have as complete data on our Maine authors as possible.

Our good wishes go to you for the new book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Secretary
Rockland, Maine
April 26, 1944

Mrs. Alma M. J. Jacobs
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Thank you most sincerely for your very kind letter of appreciation
of April 15. At your request, I
am sending "The Biographical in-
formation" you mention — The
Short and Simple Annals of the
Port"

Sincerely yours

[Signature]

[Name]
Dear Miss Coughlin:

You are very kind to send us just the sort of biographical information which we like to have on file about our Maine authors. It is strange, or perhaps natural, that so many Maine poets are of the coast? — you and Harold Vinal, the Millays, Wilbert Snow, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Longfellow.

Now you will indeed think us persistent, but the fact is that we do not seem to boast a copy of KNOTS OF STRAW in the Maine Author Collection. Surely this would be a serious omission, inasmuch as we constantly claim that this is the only place where all the works of all Maine authors are gathered together. Possibly sometime you will want to inscribe a copy of this, so that the representation of your poetry may be complete.

Please accept our thanks for your patience and generous interest.

Sincerely yours

hmj

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
April 3, 1957

Miss Ruth L. Rogers, Librarian
Rockland Public Library
Rockland, Maine

Dear Miss Rogers:

Recently we saw the announcement of Miss Anna E. Coughlin's death. The newspaper mentioned three volumes of poetry by her, but did not list the titles.

We have SHORE NEIGHBORS and MASTER MARINER, but do not find a third listed. Can you tell us its title, and any vital statistics about it?

Yours very truly

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

hmj
Encl.--1

Secretary
April 10, 1957

Mrs. Hilda Jacob, Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Please pardon me for not answering before, but as this is budget time, it seems that time just flies and I do not get things done. However, I am sending you a copy of "Knots of Straw" which was Miss Anna Coughlin's first book of poems. As this was a copy I had given to me by a friend, and I already have a copy of my own which Miss Coughlin gave me, I am very glad for the Maine State Library to have this copy.

I think the poems will speak for themselves, other than Miss Coughlin was one of the most outstanding women I have ever known. She was principal of Rockland High School when I was in school, and I shall never forget her, both for herself and what she stood for.

I do hope the book will be of value in your collection.

Sincerely,

Ruth L. Rogers
Librarian
April 15, 1957

Miss Ruth L. Rogers, Librarian
Rockland Public Library
Rockland, Maine

Dear Miss Rogers:

How wonderfully generous of you! We certainly appreciate being able to add KNOTS OF STRAW to Miss Coughlin's other books, and send you our warm thanks for your thoughtfulness and willingness to part with this copy.

Everyone speaks in the same vein about Miss Coughlin, with admiration and affection. Perhaps her immortality is made up of memories in the hearts of those who knew her; but the poems deserve to be more widely known, I think. It must be that they are out of print by now. This makes us all the more grateful for your gift.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Secretary