September 2015

Ovid Demaris Correspondence

Ovid Demaris 1919-1998

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Demaris, Ovid 1919-1998; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Ovid Demaris Correspondence" (2015). Maine Writers Correspondence. 207.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/207
Demaris, Ovid
b. Biddeford
February 23, 1971

Mr. Ovid Demaris  
c/o Cowles Book Company  
488 Madison Avenue  
New York City 10022

Dear Mr. Demaris:

Certain of your early books, as you may recall, are in the Maine Author Collection: but we do not have AMERICA THE VIOLENT. And we have just seen notice of a new one to be published next June, THE OVERWORLD.

We hope that you will continue your interest in this Maine exhibit, and that inscribed copies of these books may be added. Any omission of a Maine writer's work from the collection is to be regretted.

You have our very good wishes for the success of the new one. We look forward to seeing it when it is available.

Sincerely yours

hmj  
In Charge of Maine Author Collection
VIOLENCE in America may be native as Cherry pie, as one social commentator puts it. Biddeford native Ovid Demaris, a prolific writer of the national scene, helps to measure how large the servings have been. What he has done is simply to look up Violence - American in the card catalogue at the library, jot down the numerous and varied types and arrange them for publication. The result is "America the Violent," an attempt to repair the "historical amnesia" that we have toward the blots on our past and present.

Demaris may go back too far when he recounts the opening Viking savagery some ten centuries ago on these shores, but there is no denying that from Jamestown on the conquering of the continent has been a brutal one.

It would be enough of a reminder merely to mention the Salem witch trials, the Boston Massacre, Simon Girty, the New York draft riots, Negro lunchings, the Homestead strike, Murder, Inc., Watts, the assassinations of Kennedys and Rev. King. Choose any facet of American life and you find violence interwoven, often deeply, in its fabric.

Demaris does a service merely to remind us that turmoil and strife are nothing new to our scene. But he can offer only a vague hope that it will calm down to occasional eruptions. There are, he believes too many guns, figuratively and literally, hung on the walls in America and a "lust for apocalypse" abroad in the land, quoting Norman Mailer.

His conclusion: "The guns must be taken down and the problems that caused them to be placed there must be solved." He doesn't say how.

Don King
March 10, 1971

Mr. Ovid Demaris
P O Box 6071
Santa Barbara, California 93105

Dear Mr. Demaris:

This morning three of your books have arrived, and we welcome the addition of AMERICA THE VIOLENT, CAPTIVE CITY AND POSO DEL MUNDO to the Maine Author Collection.

We appreciate the persistence of your research in these less than glamorous fields, and it is to be hoped that the impact of your books will be felt.

Thank you for making it possible for the collection to include these volumes.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 27, 1964

Mr. Ovid Demaris
C/o Simon & Schuster
300 Fifth Avenue
New York City 20

Dear Mr. Demaris:

It was most interesting to us to learn that you are a Maine native, and we send you our congratulations on THE GREEN FELT JUNGLE, which seems a courageous sort of book to write, and which will surely serve as a salutary shock to readers. Our best wishes for its success.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? It is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, and books about the state, or Maine subjects. Most of the three thousand volumes are inscribed presentation copies, and we gather biographical and critical material so that our information on Maine books and writers may be complete. The collection increases steadily, and makes a valuable and fascinating display, available to visitors and students here at the library. We are proud of it, and grateful for the interest and generosity shown by our Maine authors.

Of course we hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of THE GREEN FELT JUNGLE, and present it for inclusion in the Maine exhibit. It would be a proud addition, and it would give us much pleasure to welcome your book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of Maine Author Collection
7/24/64

Dear Mrs. Geist,

I'm sorry it has taken me a bit in getting this unsolicited copy to you.

If you are interested in reviews and news stories on T.F.J., please let me know and I'll send you all I have, which is quite considerable.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. Enclosed is paperbound edition.
November 18, 1964

Mr. Ovid Demaris
518 E. Pedregosa Street
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Mr. Demaris:

Your delay in sending an inscribed copy of THE GREEN FELT JUNGLE for the Maine Author Collection is more than matched by ours in sending a word of appreciation.

We'd still like to have a little biographical sketch, at your convenience; or perhaps you can refer us to a source of such information.

Thank you very much for your generous response. Both hardbound and paperbound books are in the collection now. We trust that the public welcome for your book has been all that you and Mr. Reid hoped, and that your courage and determination in this field are unimpaired.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection