September 2015

Horatio W. Dresser Correspondence

Horatio Willis Dresser 1866-1954

Henry Ernest Dunnack 1867-1938

Marion Cobb Fuller

Maine State Library

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D R E S S E R , H O R A T I O
Yarmouth
January 15, 1866——

BOOKS RECEIVED:
April 19QQ. The History of Modern Philosophy
Outlines of the Psychology of Religion
The Quimby Manuscripts
My dear Mr. Dunnack:

Responding to your letter of March 12th, with reference to putting some of my books in the State Library, I would say that in conformity with your request I autographed two of my books, The History of Modern Philosophy and Outlines of the Psychology of Religion, and left word with my publishers, T. Y. Crowell Co., to forward these books with bill in duplicate as requested. As for your requests for a photograph of myself or of the house where I was born, these are not accessible at the moment, but when I return to my summer home in Gray, Me., I will see what I have to send. Meanwhile, on the enclosed circular you will find references to my recent books and a biographical note. I am not sure how many books you wanted me to send. There are thirty-two titles in all. I will ask another publisher, G. P. Putnam's Sons, to send some of my earlier books, if you wish more than the two I have forwarded. Nearly all of these were partly written in Maine, where I always go in summer-time. It is a rather long story, you see, in my case. Nor am I sure whether you would care to have "The Quimby Manuscripts," written about P. P. Quimby, of Belfast (see circular). I should be glad to send whatever is desired.

Very truly yours,

H. W. Dresser.
April 9 1930

Dr. Horatio W. Dresser
415 West 115th Street
New York City.

My dear Dr. Dresser;

Thank you very much for your prompt response to our letter about the Maine Author Collection. We are delighted to have "The History of Modern Philosophy," and "Outlines of the Psychology of Religion" to add to our collection. We have for some time had a number of your books in the general lending library. The Maine Author Collection is something quite different, an exhibition collection of autographed copies of the books of our Maine authors. At present we are rather crowded so we cannot ask for all of the books of all our authors. We hope that when our anticipated new library is an accomplished fact we shall have a room large enough for a complete collection. We note that you especially mention "The Quimby Manuscripts." We shall be glad to have you send us a copy of this very interesting item. Will you please remember to autograph and inscribe it for us.

Thank you for the biographical data. We hope that you will keep the Maine Author Collection in mind and send us from time to time items about yourself and your work. We feel that in assembling biographical and critical data about our authors we are performing a valuable service for future students of the literary development of Maine, as well as the works of Maine authors.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

MCF
April 24, 1930

Dr. Horatio W. Dresser
415 West 115th Street
New York City

Dear Sir:

The Quimby book has arrived and I am delighted to have an autographed copy of this very interesting item to add to our collection. Thank you for taking the trouble to autograph and send it to us.

What about the Quimby manuscripts that ought to be in the Maine State Library? Have I seen a notice somewhere that they are going to the Library of Congress? Is there any way in all this big world that we can arrest these manuscripts when they reach the capitol of Maine? I am somewhat hazy about the whole matter; I cannot be sure, but I seem quite certain that there has been a notice about them in the newspapers. I hope, sir, that you will enter into some sort of conspiracy to see that they reach the Maine State Library where they will be deposited in our vault with other interesting Maine manuscripts and documents. It certainly makes all the world grow dark when I think of these passing out of Maine.

Alas! I discover on consulting our clipping bureau that I am too late, that these documents are all in the Library of Congress. Probably there is nothing that could have been done to prevent this. Of course if they were not in the library of Maine they should be in the Library of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

D/h
The Dresser Books

Books By
Horatio W. Dresser

HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

ETHICS IN THEORY AND APPLICATION

PSYCHOLOGY IN THEORY AND APPLICATION

OUTLINES OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

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—Congregationalist.
DR. HORATIO W. DRESSER has had a varied and an interesting career. He began as a boy working his own way in New England, having been born at Yarmouth, Maine, in 1866. He studied telegraphy, and finally became telegraph operator and railroad agent out in California as a boy of sixteen. He then took up stenography, and occupied positions successively as reporter, proofreader and bookkeeper in Boston. His ambition was to work his way through college, and he finally entered Harvard in 1891, graduating four years later with a degree of A.B.

Not content with this, he obtained the degree of A.M. in 1904 and Ph.D. in 1907—meanwhile publishing a Journal of Metaphysics, and also serving as assistant in philosophy at Harvard for ten years. In 1912 he left Harvard to take the chair of Philosophy in Ursinus College, Collegeville, Penna., where he remained two years, then taking the chair of church history in a theological school at Cambridge. Thereafter for a number of years he devoted himself to lecturing and to authorship. One of the interesting phases of his career was his contact with the leaders of Christian Science, which resulted in his publication of the “Quimby Manuscripts” which threw valuable light on the subject of Mental Healing. Dr. Dresser is now a consultant in Psychology and can be addressed through his publishers.