September 2015

Vincent T. Lathbury Correspondence

Vincent Tibbals Lathbury 1908-1986

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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LATHEBURY, Vincent T.

b. Augusta
Dear Dr. Lathbury:

Congratulations upon the publication of THEIR MOTHERS' DAUGHTERS. We put it on our order list as soon as we learned of it, and we expect to see a copy soon.

At present, however, we write about the Maine Author Collection, with which you may be already familiar, as a former Augusta resident. Briefly, it is a permanent exhibit of books by Maine people, or books about the state. Most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions as varied and original as the books themselves. We are, of course, very proud of this collection which represents Maine's contribution to literature, and includes all our authors from Longfellow to Ruth Moore, and from Elijah Kellogg to Kenneth Roberts. Visitors and students are constantly attracted to this display, and find it of increasing worth and interest. We also gather all possible information about our writers, so that we may be prepared for the steady inquiries about Maine books and authors.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of your new book, THEIR MOTHERS' DAUGHTERS, to the collection. It would give us pleasure to include the work of two such distinguished doctors, with the special pride in the fact that one is a Maine native.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
October 17th, 1956

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you very much for your nice letter on the subject of THEIR MOTHERS' DAUGHTERS, which Doctor Strecker and I wrote.

I have asked the Lippincott Company to send me a copy, which I shall pass on to you for your Maine collection. I certainly feel very proud to be included in this.

If there is any particular inscription which you think might be especially suitable, please be sure and let me know. I assume, also, that you would like the book inscribed by Doctor Strecker, as well as myself.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vincent T. Lathbury, M.D.
October 19, 1956

Dr. Vincent T. Lathbury  
111 North 49th Street  
Philadelphia 39, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Lathbury:

With delighted anticipation we await the arrival of THEIR MOTHERS' DAUGHTERS for the Maine Author Collection.

It is indeed thoughtful of you to know that Dr. Strecker's inscription would be a wonderful idea. We hesitated to ask you to assume that responsibility, but in the case of joint authors, we do like to have both names. One very accommodating author, the late Arthur Guptill, even secured Norman Rockwell's signature in his biography of Rockwell. We don't, of course, suggest that the daughters of whom you write add their names to the flyleaf!

As for what you write, we leave that entirely to you. The inscriptions in the collection books are as varied as the books themselves. There are pen-and-ink sketches, tributes to the state, autobiographical bits, occasionally a verse or two; two or three artistic authors have added an original bit in their particular art: the Haders did a little watercolor scene in one of their children's books, Arthur Guptill always drew a pen picture of some typically Maine outdoor spot. So, you see, the authors' own ideas are far better than any we might have.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
The Maine Author Collection copy of THEIR MOTHERS' DAUGHTERS arrived today, and we welcome it warmly.

It is certainly a proud addition to these books, bearing as it does the inscriptions of both authors -- and such nice inscriptions, too!

Thank you very much, and please say thank you to Dr. Strecker. We appreciate the time and care you busy doctors took to see that the Maine exhibit copy was so suitably and kindly inscribed.

Success to the book.

Sincerely yours,

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj