September 2015

Lindsay Lord Correspondence

Lindsay Lord 1903-1991

Samuel Lindsay Lord 1903-1991

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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LORD, Lindsay
Puerto Rico, 1903-
"Unfortunately I was not born in Maine. However, I had the world to choose from and I adopted Maine in 1935. That's about as good as being born here, isn't it?

"My father was a native of Ellsworth and his father sailed out of Ellsworth to all world ports. I was born in Puerto Rico in 1903 while my father was establishing the American school system there.

"I did my undergraduate work at Boston University and took graduate studies at MIT and the University of the Pacific. Prior to the war I was professor of Naval Architecture at George Washington University. Then came four years in the Navy which provided opportunity for the research behind the book 'Naval Architecture of Planing Hills.'"

from a letter of Mr. Lord's
January 3, 1947

Dr. Lindsay Lord
Falmouth Foreside
Maine

Dear Dr. Lord:

Congratulations upon your book, NAVAL ARCHITECTURE OF PLANING HULLS. This seems to be a revolutionary and authoritative discussion of a subject which eludes complete comprehension by a layman.

We are proud that its author is a Maine man; we have ordered a copy for the lending section of the library, but at present we write concerning the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of the works of Maine writers, inscribed and presented for this purpose. We also gather all available biographical, pictorial and critical material, which, together with correspondence and the interestingly inscribed books, make up an increasingly valuable representation of Maine's contribution to literature. The collection is used by students and researchers, and attracts many visitors.

It is always a delight to welcome a new author to Maine's literary roster, and we hope that you will want to inscribe and present to the collection a copy of NAVAL ARCHITECTURE OF PLANING HULLS. Please accept our good wishes for the book, and a most cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

hmJ

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
January 7, 1947

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

It was a pleasure to hear that I may be represented among the authors in your State of Maine Collection. Considering the company in which my book will be, the honor is a high one.

While it is true that "Naval Architecture of Planing Hulls" is not for the layman, it has been my hope for many years to keep good ships coming from our State of Maine. This book may be of some help toward that end although it is proving so controversial that whether I will have helped or hindered still remains to be seen.

An autographed copy will be sent to you shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Lindsay Lord
January 9, 1947

Dr. Lindsay Lord
Falmouth Foreside 6
Maine

Dear Dr. Lord:

It is kind of you to say that your book will be in excellent company in the Maine Author Collection, and we do not deny it, being rather proud of our Maine writers. We do, however, acknowledge the fact that NAVAL ARCHITECTURE OF PLANING HULLS brings an added note of distinction to the collection.

Being laymen, we do not pretend to an understanding of the book; we only appreciate that it is the work of an expert, and therefore must be of merit. Your being a Maine man lends further luster, in our opinion; for the state which has been historically outstanding for good shipbuilding contributes, we cannot but believe, to the spirit of those in any way connected with ships.

It is with regret that we confess ourselves unable to discover accurate vital statistics about you. Our information is good but sketchy, and entirely omits your birthdate and actual town in Maine which you claim as birthplace. If you would be so very kind, at your convenience, as to let us know these pertinent facts, our files would be complete, and we would be most appreciative.

Please accept our thanks for the Maine Author Collection copy of NAVAL ARCHITECTURE OF PLANING HULLS, for the fine inscription, and for your interest in the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Encl--7½ postal refund

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th. Unfortunately I was not born in Maine. However, I had the world to choose from and I adopted Maine in 1935. That's about as good as being born here, isn't it?

My father was a native of Ellsworth and his father sailed out of Ellsworth to all world ports. I was born in Puerto Rico in 1903 while my father was establishing the American school system there.

I did my undergraduate work at Boston University and took graduate studies at MIT and the University of the Pacific. Prior to the war I was professor of Naval Architecture at George Washington University. Then came four years in the Navy which provided opportunity for the research behind the book "Naval Architecture of Planing Hulls."

Now, with a new office off here in the woods, the path is being well beaten to the door.

Sincerely yours,

Lindsay Lord
January 27, 1947

Dr. Lindsay Lord
Falmouth Foreside 6
Maine

Dear Dr. Lord:

Thank you very much for sending us the biographical information we requested. We complacently commend your judgment in adopting Maine, and we are proud that Maine can claim you and your work. If a path is being beaten to your door, it must be a better mouse-trap, even if it is controversial!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection