September 2015

Miriam MacMillan Correspondence

Miriam Look MacMillan 1905-1987

Mrs. Donald B. Macmillan 1905-1987

Hilda McLeod Jacob

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MAC MILLAN, MIRIAM

b. Clinton, Massachusetts
December 27, 1948

Mrs. Donald B. MacMillan
Provincetown
Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. MacMillan:

For a long time we have thought of your famous husband as being a Maine person, even though we know that he was not born here. He had, however, the excellent taste to choose from Maine his college and, we understand from your book, his wife!

GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE went on to our order list as soon as we knew about it. For some time now it has been in active circulation, and is one of the most fascinating books we have had the privilege of reading in a long while. For those of us who must do our traveling by armchair, it is a rare pleasure to come upon a book about such a popular subject that is so well-written by one who knows the facts and country so intimately. You are to be congratulated.

You may know of the Maine Author Collection. It is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or about the state. Through the generous interest of our authors, the collection now numbers almost two thousand volumes, inscribed and presented for this purpose. We also gather biographical and critical information, thus rounding out an important and deeply interesting unit which presents Maine's contribution to literature to many visitors and students.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE to this collection. It would be accepted with pleasure, and placed with pride on the shelves.

Please accept our good wishes for the success of your book, which seems assured; for a rewarding continuation of your fine work in the north; and for a New Year of happiness and adventure.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Since writing GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE, I have received many letters from friends and from strangers as well as many fine reviews from newspapers all over the country - Canada too - but not one has pleased me more than your letter, which I feel speaks for the people of the state of Maine.

My Dad and all of his folks were born in Maine. He loved the state and brought me up loving it, too. I like to call it my state, even though I wasn't born there. You've read my book and you'll understand when I say I was born between the building of dams. Just as my father was finishing up on the Boston waterworks, I came into the world in Clinton, Massachusetts. When I was five months old, my parents moved to Brown Station, New York, where we lived for the next ten years while my father was engaged in the building of the Ashokan Dam. From there we moved to Providence, Rhode Island, for more dam building, and then on to other places. So you see I lived a roving childhood and all of the towns where we lived so temporarily are completely gone now. We lived longer and more permanently in Maine than in any other place and I think of it now as my home and my state. Some day in the near future, Mac and I hope to settle there.

I am sending you an autographed copy of GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE and I hope you will consider me Maine enough to place it on your shelves. Indeed I appreciate such an honor. I have only a few copies of the first edition, but I'm sending one for your library. I'm pleased to say the book is having a remarkable sale - the first edition sold out in two months. I'm happy to have others in different parts of the country know how I feel about the state of Maine.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

MRS. DONALD B. MAC MILLAN

48 BEACON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 3, 1949
January 7, 1949

Mrs. Donald B. MacMillan
48 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. MacMillan:

Yesterday we were delighted to receive the copy of GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE which you had so charmingly inscribed for the Maine Author Collection; and today comes your most friendly letter.

We can't help regretting that a dam had to be built at the particular time when we might otherwise have claimed you completely; but we feel that your roots are in Maine, and we have no hesitation about "adopting" you, as we have other other authors in similar circumstances. You say you and your illustrious husband hope to settle in Maine -- after reading your book, one wonders whether the Commander will ever settle!

You will be interested to know that the library has just acquired another copy of your book, to meet the demand for it.

Thank you very, very much for your interest and your generosity in sending a copy of the first edition for the collection. Our good wishes for its success continue.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection