September 2015

Eleanor Mayo Correspondence

Eleanor R. Mayo 1920-1981

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

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MAYO, Eleanor

Massachusetts

resident of Southwest Harbor
March 2, 1945

Miss Eleanor R. Mayo  
c/o William Morrow & Co., Inc.  
386 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York  

Dear Miss Mayo:

It is with great pleasure that we learn that we may anticipate a new Maine novel this month, your TURN HOME.

Our order for lending copies will be handled by a book dealer, but we write at present about the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of about fifteen hundred volumes written by Maine people, the books inscribed presentation copies. The inscriptions are often revealing, amusing, artistic, always original, and enhance the distinction of such a collection. We also gather all available biographical and critical material about our authors, thus achieving a collection of unusual interest and steadily increasing size and value.

Maine authors have been most generous about the collection, not only in presenting their inscribed books, but also in sending us biographical information of a more friendly and personal nature than the Who's Who type of item. It is always a happy occasion when we can welcome a new author to Maine's literary scene, and we congratulate you upon the publication of TURN HOME, which, judging from advance notices, should receive a cordial greeting from the public. We hope you may want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection. You have our good wishes for the book's success.

Sincerely yours

hmj  
Secretary

Encls.
My dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of *Turn Home*, for which you were kind enough to ask me. I hope you'll bear with me for having been so slow about it. It makes me very happy that you want a copy of my book for the Maine Author Collection.

About the additional biographical data: I'm afraid the material on the jacket is about all there is. And I won't bother to repeat it all here.

Thanks very much for your good wishes.

Sincerely,

Elsie R. Mayo

Mrs. P. W. Jacob
Maine Author Collection
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine
April 4, 1945

Miss Eleanor R. Mayo  
210 Martins Avenue  
White Plains, New York  

Dear Miss Mayo:

The arrival of the very kindly inscribed copy of your novel, TURN HOME, for the Maine Author Collection, gives us pleasure; for we are indeed glad to be able to include this satisfying, sympathetic story in the exhibit.

The pages of TURN HOME testify to your knowledge of a small town and its inhabitants, their ways and speech. It will probably cause sharp denials from those who are mirrored!

Please accept our thanks for your generous gift, our good wishes for the success of the book, and our most cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are again in Maine.

Sincerely yours

bmj Secretary  

Encl--4¢ postal refund
Eleanor Mayo, Loom Of The Land
Author, Now Writing New Book

Former Southwest Harbor Resident Working In Gott Island
With Ruth Moore, Author Of Best Seller Spoonhandle

Southwest Harbor, Oct. 4.—Out on Gott Island, Eleanor R. Mayo, author of the recently published book about Maine and Maine folks entitled Loom of the Land, and her friend, Ruth Moore, author of the best seller Spoonhandle, are working on new volumes.

Of especial interest to Southwest Harbor people is the work of Miss Mayo, who also wrote Turn Home, for while she is a native of Massachusetts, she was for several years a resident of this town, coming here at an early age. In fact, her ancestors were among the earliest settlers in this area. They came to Hull's Cove, Mount Desert Island, the latter part of the eighteenth century, later moving to Southwest Harbor.

Miss Mayo, now a resident of White Plains, N. Y., is the daughter of Fred S. and Lillian Mayo and her father served for 13 years in the Navy, enlisting during the war with Spain. Returning to his home town here, he worked as a carpenter, a trade he had learned from his father, and as a contractor he built several houses in this vicinity.

Attending the village schools here, Miss Mayo during her high school days was a member of the staff of the school paper and some of her poems were published in juvenile magazines. Both she and Miss Moore have been employed on the Reader's Digest and once they drove to the West Coast, where Miss Mayo took a course at the University of California. She had previously studied at the Bryant and Stratton Business College in Boston.

Recently Miss Mayo has taken up painting and sketching, and some wood carving, but she is very modest in speaking of her work in that line. With her great love for this region, where she passed her girlhood years and first revealed her talent as a writer, she comes here every Summer and most of her time on Gott Island Miss Moore is with her.

Her only sister, Barbara, is a senior at Southwest Harbor High School, a brother, Lawrence, was recently discharged from the navy and another brother, Leonard, has reenlisted in the Army and is stationed in Puerto Rico. All the family has an aptitude for writing and all have contributed to the high school magazine while students here.

Books About Maine
By County Authors

The J. A. Thompson Co. store in Ellsworth was visited last week by two of Maine's outstanding authors. Miss Eleanor R. Mayo, author of the recently published “Loom Of the Land” and Miss Ruth Moore, author of the best selling “Spoonhandle”.

Miss Mayo writes with a sure knowledge of the Maine people and her descriptions of the coast and its people are accurate, colorful and well handled. During her life she has done many things, from managing a ranch in California to doing magazine work for Reader's Digest. Her book is gaining steadily in popularity and the publishers believe that, in her, they have discovered one of America's new and dynamic writers.

Miss Moore, whose Spoonhandle has been a best seller for many weeks, also uses the Maine coast as her background and writes with an intense feeling for the people who have made Maine coastal towns famous.

Both of these authors are living on Gott's Island and are now working on new books.