September 2015

Sue McConkey Correspondence

Sue McConkey 1911-2001

Mrs. Thomas Wright McConkey 1911-2001

Lillian "Sue" Goldberg McConkey 1911-2001

Edwin P. Geauque

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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McConkey, Sue

Sue McConkey
I have you. Yourself.贲
be "go one," is it you.

will be "go to Grabiner"
born in "Human" 30.

the "Lily" from "Duchas," the "Cord" was
my letter was born in "Human":

Thy dear Hildur Jacobs:
How thrilling to become
because of your interest -
"a part of the "Maine
Authors Collection;" and because
of the kindness of my
publisher, Tom. Edwin Lettman
The View from Douglas Hill

A Challenging Collection of Verse from the Pen of

SUE McCONKEY

A Wake-Brook Foundation Award Book
The View from Douglas Hill by Sue McConkey won the 1957 Wake-Brook Foundation award for a book-length manuscript in the modern idiom. This award, which guarantees publication of the winning manuscript, is offered each year but not every year finds work submitted which is of a quality and originality to justify publication. The judges were unanimous in feeling that in The View from Douglas Hill they had come upon a vital and unusual talent.

"Sue McConkey writes with an exquisite economy of words in firm control of a poet's deep emotion. Sketching only the bare outlines — spare as the silhouette of a leafless tree on a winter sky — she can evoke dramatically the poignancy of a mood or moment. When the occasion warrants, however, she can sing with lush and lyric intensity. She has experienced no need to indulge in literary posturings; her work is derivative from no school or individual. It is peculiarly her own. She writes of the things she knows and has no compulsion to stray afar in search of interest. The View from Douglas Hill is a wide one — high as the sky, reaching centuries into the past and probing far into the future — and Sue McConkey comments with compassionate astringence and poetic fervor upon the world and time in which she lives."

(The anonymous writer responsible for the quote above loves this book, as does everyone who has been privileged to see it prior to publication.)

Sue McConkey is a product of New England, a descendant of Shadrach Hapgood who left Gravesend in the Speedwell on May 30, 1656 for the New World. Born in Littleton, New Hampshire she was "raised" in the Conways, on the "other-side" of Crawford Notch. She says that she spent the childhood years growing in all directions. "Mostly unruly," she adds with candor. "I was a spice-twice, twice-spice small person."

Her formal education came to an end with the A. Crosby Kennett School in Conway, New Hampshire, followed by a brief excursion into nurse's training. The process of self-education, however, has been continuous as attested by the well-worn books which crowd the shelves in her home, and by the variety of her interests and activities.

She has been an actress in summer theatres, a postal employee, photographer's assistant, a dispenser of data in an Information Bureau, a model, an assistant teacher in an A.A.U.W. nursery school. She was also manager of a store — "very briefly," she says. At various times in divers places she has been a saleswoman — selling gloves, antiques, gifts, real jewels and jewels not so real.

"But all that was then!" she says.

Now she is a Maine countrywoman-in-residence and devotes her time to being in love — all at once — with sundry places throughout New England. Presently she is having an affair of the heart with a proud place called Douglas Hill, though she admits to stealing away for frequent rendezvous with little-known but beauteous Owls' Head Road. She keeps a special home-place love, however, for the hundred and thirty-five acres of field and forest which surround the home where she lives, at the end of a hilltop road, with her husband, a research scientist with the United States Forest Service and manager of the Massabesic Experimental Forest at Lyman, Maine.

Though The View from Douglas Hill is a first book, the poet's work has appeared in a number of national poetry magazines and she has won numerous awards for individual poems which are included in the book. From October to June she has a heavy schedule of appearances as lecturer and reader before groups throughout the eastern states.
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WAKE-BROOK HOUSE
Sanbornville, New Hampshire

Please enter my order for ........ copy(ies) of THE VIEW FROM DOUGLAS HILL by Sue McConkey, in the limited, numbered, first edition, handmade and bound in dynamic contemporary fabrics. Price $2.50 per copy.

Name ..........................................................
Street ..........................................................
City & State ..............................................

Remittance enclosed, send prepaid □
Bill me and add mailing cost □  Autographed copy requested □

NOTE: Publication date on this book is September 1958. Orders in advance of publication will be held until the book is ready. Orders received after publication will be shipped promptly so long as the limited edition lasts.
June 23, 1959

Mrs. Sue McConkey
c/o Wake-Brook House
Sanbornville, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. McConkey:

Your book, THE VIEW FROM DOUGLAS HILL, was purchased for the lending section of this library, and some months ago we wrote to you about the Maine Author Collection. The letter was returned to us, so we write again in care of your publishers.

We realize that we may not claim you as a Maine-born author, but we think that your residence in the state entitles us to regard you as a Maine writer, so we hope that your book may be included in the collection. Perhaps you already know of this permanent exhibit of Maine writing. Most of the volumes are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions ranging from tributes to the state to pen-and-ink sketches, from autobiographical highlights to bits of verse -- but everything original and distinctive, adding an extra sparkle to an outstanding collection of which we are very proud.

If you agree with us that THE VIEW FROM DOUGLAS HILL would be a most suitable addition, we should be happy to have an inscribed copy for the purpose. Meanwhile, you have our good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
My dear Mrs. Jacob:

With reference to your letter dated June 23, to Sue McConkey, c/o Wake-Brook House, we have discussed this matter and we are glad to provide a complimentary copy of "The View from Douglas Hill" for the Maine Author Collection.

The book is being mailed to Mrs. McConkey today, with the request that she inscribe it suitably and mail it on to you.

We are pleased that you wish to include "The View from Douglas Hill" in your permanent collection.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin P. Gauque, Director
WAKE-BROOK HOUSE

P.S. We think you should also have a copy of "Among the Isles of Shoals" in the new re-print, hardbound, with an inscription from Miss Rosamond Thaxter, who is Celia Thaxter's grand-daughter. We are sending a book on tâ Miss Thaxter to inscribe and mail on to you.
July 8, 1959

Mr. Edwin P. Geauque, Director
Wake-Brook House
Sanbornville, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Geauque:

The autographed copy of THE VIEW FROM DOUGLAS HILL came this morning, and we are delighted to be able to add it to the Maine Author Collection.

We appreciate your interest in the collection, and we hope that you will express to Mrs. McConkey our thanks for her distinctive addition to your gift.

To know that we are to have also a copy of Rosamond Thaxter's book is wonderful news. We shall be watching for it, and will acknowledge its safe arrival.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. McConkey:

Are you still a Maine author? We hope so. Your first book, you will remember, was added to the Maine Author Collection through the generous interest of you and your publisher.

We do not, however, have HOLD BRIGHT THE STAR. It would be a happy addition to the collection, and we hope that you may want to inscribe a copy for this purpose.

Our very good wishes to you for a most satisfying and successful continuation of your work.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hjm
HILDA MCLEOD JACOB
IN CHARGE OF MAINE AUTHOR COLLECTION
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINE
DEAR MRS. JACOB:

THE PUBLISHER, WAKE BROOK HOUSE JOINS WITH SUE MCConKEY IN THANKS TO YOU, AND THE MAINE STATE LIBRARY FRIENDS, FOR YOUR KIND INTEREST IN ... HOLD BRIGHT THE STAR.

SUE MCConKEY IS STILL TRYING TO BECOME A MAINE POET! THE THIRD BOOK IS BREWING, AND MUCH OF THE HOPE, AND HELP RESTS WITH LIBRARIANS OF OUR SANFORD, MAINE LIBRARY, WHO GIVE ENDURING AID AND SUPPORT TO POETS WHO ARE SEEKING A SONG IN SOME ... WISHING-TO-BE-REMEMBERED- WORD.

WE OFTEN TURN TO YOU , AND ALWAYS FIND YOU THERE IN OUR STATE LIBRARY... WITH READY HELP.

IT IS TRUE... THAT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL... I WAS EDUCATED BY THE LIBRARIANS OF THE UNITED STATES. HOW HUMBLE, I AM IN SENDING YOU A "STAR".

THANK YOU, FOR THE HONOR IT IS TO BE IN YOUR CHARGE".

JOY, SUE MCConKEY
STAR HILL
ALFRED, MAINE

BOOK REC. FROM PUBLISHER TO BE AUTOGRAPHED...POSTED TO MSL

FEB, 26,1964
February 28, 1964

Mrs. Sue McConkey  
Star Hill  
Alfred, Maine  04002  

Dear Mrs. McConkey:

      It's a lovely book, a delight to the eye and heart. You say that you are "still trying to become a Maine poet." We hardly qualify as poets ourselves, but it certainly seems to us that you must have attained that status.

      We are happy that you have had occasion to make use of our service, and we hope that you will again and again.

      It is a pleasure also that the beauty of your words has such an attractive setting. The handmade books are rare now, and have a distinction and charm that one treasures.

      Thank you very much for the Maine Author Collection copy of HOLD BRIGHT THE STAR, and for your friendly and flattering letter. We are glad that a third book is germinating. We shall look forward to seeing it, and all the others we hope you are going to write.

      Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection
McConkey, Sue Mrs.
b. Littleton, New Hampshire
April 15, 1970

Mrs. Sue McConkey
Star Hill
Alfred, Maine 04002

Dear Mrs. McConkey:

Two of your earlier books are in the Maine Author Collection, through your interest and generosity, but the exhibit lacks JADE BOUGHS, WHITE SHADOWS (what a lovely title, especially for a hot summer day!)

If you are still agreeable to bring a Maine author, we should be most happy to have an inscribed copy of this volume of your work for the collection.

Our good wishes to it, and to spring on your hill. May it arrive soon.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. Thomas Wright McConkey
At this time, here is for you, my [illegible], for your continued interest, and as a token of my [illegible] appreciation. You have been like a friend. I hope you will [illegible] and have [illegible].
as soon as possible.

Thank you for your good wishes. Springtime, Jay

Pipe McCunney

Saturday
Star Hill
Mrs. Sue McConkey  
Star Hill  
Alfred, Maine 04002

Dear Mrs. McConkey:

Our day is gladdened by the arrival of the cool-titled JADE BOUGH, WHITE SHADOWS. How very appropriate the distinctive bindings are: few books these days bear the hallmark of handcraft as yours do.

You are kind and generous, and we are appreciative. Thank you very much for making it possible to add this book to the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection