September 2015

Anne Molloy Correspondence

Anne Stearns Baker Molloy 1907-1999

Mrs. John Noyes Mead Howells 1907-1999

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

Shirley Thayer 1919-2001
Maine State Library

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MOLLOY, Anne.

b. West Roxbury, Massachusetts.
Place of birth: West Roxbury (Boston) Mass.

Date of birth: Oct. 4, 1907

Home address: 3 Edward St., Portsmouth, N.H.

Publications: See below

Biographical information

Attended Mt. Holyoke College for 3 years as a member of the Class of 1929
Married to Paul Molloy and the mother of a son and daughter and grandmother to 6
Spent all but two summers of my life in Maine, at Christmas Cove and Bucks Harbor, Machiasport of which place am now a resident
Sends winters in Portsmouth, N.H.
Travel anywhere and everywhere one of the greatest pleasures
Collector of baskets made by Indians of the eastern woodlands

Publications: Not in order of publication

Coast Guard to Greenland
Decky's Secret
A Bird in Hand
Celia's Light House
Shooting Star Farm
Where Away?
The Monkey's Fist
Lucy's Christmas
Captain Waymouth's Indians (later called Five Kidnapped Indians)
Uncle Andy's Island
The Tower Treasure
Three-part Island
Shaun and the Boat
A Proper Place for Chip
The Christmas Rocket
The Mystery of the Pilgrim Trading Post
The Girl From Two Miles High
Blanche of the Blueberry Barrens
The Years Before the Mayflower
Wampum
Various articles in Down East Magazine & etc.
May 22, 1950

Miss Anne Molloy
c/o Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Molloy:

Congratulations on UNCLE ANDY'S ISLAND, which makes the coast of Maine and the characters and their adventures so real that no reader can forget them. We are especially pleased to have such a fine book for young people, for our traveling libraries go to readers all over the state, and we are constantly seeking good books and good stories for inclusion.

At present, however, we write regarding another section of the library. Copies of UNCLE ANDY'S ISLAND for the traveling libraries will be secured through our regular book dealer; but we think you may be interested to know of the Maine Author Collection, a permanent exhibit of about two thousand volumes, inscribed and presented by the authors, of books written by Maine people or about the state.

The inscriptions are varied and fascinating, and the books present a truly impressive array of writing on every subject. The exhibit attracts students and visitors, and is the only place where all Maine writing is gathered together in a permanent unit.

UNCLE ANDY'S ISLAND would be a fitting addition, and we hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy for this purpose. Please accept our good wishes for its enduring success, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in this vicinity.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Webster Hall
Exeter, N.H.
June 6, 1950

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

I'm tickled pink to be asked for a copy of "Uncle Andy's Island" for the Maine Author Collection. One is on its way now and I, thanks goodness, will be on my way to Maine next week.

I intend, some time, to take advantage of your kind invitation to visit your library.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Molloy
June 7, 1950

Mrs. Anne Molloy
Webster Hall
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

Your friendly letter reminded us of another author, who presented a copy of his latest book from New York, where he now lives, and wrote: "I wish I could go along with it!" We are very glad indeed that you will be coming back to Maine next week, and we hope you will enjoy a lovely refreshing vacation.

UNCLE ANDY'S ISLAND is a delightful addition to the Maine Author Collection, and we send you our warm thanks. Thank you, too, for the inscription, which we know will please visitors as much as it does us.

We shall anticipate a call from you one day, and meanwhile, let us be of service to you during your stay in Maine. As you may know, we lend books to anyone in the state, and we should welcome the opportunity to make your vacation convenient and enjoyable with books.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Encl--12¢ postal refund

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
December 8, 1955

Mrs. Anne Stearns Molloy
Webster Hall
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

It is our misfortune that we cannot claim you as a Maine-born writer, but you may remember that you presented a copy of UNCLE ANDY'S ISLAND to the Maine Author Collection, because of its Maine background.

Since then we have wondered if LUCY'S CHRISTMAS might some day be included in the Maine collection for the same reason. We do not want to take advantage of your friendly feeling, but we should like you to know that LUCY'S CHRISTMAS would be a delightful and suitable addition, and one which would give us much pleasure in the exhibit. If the idea appeals to you, please know that we would be grateful.

Meanwhile, our very good wishes for a happy holiday season; and do keep on writing books, whether or not they have a Maine background!

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Your pleasant note came in and promptly got swarmed under a stack of Christmas cards, yesterday with the holidays over I settled down to really enjoy the cards & there was your request. Please forgive my delay, I did mean to show by my quick response how pleased I was that you wrote.

I shall try to get "Lucy's Christmas" off to the Post Office
to-morrow,

As far writing about Maine, I can’t seem to not. My editors sometimes complains that Maine has more than her share of children’s books and that because the competition is keen, I might choose another locale. I go right on in Maine.

I hope to see your library soon. Perhaps, now that the new toll road shoots us straight to Augusta, this will be the year, in any event, a good year to visit it and to you.

Sincerely,

Anne Holley
January 30, 1956

Mrs. Anne Stearns Molloy
Webster Hall
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

You can't think how pleased and rather satisfied we are to have LUCY'S CHRISTMAS in the Maine Author Collection. Lucy has just as much charm now as the first day we made her acquaintance several years ago. For that matter, there is no reason why Lucy shouldn't go on making friends for a long, long time, for she is the personification of courage and cheer; and everything comes out right in the end!

Thank you very much for the inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
March 23, 1960

Mrs. Anne Stearns Molloy
Webster Hall
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

We never did write to you about BLANCHE OF THE BLUEBERRY BARRENS, did we? It was a delightful book, and of course we ordered it at once for our traveling libraries and bookmobiles, where it is being much in demand. My own daughter, incidentally, read it twice with delight.

You were generously interested in the Maine Author Collection, so we dare to hope that perhaps there might be an inscribed copy of Blanche's story for the Maine exhibit.

May she flourish for many a year, bringing pleasure to young readers, and satisfaction to her author.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Please don't laugh when I say that your letter pleased me so much that I haven't been able to answer it. That is the truth, however, I was so delighted with it that I sent it off at once to my editor who has been hinting that I should write about some place besides Maine. The book salesman had been grumbling to me that outside of New England books about Maine don't sell.

So, you see, I thought a bolstering
letter of appreciation like yours might prove that books on Maine were at least bought in Maine. Of course the letter was returned at a busy time and ever since the desk top has been picking up, but not entirely with letters that I wanted to answer as much as I do yours.

A copy of Blanche went off to you yesterday. Don't bother to acknowledge it—I'm very happy to send it—but do let me know if it doesn't arrive within a reasonable time.

Sincerely,

Jude Molloy
May 11, 1960

Mrs. Anne S. Molloy
Newmarket Road
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

Thank you so much for the gift of BLANCHE OF THE BLUEBERRY BARRENS for the Maine Author Collection, for the lovely inscription, and for continuing to write such entrancing stories.

We are proud and delighted to add this book to your others, and we send good wishes for whatever book (we hope) is now in progress.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
February 11, 1967

Mrs. Anne S. Molloy
Newmarket Road
Exeter, New Hampshire

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

Your charming SHAUN AND THE BOAT is, of course, an Irish story. It has nothing to do with Maine, except for your own enthusiasm for Maine, and Barbara Cooney, whose illustrations do much to enliven any book.

Should we, or should we not, suggest the inclusion in the Maine Author Collection? It would give us pleasure, certainly, to have all your books here, but perhaps it is presumptuous to ask for any that aren’t strictly Maine. What do you think?

At any rate, we are sure that Shaun will be a permanent favorite, and we are glad.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Heromarket Rd.
Exeter, NH 03833
Feb. 20, 1967

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Of course I'm delighted to know that you would not object to having Shawn in The Maine Authors' Collection. We could rationalize it this way; there is so much on the coast of Ireland to make a Maine devotee homesick for it that its author thought of Maine on her while she was there! I have ordered a copy which I'll send on to the library.

I'm happy that you wrote.

Cordially

June Holbro
March 11, 1967

Mrs. Anne Molloy
Newmarket Road
Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

Dear Mrs. Molloy:

"Object" to having Shaun, indeed! It's delighted we are to welcome him and his gay pages. Thank you very much, and for your beguiling rationalization.

Shaun went on to our bookmobiles when he was first available, and we are happy to have him now in the Maine Author Collection. You and Barbara Cooney are an irresistible combination.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Ms. Shirley Thayer
The Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Ms. Thayer,

I'm sorry that this copy of Wampum is so late in getting to you. For some unaccountable reason your letter came on the only day when our mail was not forwarded to Bucks Harbor and spent more than a month in this empty house.

I'm pleased that you want to have the book in the Maine Author Collection. Although I'm not a native and have had no ancestor in the state since the early nineteenth century I feel a Maine person through and through. I am also delighted to send a book to your library. I think that librarians are the world's most accommodating and pleasant people and feel a great debt to them for their help over the years.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Molloy