October 2015

Alfred Morang Correspondence

Alfred Morang 1901-1958

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

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MORANG, Alfred.

Ellsworth, Maine 1901 -
Hilda McLeod, Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Madam:

Mr. Joseph Bradford of the Bradford Press called my attention to a letter from you requesting my address. Mr. Bradford was under the impression that you desired copies of my published books and a short biographical notice. I am acting accordingly, and you will find enclosed one copy each of:

- INTERLUDES, a book of poems—this was an edition limited to thirty-five copies, published some five years ago.
- WHITE FOAM, a short story. You will find this story listed with a mark of distinction in O'Brien's BEST SHORT STORIES: 1934.
- FUNERAL IN WINTER, a short story, published by the Bradford Press about two weeks ago. This edition is limited to one hundred and fifty copies.

Following are a few biographical notes: Born Ellsworth, Maine, 1901; studied music and painting in New York City and in Boston, Mass; about four years ago, turned to writing as my real means of expression, acting upon the advice of Erskine Caldwell; to date my work has been published in some fifty-five magazines, my work appearing both here and in England in such magazines as: LIFE AND LETTERS, London, NEW STORIES, Oxford, England, MANUSCRIPT, BLAST, DEBATE, YANKEE, FRONTIER AND MIDLAND, PARTISAN REVIEW AND ANVIL. The last three named are now on the newsstands in various parts of the country. I may add that the magazines represent a wide range of editorial policies, from the conservative San Francisco ARGONAUT to magazines of a purely experimental nature, such as THE HUB. My work was mentioned in London Times Literary Supplement Feb. 22nd, 1936, in an article upon the leftward writers of America, also in numerous articles in NEW MASSES and various writers' Magazines. My work was on the Honor Roll BEST SHORT STORIES: 1934 with three three-star stories, and the book WHITE FOAM was listed under stories and books with a mark of distinction. In BEST SHORT STORIES: 1935, O'Brien Collection, there is a reprint of my story FROZEN STILLNESS which appeared in NEW STORIES, and some seventeen starred stories, among them three three-starred.

I hope the above information will prove what you desire. If it does not, will you please communicate with me at the above address.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
April 28, 1936

Alfred Morang
Room 617
562 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Morang:

Thank you so much for the books which you have kindly presented to the Maine Author Collection. The writing has a distinctly modern, concise touch, with a definite ability to portray a scene or character in few, but alertly descriptive words.

The Maine Author Collection is an exhibit collection of the books by authors born in Maine, or who have resided here. It increases constantly, and our authors have been extremely generous with gifts of books. Together they form a most valuable and interesting background of Maine literature, and we are always delighted to welcome a new name to this roster of literary folk.

Thank you, also, for assisting us with biographical detail. This is being filed for future reference.

We are taking the liberty of returning to you FUNERAL IN WINTER and INTERLUDES, in order that you may inscribe them, if you will be so kind. We enclose a return label and postage for your convenience.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
April 30, 1936

Hilda McLeod, Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McLeod:

I have inscribed the two books as you wished. It was an oversight on my part not to have inscribed them before. Thanks for your kind reception of my work. A few days ago Edward J. O'Brien wrote the following of FUNERAL IN WINTER: "Funeral in Winter is superb."

Should there be a book of short stories or a novel of mine published, I shall forward you a copy, or should there be foreign reprints of any of the work you now have.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alfred Harrang
May 4, 1936

Alfred Morang  
Room 617  
562 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Morang:

We have received FUNERAL IN WINTER
and INTERLUDES, and thank you for your
kindness in autographing these two books.

Words like those of Mr. O'Brien regard­
ing FUNERAL IN WINTER are satisfying
and encouraging; we are, with you, pleased -
each enthusiastic reception of the work of
Maine authors is a fresh delight to us.

Thank you for your mention of the
foreign reprints, or possible publication
of novels or short stories; we are eager
to have more of your work in the Maine Author
Collection, and sincerely hope you may one
day in the near future, publish a book such
as those to which you refer.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library
Hilda McLeod, Secretary
MAINE STATE LIBRARY
Augusta, Maine

November 10, 1936

Dear Miss McLeod:

I am writing to request a favor. As New England Representative of the National Executive Council of the League of American Writers, I have charge of the arrangements for a proposed New England Conference of the League. We are very desirous of securing prominent Maine writers as members of the League. Would you be so kind as to send me the names and addresses of some of our outstanding Maine writers?

Such distinguished New England writers as Van Wyck Brooks, John Wheelwright, Genevieve Taggard, are already members. I can also state for your information that our membership comprises a large percentage of the finest literary talent in America.

As I am the only native Maine writer as yet in the League, I am naturally tremendously interested in having other native writers of our state as members.

Sincerely,

Alfred Moring.
November 12, 1936

Alfred Morang
Room 617
562 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Morang:

In response to your request of November 10, we will, of course, be very glad to assist you in any possible way. It is rather difficult, and perhaps a bit presumptuous on our part, to list some of the outstanding Maine writers, for undoubtedly there are those who will feel that they should have been listed; and it is possible that we may not know of all the Maine writers.

Doubtless the following would be considered outstanding. We regret that we do not have all the addresses.

Edna St. Vincent Millay, Austerlitz, N. Y.
Isabel Hopestill Carter, Metropolitan
Apts., Congress St., Portland, Maine (1934)
Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, 173 Wilson St.
Brewer, Maine
Margaret Flint, Bay St. Louis, Miss.
Arthur L. Guptill, Madison Ave., New York City
Hugh Pendexter, Norway, Maine
Wilbert Snow, Wesleyan Univ., Middleton, Conn.
Lincoln Colcord, Searsport, Maine
Joanna Colcord, (publishers)
Owen Davis, (publishers)
H. P. Davis (publishers)
Mary Gould Davis, Supervisor of Storytelling,
New York Public Library, New York City
Edna Worthaley Underwood, Box 54, Hamilton
Grange Station, New York City
Arthur C. Bartlett, 250 Park Ave., New York City
Mary Ellen Chase, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.
Kenneth Roberts, Kennebunkport, Maine
Shailer Mathews, University of Chicago
Robert P. T. Coffin, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine

Harold Vinal, 559 Madison Ave., New York City

Gleason L. Archer, Dean, Suffolk Law School, Boston, Mass.

Richard Matthews Hallet, Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Possibly you will wish to correspond with those whom we consider Maine authors, but whom we claim not through birth, but residence. Such writers as the following are found in this class:

Harold Trowbridge Pulsifer, Brunswick, Maine

Gladys Hasty Carroll, South Berwick, Maine (summer)

Laura E. Richards, Gardiner, Maine

Ben Ames Williams, Searsmont, Maine (summer)

Henry Beston Noblboro (summer)

Elizabeth Coatsworth, Nobleboro (summer)

Rachel Field (summer) (publishers)

Louise Lamprey, Limerick

Edith M. Patch, University of Maine, Orono

Other names may occur to you, or you may not wish to use all those which we have listed. We hope, however, that this information will be of assistance to you in your work with the League of American Writers. Please do not hesitate to call upon us whenever we can be of service.

Very truly yours

Alfred Morang
Portland, Maine
November 12, 1936

Please do not quote us in this matter.