October 2015

L. Felix Ranlett Correspondence

Louis Felix Ranlett 1896-
Bangor Public Library

Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library

Theresa C. Stuart 1885-1965
Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library

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RAILETT, Louis Felix

Boston, Massachusetts, December 13, 1896

(Who's Who Among North American Authors, Volume VI; personal correspondence)
March 15, 1937

Mr. Louis Felix Ranlett, Librarian
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Ranlett:

Since it has been our pleasant privilege to welcome you to Maine, we feel that we can now claim you as a Maine author; and we hope that you will consider Maine your home for many years, thereby sharing our opinion in regard to the authorship.

The Maine Author Collection is an exhibit collection, of which we are very proud. Possibly you have read something of it in our biennial reports, the Library Bulletins, or occasionally in newspapers. The books are almost all inscribed, presentation copies, for which we are very grateful, realizing that the authors' generosity and interest are the factors which make for the success of this project.

We would like to include a copy of your book, LET'S GC!, and we hope that you will want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection. It would give us great pleasure to be able to add your book to our shelves.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

HM

SECRETARY
March 18, 1937

Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Attention Miss Hilda McLeod

Dear Miss McLeod:

Responding to your letter of March 15, I am happy to present an inscribed copy of my book, "Let's Go!" for the Maine Author Collection. The book is being mailed separately.

Very truly yours,

LFR/HEM

Librarian
March 19, 1937

Mr. Louis Felix Ranlett, Librarian
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Ranlett:

We have received the inscribed copy of LET'S GO! for the Maine Author Collection, and it is with pleasure that we add it to our shelves.

We have been unsuccessful in our search for biographical material concerning you. Would you be so kind as to send us, at your leisure, a few paragraphs of this nature for our authors' files?

Thank you again for your very interesting book, and we hope that you will accept our cordial invitation to visit the State Library and the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY
Maine State Library
Augusta
Maine

Attention Miss Hilda McLeod

Gentlemen:

Responding to your letter of March 19, I refer you for biographical data about myself to The Library Journal, Volume 54 (1929) page 805; Who's Who Among North American Authors, Volume VI; the Bangor Daily News of April 20, 1926; and the Bangor Daily Commercial of April 29 and May 4, 1926.

To this data there given I may add that I became Librarian of the Bangor Public Library on January 26, 1927; that I have three children, Charles (5 years), John (2 years), and Mary (2 months); that I was Chief of the Book Purchasing Department (Ordering Department) of the Boston Public Library 1923-1927 and Chief of the Book Selection Department of the Boston Public Library 1927-1926; and that I am a member of the Maine Library Association as well as of the American Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association, and the Boston Chapter Special Libraries Association. My home is at 60 Montgomery Street, Bangor.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Librarian

LFR/DRD

March 27, 1927
October 21, 1942

Mr. L. Felix Ranlett, Librarian
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Ranlett:

The lending copy of MASTER MARINER OF MAINE was purchased at once upon its publication, and we think that it is a most valuable contribution to the state's history, and excellent piece of work, and a beautifully made book.

What puzzles us now is that we firmly believe that a book like MASTER MARINER OF MAINE should be in the Maine Author Collection; but we feel that, since we cannot unequivocally claim you to be the author, we cannot be too insistent. If you share our opinion, and want to inscribe a copy to present to the collection, we shall be extremely pleased and grateful. And whether or not you do, we congratulate you upon your work in this volume; and trust that it will be read and enjoyed by many, and continue to be found by students in all our libraries, for the value of MASTER MARINER OF MAINE will but increase with time.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY
October 26, 1942

Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Attention Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

So powerful is the flattery contained in the request for an inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection, that though I am merely an editor of "Master Mariner of Maine" and not an author, I would, if I had not been reading the new Federal tax law, be tempted to respond with a copy. As it is, because a copy would cost me $5.00 and I have been reading the new Federal tax law, it seems best that I say "no." Though I must make this answer, I do, nevertheless, thank you for your interest and appreciation.

Very truly yours,

LFR/MGB

Librarian
Mr. L. Felix Ranlett, Librarian
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Ranlett:

Your disarming letter has reached us, and the tax law softens the blow. One of life's two great certainties, it seems, has caught up with the Maine Author Collection. (May the other, death, be slow in coming!)

We weep for us, however; we deeply sympathize with our lack of this volume. But the persuasive language of a tear will be of little help, we know; and Miss Stuart says, "You tell Mr. Ranlett we don't blame him a bit!" She, too, it would seem, has been reading that tax law. As for most of us, we'd rather read MASTER MARINER OF MAINE. May it have a long and tax-exempt life.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj SECRETARY
October 31, 1942

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

That was a deliciously entertaining letter. The next time I write M. Lincoln Schuster, I shall tell him that he must ask you for a contribution when he gets out another volume of the "Treasury of the World's Great Letters."

Cordially yours,

LFR/HEM

L. Felix Ranlett
Librarian