October 2015

Clifford S. Reynolds Correspondence

Clifford S. Reynolds 1899-

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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REYNOLDS, Clifford S

b. October 6, 1899, Moscow, Maine
March 20, 1952

Mr. Clifford Reynolds  
Bar Harbor  
Maine

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Congratulations upon the publication of your novel, OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC, which we anticipate seeing soon. We are always especially delighted to learn of a new Maine author and a new Maine book, and your theme and background should certainly make the story one to appeal to a wide range of readers.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? It is a permanent exhibit of the work of Maine writers. The volumes are inscribed presentation copies for the most part, each inscription contributing to the value and interest of the whole exhibit. All kinds of books -- novels, histories, poetry, cookbooks, juvenile stories, volumes of law, essays, religion, autobiography -- are here; and all kinds of inscriptions -- verse, pen-and-ink sketches, autobiographical anecdotes, revealing paragraphs on the background of writing the book. It is really an outstanding collection, and one which constantly attracts visitors and students.

We also collect available material about our authors, such as biographical sketches and critical reviews.

We hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC to the collection. It would give us pleasure to welcome it, to these shelves. Meanwhile, you have our very good wishes for the immediate and lasting success of the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
December 17, 1952

Mr. Clifford S. Reynolds
Bar Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Last March we wrote to congratulate you upon the publication of your novel OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC. It would seem that we were a little premature, but we understand that the book really is out now, and we look forward to seeing a copy before long.

Some time, at your convenience, would you be willing to jot down a few biographical facts for us? The Maine Author Collection presents the books (and we continue to hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of the book for this exhibit), but we also want a sort of Who's Who item in our files.

Good luck to the book; and Merry Christmas to you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
June 11, 1953

Mr. Clifford S. Reynolds
Bar Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

It has been satisfying to notice the compliments which your novel OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC has enjoyed, and we hope they are encouraging to your further writing.

Perhaps, now that the first excitement is over, your thoughts may turn to the Maine Author Collection, about which we wrote to you last year. OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC is written of Maine, and by a Maine person (we understand that you are a native of the Bingham country?), and we hope that this exhibit of Maine books may be distinguished by the inclusion of an inscribed copy.

Continuing good wishes; and we shall look forward with great interest to your next book.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Bar Harbor
June 14, 1953

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

It pleases me that you should want to add my book to your collection of Maine authors. It's the only thing the Maine publishers have ever done for me, I suppose, as it has received so little critical attention. If you've not published by a big house with a lot of money for advertising behind it, you're lost. But I had rather be the author of a widely unread book than the author of East Fleece. Even though East Fleece is on the best seller list, it's a silly book, and mine isn't. You wanted, as near as I can remember, a bit of biographical detail. Well, here are the main facts.

I'm the son of Ella and Henry, my parents. They were wonderful parents, great Americans, and although many don't understand, my novel is
Bar Harbor
June 24, 1953

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

It pleases me that you should want to add my books to your collection of Maine authors—the most successful, I suppose, as it has received so little critical attention. If you’re not published by a big house with a lot of money for advertising behind it, you’re lost. But I had rather be the author of my widely unread book than the author of East of Eden. Even though East of Eden is on the best seller list, it is a silly book, and none will buy it. You wanted, as near as I can remember, a bit of biographical detail.

Well, here are the main facts. I’m the son of Ella and Henry, in my novel, they were wonderful parents, great Americans, and though many don’t understand, my novel is...
I wish they'd stay home and relax.

Blake, and St. Thomas O'Gorman, and MacDuffee, & Bingham seen great figures to me. I wish I had lived in the Middle Ages. Even the human balethless think I the people of the Middle Ages seems preferable to me to the sheer smugness of tourists.

If my interest you, to know that I'm now planning to be sequel to my 'Kennelke,' called 'The Shores of Time.'

Very truly yours,

Clifford S. Powell
July 3, 1953

Mr. Clifford S. Reynolds
Bar Harbor
Maine

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Thank you for your friendly response and your interestingly and modestly inscribed gift of the book OF LOVE AND THE KENNEBEC. It is being added to the Maine Author Collection with much pleasure, and an understandable eagerness to see the sequel.

Will you tell us, sometime, just where and when you were born? We like to have accurate information on our authors, and often the only way to secure it is to ask the authors themselves.

Again, thank you very much for the gift to the exhibit collection. We hope that by the time the next novel is ready for publication, you will be more encouraged about the sale of your first book, and the reception for your second.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Bar Harbor
July 23, 1953

Mrs. F. W. Jacobs
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs,

Due to a series of family calamities, I never saw your letter until today. Thanks for your apparent interest in my novel.

How to answer your question. I was born Oct. 6, 1899 in Moscow, Maine, and am of English, Scotch, and Scotch-Irish parentage. My mother, Gertrude Ann Stuart, was the prototype of Ella in my novel; and my father was likewise the prototype for Henry, which, of course, is not to say that my novel is a history or biography of my parents.
The sequel should be out next year and will be titled "The Shores of Times." Lauren Pond and Polly Hill will bring the shores against which wash the waters I elrubit. Hop it really gets done and that you like it.

Sincerely,

Clifford M. D.