Gertrude Robbins Correspondence

Gertrude M. Robbins 1877-

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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Born in Palermo, Maine, June 23, 1877; educated in China schools; worked in Massachusetts several years; lived in Augusta forty-one years. Her Mother was the youngest of twelve and her father the youngest of fourteen children. Her grandfather was in the War of 1812. Hobby: outdoor life, gardening. She can not remember when she did not write rhymes. Once someone typed one of her poems on a typewriter, and it looked so much better to her, that she says it encouraged her to keep on. She used to spend her summers at Three Mile Pond and the seashore. Her friends urged her to collect some poems in booklet form - so she did!
Gentlemen:

We understand that you have published a book of poems by Gertrude Robbins. Being especially interested in Maine authors, we have watched local newspapers for mention of this book, but have not seen anything.

Can you tell us whether or not Gertrude Robbins is a Maine poet? We should be glad, also, to have the correct title of the book, and to know its price. Is it for sale through your office?

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
1-15-47

Mrs. F. W. Jacob:

Dear Madame,

The enclosed letter was turned over to me by Hallowell Press, advising me by phone to get in touch with the State Library. Will say that I am a native of Maine, though I do not consider myself a poet, these bits of verse have been written over a period of years, from memories of childhood etc., a miscellaneous collection, and were published at the instance of friends who had read and enjoyed them. They have sold fairly well at 1.00 each. Am mailing one copy under separate covers. If you deem it worthy of a niche in your main collection, I will feel honored. If not, please return to—

Mrs. Gertrude M. Robbins
20 - Monte St.
Augusta, Maine

Sincerely yours,
G. M. R.
January 16, 1947

Mrs. Gertrude M. Robbins
20 Myrtle Street
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Robbins:

Your generosity and modesty are charming! Your attractive booklet of Poems reached us this morning, and we are very pleased to be able to add it to the Maine Author Collection.

This collection is a permanent exhibit of all the books by all Maine authors. Madam Wood is here, Henry W. Longfellow, Holman Day, Mary Ellen Chase, Kenneth Roberts; and all kinds of books are found here—novels, poetry, cookbooks, history, travel, religion, law, children's stories, art, autobiography. It is the only place where all the work of all Maine writers is gathered and permanently preserved. These books represent Maine's contribution to literature, and are a valuable and fascinating display which constantly attracts visitors and students.

We also try to accumulate all available biographical, critical and photographic material on our authors. We do not seem to have any biographical information about you. Would you be willing, at your convenience, to let us know the more important facts, including your birthplace and date?

We shall want to purchase a copy of Poems for the lending section of the library, and you will receive an order before long. Meanwhile, we are very appreciative of your kindness in making it possible for us to include the booklet in the Maine Author Collection. Because we like to have the collection volumes inscribed, will you not add an inscription to the copy you send when you receive our order? We can then use this first copy as the lending one; and the inscribed copy for the exhibit.

Our good wishes go to you for the success of your brochure. Please accept our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in the State House.

Sincerely yours,

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj