November 2015

Thomas Pendleton Robinson Correspondence

Thomas Pendelton Robinson 1878-

Ethel Fay Robinson

Viking Press, Inc

Maine State Library

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Recommended Citation

Robinson, Thomas Pendleton 1878-; Robinson, Ethel Fay; Viking Press, Inc; and Maine State Library, "Thomas Pendleton Robinson Correspondence" (2015). Maine Writers Correspondence. 471.
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ROBINSON, Thomas Bendleton

b. Calais, June 18, 1878
LOST DOG JERRY

By Tom Robinson

Illustrated by Morgan Dennis

$2.50

The odyssey of a Saint Bernard who got mixed up with a carload of calves and yet somehow found his way home—all the way from Kansas to Massachusetts! Jerry was "not exactly brilliant, but he had a heart of gold, was always well-mannered, and always wore a pleasant smile," so he made friends— and history—all along his adventurous way.

Morgan Dennis, ever popular for his dogs, has made some of his best drawings—and a very generous number of them. Jerry, the big, affectionate Saint Bernard, often mistaken for a calf or a bear—and once even for an escaped circus lion!—is a dog you'll long to have for your own.

Though Jerry's journey is imaginary, his personality is very real. When Tom Robinson's three sons were growing up they had a Saint Bernard called Duke. Like the family in the book the Robinsons lived on a farm in Massachusetts. Their airedale was immortalized in Pete, the story that won a New York Herald Tribune Children's Spring Book Festival Prize in 1941. Always an animal-lover, Mr. Robinson has also written two picture books about cats: Buttons and Greylock and the Robins, and another about a little girl and her pet, Mr. Red Squirrel.

Mr. Robinson was born in Maine and grew up in Pennsylvania—the background of his boys' story, Trigger John's Son. He studied architecture at M.I.T. and took a job in Boston. His architectural interests are reflected in Houses in America and Your Own House which he wrote with his wife, Ethel Fay Robinson. They fixed up a fascinating old house for themselves in Hingham. Not content with just architecture and writing, Mr. Robinson became very much interested in play production, worked in Baker's famous "47 Workshop" at Harvard, saw several plays of his own appear on Broadway, and edited and condensed The Players' Shakespeare for Viking. He also has a volume of children's poems to his credit: In and Out.

IN CANADA FROM THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED
October 28, 1952

Mr. Tom Robinson  
c/o The Viking Press  
18 East 48th Street  
New York City 17

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Maine books and Maine authors are our pleasant specialty, but every so often we have a delightful surprise of discovering that a rather well-known writer, with well-known and popular books to his credit, is from Maine and has escaped our attention.

This does not mean reading attention, or in your case your books have been included in our traveling libraries for some time. It means simply that we have not written to you about the Maine Author Collection.

This is a permanent exhibit of Maine books, those written by Maine natives or other writers closely identified with the state, or those written about Maine. Over the years, this collection has increased steadily, and now numbers about two thousand volumes, most of them inscribed presentation copies. The originality and frequent artistry of the inscriptions lends additional distinction to an exhibit outstanding for its versatility and worth. All manner of books are here, of course -- histories, biographies, poetry, cook books, novels, children's stories, books on law, art, religion -- and they are kept as a unit, for study and exhibit only. Many visitors and students are attracted each year, and we take great satisfaction and pride in this collection.

Our boast that all the books of all Maine authors are here is not true when we discover an omission such as you, and we shall feel that the exhibit is incomplete as long as it lacks your various volumes. We hope that you will share our concern, and that we may look forward to including on these shelves a section devoted to your writing.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
December 1, 1952

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Mr. Robinson has signed a number of his books for the Maine Author Collection and we are sending them under separate cover. Still to come are IN AND OUT, PETE, and BUTTONS, which he will send you from Boston.

It certainly is a varied collection. I think it's as wide a diversity of interest as any author's on our list.

With best wishes for the Collection,

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine Author Collection
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

MM:cc
Dear Mr. Robinson:

Have you any idea of the extent of our pleasure in your gift of books to the Maine Author Collection? It is at least threefold: first, we had the pleasure of discovering that you were born in Calais, and that we could claim you as a Maine author; next we had the delight of anticipation after receiving May Massee's friendly letter; and then came the wonderful package with eleven volumes for the collection.

Miss Massee says we may still expect IN AND OUT, PETE and BUTTONS; but for the present, thank you so very much for those which we have. You are very kind and generous, and we are, as we have been so many times during the years of building up this collection, overjoyed by the response of our authors.

The season's warm good wishes to you and Mrs. Robinson.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

December 15, 1952
December 15, 1952

Miss May Massee
The Viking Press
18 East 48th Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Miss Massee:

The eleven books which Mr. Tom Robinson signed for the Maine Author Collection arrived safely, and we have sent our thanks to him at Hingham.

Thanks are also due you, we know, for the time and care which you expended on the matter. We appreciate your trouble, and your friendly letter.

It is a delight to be able to add these books to the Maine Author Collection, and we look forward to having the other three in due course.

The season's greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
My dear Sir: Jacob,

Tom rushes me to thank you for your letter and tell you the three books areblue in Boston. As soon as they are autographed, he will send them along to Irvine.

He appreciates
the honor of being in your Authors' Collection,
and we are especially pleased to have the
books in your friend State House.

With our best wishes
for a Merry Christmas,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Boston
December 20, 37
July 28, 1953

Mr. Thomas P. Robinson
Box 51
Hingham, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you very much for remembering the Maine Author Collection, and filling the gap in your books by the very fine gift of BUTTONS, IN AND OUT and PETE. IN AND OUT has been a favorite since its happy publication; BUTTONS is one of my favorite characters, in or out of books; and of course PETE is enchanting for its story and for the humor and wisdom lying just below the surface. These make wonderful additions to the collection, and we are most grateful to you for completing it.

Our good wishes to Mrs. Robinson, whose gracious note some time ago caused us to wait with patient confidence for this rewarding moment.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection