November 2015

Harriet Newell Shaw Correspondence

Harriet Newell Shaw 1859-

William Scamman

Maine State Library

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April 29, 1932

Miss Helen Harriet Sails,
La Grange College,
La Grange, Georgia.

My dear Miss Sails:-

We have today received from Miss Lunt, of Auburn, the copy of your collection of verse which you are presenting to this library. We are glad to have it to add to our collection and I shall take pleasure in mentioning it in the July issue of our Library Bulletin.

I read a review of your book in the Lewiston Journal several months ago and have been intending to write to you and ask for a copy for the library. We make it a point to keep in touch with all of our Maine authors and it is my pleasant task to correspond with them.

I have enjoyed reading your verse. I especially like the poems, Twilight, Sunset, Night Fancies, all quite perfect expressions of the moods which inspired them.

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in sending us a copy of "Pensive Citadels."

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY MCP
May 10, 1939

Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

My dear Mrs. Fuller:

Thank you for your interest in my book of verse and your kind comments. I have taken the liberty of quoting you in a list of excerpts from letters, etc., which I am sending with Pensive Citadels to Randolph-Macon in Lynchburg, Virginia, for the Alumnae Exhibit in June.

My poem, "To a Mimosa Tree," is also included in an Anthology recently issued from the Banner Press: Poems of Trees; A Sidney Lanier Memorial. This includes poems by Roselle Mercier Montgomery and John Richard Moreland. Several of my students have verse in this Anthology; as has also our Librarian, Miss Carrie Fail Benson, who is a direct descendant of the famous Cavalier Poet, Richard Lovelace. LaGrange is the only Georgia College having a chapter in the Collegiate Poetry Society of America.

I gladly send you the requested clipping.

My address next month will be:

Cordially, Helen Harriet Hills.
May 19, 1932

Miss Helen Harriet Sails,
La Grange College,
La Grange, Georgia.

My dear Miss Sails;

Thank you for your letter and the clipping. I am glad that you found something in my letter which you could quote. I am sincerely interested in new poets and I am always glad when I can write or say something which is pleasing to one of them.

I have noted your change of address after this month.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MGF
Mr. Henry E. Dunnack
Maine State Library
Augusta, Me.

My dear Mr. Dunnack:

I appreciated your request for a copy of my last book of poems, Tensev Citadels, for your Maine Author Collection. However, I sent a copy some months ago, which was mentioned in your Summer Bulletin.

As my first loyalty is to Maine, the state where I grew up and enjoyed my first two college years (at Bates), I wrote Miss Thornton, of the Library of the University of North Carolina (in response to her request for a book for her Carolina Collection) that perhaps she would not think me eligible to membership in that group since I was to be in the Maine Collection. Of course, however, I have lived here now over twenty years, and am attached to my Southern home also, and I sent her a book.

I send you a newly made jacket "for my book", and a copy of the little Brochure, "Fine-Needles, issued privately in 1931.

Yours very truly,

Helen Harriet Hall.
Dear Mrs Fuller:

The clippings pertaining to Miss Sall's book, "Pensive Citadels", were intended for you to keep if you care for them.

In our copy of the book, she has added a few foot notes:

P. 13 Sunset, line 3, "the tiny isle," Isle of Springs, Maine.


P. 28 Octogenarian, Dr. Alfred Salls, formerly of 66 Goff St., Auburn.

Very truly yours,

Librarian
Extract from letter from Miss Salls to Miss Lunt:

Verses of mine have occasionally been published in such papers as the Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer and the Nashville (Tenn.) Christian Advocate. In 1921 my sister, Grace Jean Salls, and I together issued a little brochure of verse, Pine-Needles. Since the publication of "Pensive Citadels" last October, my poem, "To a Mimosa Tree", has been reprinted in an anthology, Poems of Trees: A Sidney Lanier Memorial, compiled by Dr. Wightman F. Melton and issued also from the Banner Press, Emory University, Georgia. You might be interested to know that "Pensive Citadels" has received favorable comment from Prof. George Chase, of the Greek department, Bates College; and from two of my former pastors in Auburn: Dr. Carl S. Patton, now of Los Angeles, and Dr. G. Walter Fiske, now of Oberlin College.
PENSIVE CITADELS, by Helen Harriet Sails, professor of English in LaGrange College (Georgia), is dedicated to the college on the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary.

The author's delight in beauty, and her faith in the ultimate triumph of joy over sorrow, of peace over hatred and pain, find adequate and artistic expression in her poems. Her themes are childhood, youth, age, war and peace, nature, love, and religion. In form, her poems are appropriate to the themes: merry mood—light, lilting lines; sober thought—graver measures.

To those who believe, with Browning, that this world "means good"—and to some others as well—we heartily recommend PENSIVE CITADELS.

—WIGHTMAN F. MELTON
Editor of VERSECRAFT

* Formerly English professor at Emory University, Pa.; now radio lecturer at Oglethorpe University, Pa.; also chairman of the Poetry Forum of the Atlanta Writers Club
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