December 2015

Claire Spencer Correspondence

Claire Spencer 1899-

Maine State Library

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SPENCER, Claire
Glasgow, Scotland
1900
February 13, 1935

Miss Claire Spencer
Box 755
La Jolla, California

Dear Miss Spencer:

We have noticed an announcement concerning THE ISLAND, and are delighted to notice that the author is a Maine woman. May we congratulate you upon this literary success!

For some years the State Library has been gathering the works of Maine authors into an exhibit collection. We have met with gratifying cooperation and interest on the part of our writers, so that by now we have accumulated several hundred volumes, all inscribed and most of them donated by the authors themselves.

Of course when we learned that you are a Maine woman, we became particularly anxious to have your book upon our shelves, and we hope that you will want to inscribe a copy to send for our Maine Author Collection. We are always extremely appreciative of the help of our authors, and in turn are always glad to be of assistance to them when we can.

May we wish you continued success in the literary field, and assure you that we anticipate the arrival of THE ISLAND with eagerness.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary
Maine State Library

Bangor, Maine.

Dear Sirs.

Thank you for your kind letter about my next book, THE ISLAND.

On my return to New York, early in April, I shall take pleasure in inscribing a copy for you, and sending it on, as you request.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. John Evans)

La Jolla

California
February 25, 1935

Mrs. John Evans
Box 755
La Jolla, California

Dear Mrs. Evans:

We have received your letter in regard to inscribing a copy of THE ISLAND for our Maine Author Collection, when you return to New York. We greatly appreciate your courtesy.

I wonder if you could send me a bit of information about a pine tree which I think I saw in La Jolla. Some years ago I was driving along the shore road and came to a place where there was a rather elaborate roadside tavern, where I had lunch. In walking around I discovered, on the right hand side of the road, across from the inn, two scraggly pine trees. They attracted my attention, I think, because of the size of the cone. It was my intention when I returned a week later, to more carefully investigate the matter and to find out something about them. But I forgot about the matter, and had not thought of it until I noticed your letter was postmarked La Jolla.

Could you tell me anything about these pine trees? I have been unable from my memory to classify them or find anything about them in any book.

Very truly yours

HD/m
State Librarian
April 20th, 1956

Miss Hilda McLeod
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Madam:

Your letter requesting information about Claire Spencer, author of THE ISLAND and GALLOWS ORCHARD, arrived the day my firm moved its offices to merge with Modern Library and Random House, and I regret that it has gone unanswered for so long.

Miss Spencer was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1900 and lived there until she was about twelve years old, when she went with her mother and a brother and sister to Brussels for the next five years. When she was eighteen the family came to America, at the end of the World War. Miss Spencer studied art for a while and then went on the stage for a year or two. Her first novel, GALLOWS ORCHARD, was published six years ago, and was a critical as well as a popular success. This was followed by a novel of New York life; but in 1955 she returned to the Scotch scene for her background and characters with THE ISLAND.

Miss Spencer is the wife of John G. Evans, the son of Mabel Dodge Luhan. They have a place in Maine on the water opposite Castine where they expect to live from May to November.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Harrison Smith
April 23, 1935

Miss Claire Spencer
c/o Harrison Smith & Roberts Haas, Inc.
17 East 49th St.
New York City

Dear Miss Spencer:

We have received the inscribed copy of THE ISLAND and thank you for your kindness in sending it. A splendid book, indeed! - one that promises exciting hours of reading.

Possibly you would be gracious enough to send us some biographical material. We would like something a bit more personal than the usual Who's Who item, if possible.

Again we congratulate you upon this intense novel, and assure you of our interest and appreciation.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

Secretary