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Walt Wandell Correspondence

Walt Wandell

Maine State Library

Doreen Wandell

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WANDALL, Walt

b. Grand Rapids, Michigan
August 18, 1953

Mr. Walt Wandell
1201 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. Wandell:

The Maine flavor of your new book CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE is inviting. We shall soon see a copy, and enjoy its stories.

The Maine Author Collection prompts this letter. It is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people or about the state, and is a fine, growing collection which attracts visitors and students, and we are proud of it: proud of its quality and size, its varied content and unusual inscriptions. We are always delighted to be able to welcome a new book to the shelves, and we hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE for this purpose.

You have our very good wishes for the success of this book. Is it from a native Maine background that you write, or observation? Are you one of our summer friends? We have been quite unsuccessful in finding biographical information about you, you see; so we must inquire directly of you. We try to have complete information on our authors, and maintain a file of biographical and critical material, as well as the book collection itself. We should very much appreciate your kindness in helping us.

Very truly yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
August 24, 1958

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
State House,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your letter expressing interest in my book CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE. I am, of course, delighted to inscribe a copy for the purpose you have explained, and this copy will be forwarded immediately under separate cover. This, at best, is a whimsical bit of work, but I sincerely hope that the Maine flavor you anticipate is there, and that the stories have some further spark of interest.

As for biographical material, the jacket of the book gives most of the facts, such as they are. I might add, however, that sometime back I had a hand in the publication from Monhegan Island of the MONHEGAN PRESS, which had a circulation among interested summer people in a number of states. I am not a native, but I have sojourned frequently in Maine, and had the memorable experience once of spending a winter on Monhegan. Also, after World War II, my English wife and I had an eventful eleven-months' stay at Port Clyde—in addition to exploring every part of coastal Maine as far as Eastport. As a matter of correction, my wife's name is Doreen, not Dorothy, as erroneously indicated on the book jacket.

Again, I want to thank you for your kindly interest. I only hope that a Maine novel I am now revising reaches the publication stage and finds an interested friend or two in the one part of the world where someday my wife and I would like to put down our roots and grow old in the wisdom of a fulfilling way of life.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
September 15, 1953

Mr. Walt Wendell
1201 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. Wendell:

Thank you for your friendly letter and the wonderfully inscribed copy of CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE. We are proud to place this book, with its perceptive distillations of Maine character and sights and sounds, into the Maine Author Collection.

From the jacket and your letter, we know quite a lot about you — but were you born in Maine? We like to have as complete information about our authors as possible, and sometimes the only way to find a birthplace and birthdate is to ask outright. Perhaps you will be so kind as to let us have this information sometime?

We are delighted with the inscription in CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE, and hope earnestly that it is merited.

The book will be noted in the fall issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, so that all Maine librarians may know of its availability. May it have a long and satisfying life.

Good luck to your novel. We shall be watching for it. And again, our thanks to you for the Maine Author Collection copy of CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. F. W. Jacobs
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I hope you will excuse this long delay in answering your last letter, but I have been hopping about the country a bit in the course of my work for the Air Force.

In answer to your inquiry about my place of birth: no, I am not a native of Maine. I was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., and then, through several cycles of newspaper work, moved eastward. I hope, since my love for Maine is deep-seated, that this is not a black mark.

Incidentally, the little volume, CHIPS FROM THE GRANITE, has produced a nomination for honorary membership in the International Mark Twain Society, whatever this means. The notification I received, signed by a Cyril Clemens who apparently has some blood relationship with M.T., said that the nomination was in recognition of a literary contribution. This may not be significant, but when, and if, such membership becomes effective, I shall let you know. It may be a
note to add to your referencing of the book.

Incidentally, too, I notice in the week-end Denver Post that a Beulah Fenderson Smith, of Wells, Maine, virtually monopolizes the Poetry Forum feature of this publication. This may be something of interest.

Otherwise, I want to thank you again for your kindly interest in the CHIPS, and for the encouraging things you have said about it. I only hope that I can add to your collection with more books about Maine.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
December 15, 1951

Mr. Walt Wandell
1201 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. Wandell:

Thank you very much for the biographical note, and do not fear a blank mark. We are very fond of our "adopted" authors, and you are one of a distinguished company of them.

We echo your hope that the Maine Author Collection may be enriched by more of your work; meanwhile, our continuing good wishes, and holiday greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

In charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj