April 2016

Vincent York Correspondence

Maine State Library

Vincent Yorke 189-

Don King

University of Maine Farmington

John E. Burnham

See next page for additional authors

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Place of birth: Attleboro, Massachusetts
Date of birth: February 21, 1899
Home address: Phillips, Maine 04966

Biographical information

Came to Maine 1905; brought up in the woods of the Rangeley Region; first formal schooling Hebron Academy, continued at Brown University; graduations respectively 1917 & 1923, the latter with Phi Beta Kappa.

Eighteen years in the New York theatre as stage-manager and/or actor in such plays as "What Every Woman Knows," "Front Page," "Brother Rat," "Our Town," "Best Foot Forward." Co-author of play "Brittle Heaven." About Emily Dickinson, this play was tried out in 1933 at West Falmouth and in Boston, Mass, and in '34 at the Lakewood Theatre, Skowhegan, Maine, Production on Broadway in the fall of '34.

For twenty-five years, beginning in '46, operated with Mrs. York the popular Greenwood Inn at Phillips, conducting in my spare time fourteen years of research on one of Maine's famous historical personages, Squire James Rangeley, work on whose story will presently be resumed now that "Sandy River & Valley" is comfortably on the market.

Other activities during residence at Phillips: -- president of the Phillips Library Association for twenty years, charter member of the Phillips Historical Society and president of this organization for thirteen years.
Mrs. Shirley Thayer  
Maine State Library  

Dear Mrs. Thayer: --  

In re "The Sandy River & Its Valley."  

In looking over the listings under "Maine In Print," I remain in doubt whether I was specific enough in my letter to Mr. Nichols, either as to the matter of retail price or where to order.  

Aside from the discussion of discounts, the established price of the book is $7.50. It is obtainable from Vincent York, Phillips, Maine 04966, shipped postpaid, 5% sales tax where applicable.  

I do not expect that the matter of discounts offered in my letter to Mr. Nichols involves you. In this connection I would add, however, that where the State Library has been so helpful to us of the Phillips Public Library over the years, I am more than happy to abide by my offer of a wholesale rate, in volume, both for supply of the State Library itself and for its bookmobiles.  

In marketing this book, I am making every effort to discover, and to operate within, the accepted pattern for Maine books. It has come to my attention after talking with library authorities, that in so far as college and research libraries are concerned, such sweeping discounts as I suggested to Mr. Nichols in my innocence are not required or even expected on Maine books.  

I would be grateful, therefore, if the question of discounts to libraries other than to Maine State and its bookmobiles could be overlooked.  

Very truly yours,  

Vincent York
July 27, 1976

Mr. Vincent York
Phillips, Maine 04966

Dear Mr. York:

This is in reply to your letter to the State Librarian about your new book *The Sandy River and its Valley*. We are glad to have the reviews and notice of its publication. We will add it to *Maine in Print*, which I prepare for each issue of *Downeast Libraries*. This is published five times a year by the State Library for distribution to all public libraries in Maine. The next issue will appear September 15th. We are enclosing a copy of the last issue for your information.

Meanwhile if you wish to send your notices to libraries, we are enclosing the current directory of libraries in Maine.

Libraries purchase all their own books with the exception of town histories which are sponsored by the legislature and distributed to public libraries requesting them through the State Library.

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Shirley Thayer
Specialist in Maine Materials

ST/pj

Enclosure (2)
Vincent York
Phillips, Maine 04966

Mr. Gary Nichols, Librarian
Maine State Library
Cultural Building
Augusta, Maine 04333
Mr. Gary Nichols, Librarian  
Maine State Library  
Cultural Building  
Augusta, Maine  
Phillips, Maine 04966  
July 18, 1976

Dear Mr. Nichols: --

My book "The Sandy River & Its Valley" published by myself, printed by the Knowlton & McLeary Company of Farmington, 251 pages, 40 illustrations including 14 maps & attractive wrap-around cover, has been selling briskly in the valley area and through mail order since May 20th, and excellent reviews have already appeared in papers of Lewiston, Waterville and Farmington, and over KTJ radio at Farmington.

Although this first edition is in soft cover, I feel that libraries (of Western Maine at least) should be interested. It is my impression, however, that in respect to Maine books libraries in general are in the habit of waiting for the Maine State Library to acquire copies and distribute them free. Since the Legislature does not convene until January, it is obvious that nothing can happen in this respect for six months, even should they look favorably on the proposition, and I am wonder whether there is hope of getting some immediate distribution.

With the advice of the printers and Colby's Dr. Marriner who acted as adviser in the preparation of the text and who has written a flattering foreword, I have established the retail at $7.50, plus tax where called for. By so doing, I am able to offer dealers the usual 40%.

In case of libraries wishing to acquire a single copy I would be pleased to knock the retail down to $5.00, plus tax where called for, and ship postpaid. To larger libraries wishing to acquire three or more copies I will cut the price the full 40% ($4.50 per copy). This leaves me but 15¢ profit per copy or less than shipping cost, but I am anxious to clear out my first edition and have a second printing for Christmas sales.

Would be happy if you would advise me whether there is hope of libraries picking up books for cash. If it so happens some classes of libraries do regularly buy Maine books (which have sufficient merit), I would much appreciate it if you would furnish me a list including names of librarians.

That you may form some idea of the merits of "The Sandy River & Its Valley," I enclose copies of reviews which came out in order on July 3, July 10, & July 16. You may retain same for your files if desired. May I hear from you.

Sincerely,

Vincent York
Dear Mrs. Thayer:

Thank you for yours of the 26th. and for welcome remarks in re "Sandy River & Valley." Sandy River must be good when a busy librarian, handling thousands of books, takes time to drop a hopeful author a line. I expect by now you have seen complimentary words of Don King in today's Maine Sunday Telegram.

It appears to have been a happy coincidence that I "took pen in hand" as soon as I got home from a conference with John E. Burnham, University of Maine, Farmington, librarian, for if this 40% business had gone into your issue of Downeast Libraries, and the response had been large, hope of recovering my printing cost had been virtually lost. I certainly appreciate your cooperation in getting a serious mistake corrected.

The State Library, as you of course know, took one copy of "Sandy River" first and then came back for three more, the three, I suspect, for the Livermore Falls bookmobile since our friend Marjorie Smith told me she had ordered three.

As of date I have, with a couple of exceptions, circulated only college and research libraries. If the statewide response from your publication is as brisk as you suggest, I may have to circulate only a percentage of the town libraries.

Thank you for telling me where there is an 1860 Walling for Somerset. Thanks again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Shirley Thayer:

little enough to do to com-
penate you for your kindness
in listing "Sandy River"
in your Downeast
libraries Journal. Copy
inscribed & autographed
as you observe.

You may like to learn that
nearly 800 copies of "Sandy
& O Arctic" have gone over
the counter since May 21st,
wholesale & retail. Christmas
mail orders now coming in
briskly. I continue to hold to
the $7.50 price line; but to friends
& those who have assisted in
publicizing the book, desiring to
acquire it as a gift, am glad
to remark the price down to

over
$1.00 per copy plus 30c tax, shipped postpaid by me on receipt of check. Consider this as applying to yourself, to other members of the library staff, or to immediate friends in other departments. Some employees of a Farmington bank recently took 124 copies.

You probably noticed my ad in Christmas issue of Down East.

Thanks for invite to join in the exhibit. All best wishes.

Vincent York
Phillips, Maine
04966
January 5, 1977

Mr. Vincent York
Phillips,
Maine  04966

Dear Mr. York:

Your inscribed copy of The Sandy River and Its Valley, sent December 10, 1976, was just routed to me as it was delivered to the wrong desk. We are happy to add this to our Maine Author Collection.

I am interested to hear that the sales of your book have been so good. Congratulations to you! I trust that some of the orders were from libraries which received Maine in Print.

We purchased three copies of this book for our circulating collection. This is our regular practice for town and regional histories in order to strengthen our collection on Maine.

We also keep biographical files about Maine authors. We would appreciate your filling out the enclosed questionnaire at your convenience and returning it to me.

Sincerely,

Ms. Shirley Thayer
Specialist in Maine Materials

ST:1sg

Enclosure