April 2016

David Oakes Woodbury Correspondence

Maine State Library
David Oakes Woodbury 1896-
Dodd, Mead & Company
Mary McPartland
Kay F. Radtke

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WOODBURY, David G.

Born in South Berwick, Maine.
December 13, 1946

Mr. David Woodbury
C/O E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
286-302 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Reading recently about your book BUILDERS FOR BATTLE, we discover that you are a native of South Berwick, Maine. This lends especial interest to the book, for we are ever eager to welcome a new name to the roster of Maine writers.

The Maine Author Collection is a particular pride in this field. Started over twenty years ago, it immediately appealed to the enthusiastic generosity of our writers, who have taken pleasure in inscribing and presenting their books for this purpose. There are now about fifteen hundred volumes in the permanent exhibit, which, together with the biographical, critical and pictorial material that we try to secure, form a fascinating representation of Maine's contribution to literature, attracting many casual visitors and serious students.

The inscriptions in these books are a distinctive note. They range from pen-and-ink sketches to tributes to Maine, from bits of original verse to autobiographical anecdotes, and are a delight to us and to visitors.

We hope that it may be possible to claim you as a Maine author, and that you will want to inscribe BUILDERS FOR BATTLE for the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our good wishes for the success of the book, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the collection when you are in this vicinity.

Sincerely yours,

hmj

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your letter of December 13 in regard to BUILDERS FOR BATTLE. You are right, I was born in South Berwick, Maine and have been a native of that state ever since, living a good deal of the time at Ogunquit nearby, where I maintain a legal residence.

I am sending a suitably inscribed copy of BUILDERS FOR BATTLE for your library. This is the eighth in a series of books I have written but the others are not easily obtainable now.

I should be delighted to visit your collection some time when I am in Augusta.

Sincerely,

David O. Woodbury  
Editor  
YOUR LIFE TOMORROW

dow/mct
January 3, 1947

Mr. David O. Woodbury, Editor
YOUR LIFE TOMORROW
9 Fieldcourt
Bronxville 8, New York

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Your kind and friendly letter has been waiting on our desk, so that we might acknowledge the arrival of BUILDERS FOR BATTLE, which we look forward to adding to the Maine Author Collection. The book has not yet come. It may be simply delayed by the extraordinary size of holiday mails, but we thought it wise to let you know.

Non-fiction is purchased for lending, so a copy of your book will be available to our patrons; and we anticipate with pleasure the privilege of including BUILDERS FOR BATTLE in the collection, which is for exhibit and reference purposes, as we perhaps mentioned.

Our best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
January 6, 1947

Mr. David O. Woodbury, Editor
YOUR LIFE TOMORROW
9 Fieldcourt
Bronxville 8, New York

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

There is a tradition in the library to the effect that you should wait another day before writing for delayed packages; they always arrive immediately after your letter has been mailed! And sure enough -- here, early this morning, is BUILDERS FOR BATTLE.

We like the inscription; and we like the book. It is fine to have the facts in readily consultable form. Certainly your experience and abilities combine happily to provide an eminently suitable author for the story. BUILDERS FOR BATTLE is an important addition to the books which present the story of the war, and the contributions made to victory by armed forces and civilians.

Please accept our thanks for the inscribed presentation copy for the Maine Author Collection. We appreciate, and heartily agree with, the inscription. And we also appreciate the privilege of placing this competent and readable book in the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Encl—13¢ postal refund

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your note. It's good of you to be so appreciative.

Your reimbursement of the mailing cost of BUILDERS FOR BATTLE was unnecessary, but thank you.

Hope to see your collection some time when I am in the vicinity of Augusta.

Sincerely

David O. Woodbury
Editor

YOUR LIFE TOMORROW
March 11, 1955

Mr. David O. Woodbury
C/O Dodd, Mead and Company
432 Fourth Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

ATOMS FOR PEACE went on to our order list at once. We hail with enthusiasm this kind of book, and yours will be most useful to us.

Of course an extra element of interest for us lies in the fact that we can claim you as a Maine writer. You will remember that you very kindly inscribed and presented your BUILDERS FOR BATTLE to the Maine Author Collection a few years ago. Since that time we have been gradually adding your other books to the collection, and we hope that some day your path will lead this way, so that we may ask you to inscribe them. Meanwhile, is it possible for us to look forward to having the new book, ATOMS FOR PEACE, in this Maine exhibit?

Best wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
November 18, 1955

Mr. David O. Woodbury
C/o Dodd, Mead and Company
432 Fourth Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Last March we wrote to you about your book, ATOMS FOR PEACE, and expressed the hope that the Maine Author Collection might be the recipient of an inscribed copy to add to your other books in this Maine exhibit.

Perhaps our letter was laid aside to await your leisurely attention. We hope so, for we should very much like to have your work complete in the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
September 28, 1956

Mr. David O. Woodbury
383 Madison Avenue
New York City 17

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Have you any idea of the eagerness and curiosity with which we are anticipating LET ERMA DO IT? It sounds like the perfect answer to questions we receive with increasing frequency. Your proven ability to simplify science for the layman is guarantee of a completely understandable book on one of the most important subjects.

It is on our order list, and as soon as it is really published, we expect to have a copy for the regular section of the library. We hope that you may feel inclined to inscribe another copy for inclusion in the Maine Author Collection. As the work of a Maine author, it should certainly be among the other Maine books.

Success to it!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Shore Road,
Ogunquit, Maine
October 17, 1956

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am mailing to you today my two latest books: ATOMS FOR PEACE, and LET ERMA DO IT, both signed. I am happy to be represented in the Library, and hope that you may find good use for the books.

Your interest in my work is much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

David O. Woodbury
Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you very much for enriching the Maine Author Collection by autographed copies of ATOMS FOR PEACE and LET ERMA DO IT. We are extraordinarily pleased to add these volumes as the work of a Maine man.

ATOMS FOR PEACE has been proving its usefulness as library material for some time, of course, and we anticipate a similarly active life for LET ERMA DO IT.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
August 5, 1958

Mr. David O. Woodbury  
c/o Harcourt, Brace & Co., Inc.  
383 Madison Avenue  
New York City 17

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

When we ordered AROUND THE WORLD IN 90 MINUTES for the library, we made a note that the Maine Author Collection should have this and also THE V. I. STORY. We are trying to locate three out-of-print titles: COLORADO CONQUEST, A MEASURE FOR GREATNESS and HUNG JURY -- no luck yet.

We do want to keep up to date, however, and not miss the new ones as they are published. Are you agreeable to presenting inscribed copies to the Maine Author Collection? You may remember that the other books are already in the collection, and we hope very much to have your section as complete as possible.

Meanwhile, congratulations on AROUND THE WORLD IN 90 MINUTES, and good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
Shore Road,
Ogunquit, Maine
August 15, 1958

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am enclosing a copy of "The V.I. Story," which is one of the very few I have left. It has been inscribed.

I'm afraid I cannot help you very much with "Colorado Conquest" or "A Measure for Greatness." Both are extremely rare. The few copies I have left cannot be spared. As for the play, "Hung Jury," this, too, is reduced to a single copy in my files. However, it is possible that by writing to the Baker Play Co. in Boston you might locate a copy, if it is still in print.

Thank you for your good word on "90 Minutes." At the moment I can't spare one of these either, but may be able to later. It is doing a good business.

Sincerely yours,
September 11, 1958

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you very much for THE V. I. STORY for the Maine Author Collection. We appreciate your parting with this copy.

Yes, we know those about which we asked are out of print. We'll just be patient, and one of the out-of-print dealers may find a copy yet -- we certainly hope so.

It's good news that the latest book is doing so well. May it continue this successful course for a long time.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 28, 1961

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

You have in the past been very kind to the Maine Author Collection, and we hope that an inscribed copy of your latest book, OUTWARD BOUND FOR SPACE, may be added to your other books in this collection.

You will be glad to know that the library purchased copies of the book promptly, and we are delighted, as we always are, with your ability to share a scientific world in such exciting and intelligible fashion.

Good fortune to the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Shore Road,  
Ogunquit, Maine  
October 29, 1961

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I enclose a copy of OUTWARD BOUND FOR SPACE, which I believe you were interested in adding to the Collection. I should have sent it before but have been submerged in a new book on the Ice Ages to such an extent that many things have got left out.

Sincerely yours,

David O. Woodbury
October 31, 1961

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you very much for remembering the Maine Author Collection with an inscribed copy of OUTWARD BOUND FOR SPACE.

Your ability to make the technical world understandable to the unscientific mind excites our admiration, and we are proud to number these outstanding books among the works of Maine writers.

A new book on the Ice Ages sounds like a reaction to the hot nuclear bombs! We'll be watching for it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 13, 1963

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Ogunquit
Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Of course THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE was ordered for this library some time ago, and our welcome for it was warm with that special enthusiasm which your books always generate.

We hope that at your convenience you will want to inscribe a copy for the Maine Author Collection, to which you have been so generous.

To be able to bring these distant times to exciting life for the present-day layman is an accomplishment at which we marvel; and we hope that your books have the wide reading they merit.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I have your request for a signed copy of THE GREAT WHITE Mantle and intend to send one to you presently. In the meantime, I wonder if you can give me a list of the books of mine that you already have? I have various copies of the older books at home in Ogunquit, and would like to fill in a few of the gaps in my books in the Maine Author Collection. It will only be a few, for I have a minimum number of most of them. But the few of which there is a surplus you are welcome to.

I shall be at home again in Ogunquit in about a week now, and will be glad to hear from you there after that date.

Sincerely yours,

David O. Woodbury
March 21, 1963

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Ogunquit
Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

It is a pleasure to tell you that we have in the Maine Author Collection the following books written by you:

Atoms for peace
Battlefronts of industry
Beloved scientist
Builders for battle
Communication
Forever credulous
Glass giant of Palomar
Let ERMA do it
Outward bound for space
Varnished insulations story
What you should know about submarine warfare

We certainly appreciate your interest in this matter, and we shall be grateful for any that you may be able to send, including, of course, the new one.

We hope that on your return to Ogunquit you will find spring encouraging the countryside, so that you won't overly regret leaving Florida's warmth and color.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mr. Woodbury called personally 4/11/63 and presented 1001 QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT THE NEW SCIENCE and THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE.
January 28, 1964

Mr. David O. Woodbury  
Shore Road  
Ogunquit, Maine  

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

How fortunate we are to have a real scientist who can give us a convincing, tense, really truly exciting thriller! Your FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION was ordered as a review item some time ago, and after we caught our breath again, we decided that the bookmobile patrons would find the story as hair-raising as we did. They will be making the acquaintance, accordingly, of your Dean Riam and the gullible Sam, of the brash Mr. Ottt and the versatile "Charles", of the cats and Kara and all the others in this grim contest.

Congratulations, and we hope it is wildly successful. We were delighted to learn via the Portland paper that you are at work on another.

Will the Maine Author Collection be distinguished by an inscribed copy of FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION? We hope so.

Sincerely yours

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

February 8, 1964

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I was pleased to have your letter of January 28, and to learn that FIVE DAYS FOR OBLIVION impressed you, and is going out on the bookmobile circuit.

I've had a most encouraging reaction to the book, and many letters commending it, both from Maine and elsewhere. The second one of the series is finished and with the publisher.

I shall certainly appreciate any recommendation you want to give it. The story is said to be something new in detective fiction. As you have noted, it also has a serious point which, I'm glad to say, has been applauded by many readers.

I'll drop in some day.

Sincerely yours,
February 11, 1964

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you very much for the inscribed copy of FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION for the Maine Author Collection. (One wonders whether this will be translated, and, if so, into what languages!)

Aren't you delighted to have letters about it? because readers certainly wouldn't be impelled to write if it were just another run-of-the-mill suspense yarn. We hope that you intend to balance fiction and non-fiction from now on, having shown us that you are of equal facility in both fields.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

April 24, 1964

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Wonder if you would do me a favor, being as I'm pretty well represented in your collection now?

I've printed up a small leaflet setting forth the virtues of FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION, a copy of which is enclosed. These leaflets are going around to various societies, bookstores, etc. as direct-mail promotion. I've got rid of over 5000 so far. I am also sending small lots to friends and people who may be willing to spread the good word among their friends, customers, etc.

I wondered if you could visualize some form of distribution for these, say through the bookmobiles. This may be beyond your proper province as a state employe. If so, forget it. However, as the book is a Maine story about Maine people by a Maine author there might perhaps be some outlets you could think of that would be little trouble to you to reach, or to let me know about so that I could reach them.

I shall be happy for anything you can do. Our trouble just at present is poor distribution. I find that virtually everybody who does get hold of the book is highly enthusiastic and I do want to develop a good market in our own state.

Thanks for anything you feel able to do.

Sincerely yours,
FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION

by David O. Woodbury

A novel of headlong action and suspense that shows how the Red conspiracy can worm its way into America's most secret research facilities to create havoc in national defense.

Brilliant young Sam Bowden, in charge of designing a new missile, is kidnapped and imprisoned on a remote island in Maine. Just as he is being whisked off to Russia to be brainwashed and exploited by the enemy, Sam is rescued by his friend and mentor, Dean Riam, who ends his book-long chase only minutes before it is too late. Riam, wise and humorous old Dean of Science at a big engineering college, is a refreshingly new kind of detective in mystery fiction.

You won't be able to put the book down, for you will soon realize that FIVE DAYS is fact in fictional form! Woodbury is the author of 18 books of scientific interpretation, and knows what he is talking about.

"... a tale of intrigue, suspense and communist machinations fabulously fantastic enough to make for edge-of-chair reading but close enough to possible reality to scare or shock the mystery fan into muttering to himself, 'it could happen!'"

—Rosalie Gordon in America's Future

FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION is published by Devin-Adair. Hard cover, $3.95.

ORDER FROM:
April 29, 1964

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Well, as a matter of fact, it is somewhat beyond our province, but we'd like to be helpful. The bookmobiles would be an unlikely center for distribution. Most of those patrons are too young, or not in economic brackets to permit much buying of books.

We noted FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, which reaches most of the libraries in the state.

The Maine school librarians have already had their meeting, but the New England School Librarians will have a spring meeting in Kennebunkport in late May. Miss Frances Lombard, Portland High School Librarian, could tell you about the possibilities of distribution at that meeting. You might get in touch with Mrs. Olga A. Aaskov, librarian at Falmouth, about distribution at the Maine Library Association meeting which will take place in a few weeks.

Newspaper ads have probably occurred to you. How about radio spot announcements? Is the Maine Publicity Bureau a possible location for an inviting pile of the leaflet? Does the DED distribute such material at the World's Fair? How about tourist information centers such as are established in Damariscotta and Boothbay?

Good luck. The book deserves it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Here's the second Ice Age book I promised you. I hope you will find it not too repetitious of the first one. Different age group mainly.

I was much pleased to find that Mrs. Reed could, if she cared to, find THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE in the State Library. She took a liking to the FIVE DAYS book and so I thought she might be game for the glaciers, and wrote her that you had said it was obtainable.

I have another friend, an old lady by the name of Lorena Protheroe, over in Richmond, who has taken me up as an author and I told her she could probably get some of the books through her local library from you people. It's a hard way to make a living, going around stirring up interest one at a time, but in the long run it seems to work.

I'll drop in on you when I next come to the capitol. Meantime, all the best.

Sincerely,

David O. Woodbury
Shore Road, Ogunquit, Maine
February 16, 1965
February 19, 1965

Mr. David O. Woodbury  
Shore Road  
Ogunquilt, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new book by you, and WHEN THE ICE AGE CAME is one of our favorites. Among your many talents, it seems to us that a very important one is making science understandable to young minds, and to the untutored older minds, as well. You accomplish it with such seeming ease!

Thank you very much for the Maine Author Collection copy of this book.

Yes, indeed, we'll be glad to lend your books upon request through the Richmond Library, or even directly to Miss Protheroe, because in her town the library is open only limited hours.

Sincerely yours

hmj  
In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

It was nice to have a chat with you the other day before the Governor's festivities. I wish I got up there more often.

We had quite a delightful conversation with the Governor and Mrs. Reed, and when I got home I sent them a copy of FIVE DAYS TO OBLIVION. I must say I didn't expect such a favorable or prompt reaction to the book. She was quite taken with it.

I was wondering whether it is possible for the books in the Author Collection to be lent out to Mrs. Reed. Because if so I would be pleased to have THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE get into her hands. I don't know of course what your rules are, but if you say it can be done I'll drop her a note inviting her to cross the street and pick the book up.

I am writing to Dodd Mead to get some more copies of WHEN THE ICE CAME. I have only one here now. When they come I'll send you one.

All best wishes,

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

Sincerely,

David O. Woodbury
February 5, 1965

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

It gives us pleasure to be able to tell you that THE GREAT WHITE MANTLE is (but of course!) in the regular lending section of the library, and we'll be happy to lend it to Mrs. Reed whenever she finds it convenient. With all the public demands on her time, it is remarkable that she can sandwich in a little reading now and then, isn't it?

To answer your question about the Maine Author Collection: we have always observed a pretty fast rule that these particular books do not go outside the library. Visitors and students are welcome to browse, and use the books here; but the books are, after all, rather special, and visitors could be dismally disappointed if they happened to come to see some particular author's books, and found those volumes were travelling about the state.

We'll look forward to having the copy of WHEN THE ICE CAME; and good luck with the new ones. Come in and say hello whenever you're up this way, please.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In charge of
Maine Author Collection
January 7, 1966

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Were it not for the fact that the scientific information in MR. FARADAY'S FORMULA is so convincing (and chilling!), it would be next to impossible to believe that the same author wrote THE NEW WORLD OF THE ATOM.

This small book is tremendously interesting and encouraging, and should direct the minds of readers to benefits beyond bombs and explosions.

As for Dean Riam, we knew when we met him that he'd be back. The old cops and robbers, and cowboys and Indians, seem pretty tame compared with the dean's spectacular pursuits. Even those not au courant with the nuclear vocabulary can enjoy this novel; and for those with a scientific bent, it must have remarkable appeal.

Thank you very much for the gift copies for the Maine Author Collection, and for bringing them personally.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
February 1, 1966

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

At the suggestion of David O. Woodbury, we are sending you a copy of his new book, THE FRIGID WORLD OF CRYOGENICS, which we are publishing today. We hope you will plan to include it in your authors' collection and in your bookmobile unit.

Sincerely yours,

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, INC.

Mary McPartland
Publicity Director
September 26, 1967

Miss Kay F. Radtke
Director of Publicity
Dodd, Mead & Company
79 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Miss Radtke:

With pleasure we acknowledge the safe arrival of David O. Woodbury's new book, FRESH WATER FROM SALTY SEAS.

It is a timely subject, and he explains the mysterious world of science to us laymen so easily that we are always surprised to find ourselves understanding at least a part of what he has to contribute.

Thank you for sending the book. We're writing to Mr. Woodbury also, of course.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of Maine Author Collection
Mr. F. W. Jacob, Librarian  
Maine Author's Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine  

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

At the request of David O. Woodbury, I am sending you a copy of his new book FRESH WATER FROM SALTY SEAS. This book is a timely discussion of desalination—how it can be done, what has been accomplished, plans for the future.

We hope that you will enjoy reading it and would appreciate any comments on it you may care to send us.

Sincerely yours,

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, Inc.

Kay W. Radtke  
Director of Publicity
September 26, 1967

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Your publisher has very kindly sent us a copy of the new book FRESH WATER FROM SALTY SEAS, and again we are grateful: for the Maine Author Collection copy, and for your continuing to explain some of the mysteries of science to us ordinary folk.

We should like to have the collection copy autographed, of course. Shall we send it to you at Ogunquit (or are you off with Dean Riam on some other pursuit?); shall you be passing through Augusta soon?

Meanwhile, good luck to the book and thank you for remembering the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
April 14, 1966

Miss Mary McPartland
Publicity Director
Dodd, Mead & Company
432 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Dear Miss McPartland:

Thank you for the copy of David O. Woodbury's book, THE FRIGID WORLD OF CYROGENICS.

He has been most thoughtful and interested in the Maine Author Collection, and has taken pains to see that we have his books in this exhibit. We lack three of his early titles, but otherwise have a complete representation.

We appreciate your courtesy, and are also acknowledging the gift to Mr. Woodbury.

Very truly yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
April 14, 1966

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Dodd-Mead sent us a copy of your book, THE FRIGID WORLD OF CYROGENICS, and we are most appreciative. We said thank you to Miss McPartland, but we should also say thank you to you.

It is astonishing that you can make these abstruse subjects intelligible to the quite ordinary layman. It certainly testifies to your own complete familiarity with the world of science, and also an understanding of the lesser intellects.

Do we detect a small sour note in the last sentence of the jacket blurb? -- After going on about your illustrious background and career, it says "He also writes spy stories with a scientific background." Isn't this a pretty offhand judgment of Dean Riam?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Your good letter finds me in California, doing some research on my next Dodd Mead book, which is to be about conversion of salt ocean water to help head off the droughts all over the world.

I'm glad that my efforts at explaining cryogenics have merited your praise: you're one I am especially happy to please. These short texts seem to go very well with the youngsters from 12 on up, and some grown-ups can apparently warm to them, too.

As for the possible sour note in the jacket blurb: you know in Hollywood the studios insist on "typing" an actor for one kind of part, which often leads to stifling real talent in other directions. Something of the sort may motivate Dodd Mead a little with regard to me. I've written for them since 1931, and they no doubt think I ought to stick to my last. I doubt if any of the firm has read the Dean Riam books, even. They undoubtedly don't think a whodunit writer could interpret science well, though many do. I just don't discuss the matter with them.

I'll be home soon; thanks for your kind comments.

Sincerely, 
David O. Woodbury
October 2, 1967

Mr. David O. Woodbury  
Shore Road  
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you again, and we are sending the new one to you for that extra touch.

We hate to think of Dean Riam languishing without a publisher. Surely another alert company would welcome him?

Sincerely yours

hmj  
In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
September 29, 1967

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I'm glad you received a copy of the new "Fresh Water From Salty Seas," from the publisher. I asked them to send you one, forgetting that you like to have them autographed.

If you will send the book to me, I'll be charmed to write in it for the Collection. Please just mail it here. We may be coming north some time this fall but it is uncertain.

A third Dean Riam is finished, in manuscript, but so far is not scheduled for publication, as the original publisher has fallen on bad times and is taking on no more new books.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

David O. Woodbury
Shore Road, Ogunquit, Maine 03907
October 13, 1967

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

Thank you for the inscription in FRESH WATER FROM SALTY SEAS, which we now add to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation.

Well, of course we do like hardbound books because they stand up to use much better than paperbacks, but in recent years libraries have been coping with the problem in various ways. We can get the paperbacks, for instance, in a special plastic binding, which helps. You're quite right about the mass market, too. Good luck to the book, and we shall anticipate the inscribed copy for the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Here's the book, duly autographed. Thanks for troubling to send it.

I'm glad to report that Riam III, has been taken on for publication by a paperback firm with wide distribution. I suppose no library will like this, but from the point of view of reaching the largest number of readers, especially in the patriotic field, low cost is absolutely essential, since the great majority of conservatives are among the poorer people, and especially the "grass roots." I think the New York publishers have scorned this huge market to their own damage. Anyway, today paperbacks carrying real messages are selling in the multimillions, and that's the outlet I'm after.

This new Riam will sell for $1; I'll see that you get one when it comes out, though you may shudder as you put it on your shelves!

All best wishes,

Sincerely,
July 9, 1968

Mr. David O. Woodbury
Shore Road
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Dear Mr. Woodbury:

We don't disapprove; we don't approve; we quite simply covet! And the editors generously sent us a copy of Dean Riam's latest, which is very nice of them. Prompted, no doubt, by the author, to whom we send our thanks.

The Dean is certainly in convenient form, and it will be interesting to see whether the sales record is helped by this paperback dress. Paperbacks seem to be the "in" thing nowadays -- from philosophy to whodunits. Dean Riam is joining a vast company.

Good luck to the book, and thank you so much for remembering us. When you are in Augusta some day, can you pause long enough to autograph the Maine Author Collection copy? A pleasant summer to you and Mrs. Woodbury.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Announcement of a New Novel by David O. Woodbury

YOU'RE NEXT ON THE LIST

Third in the Series of Dean Riam Whodunits. Now the Dean is up against a plot to reduce an American town to submission. New settings, new characters to help Dean Riam win out against overwhelming odds.

Suspense .. Romance .. Humor .. Grim Reality

ANY DAY NOW IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

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Just seat - Shall I donate a copy or don't you after reading? After reading! 3/13/68

David Woodbury