April 2016

Hazel Wilson Correspondence

Maine State Library

Hazel Hutchins Wilson 1897-

Hazel Emma Hutchins Wilson 1897-

Jerry Wilson

Abingdon - Cokesbury Press

See next page for additional authors

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WILSON, HAZEL

Portland, April 8, 1897 -
Mrs. Wilson was born in Portland of an old Maine family. She was graduated from Bates College and received a degree in Library Science from Simmons College. She has been librarian at Portland High School, at Kirksville State Teachers' College in Kirksville, Missouri, at Bradford Academy in Massachusetts, head of circulation department in the American Library in Paris, France and she was the supervisor of school libraries in Denver, Colorado.

Mrs. Wilson is married and has a son. She has lived in Washington for the past ten years.

---Letter from Mrs. Wilson, dated March 31, 1940.

Hazel Emma Hutchins Wilson, b. Portland, April 8, 1897, daughter of Fred L. and Emma Chesley (Jones) Hutchins. AB, Bates, 1919; BS Simmons, 1920.
December 8, 1939

Miss Hazel Wilson
3921 Fulton Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Wilson:

It is always pleasant to contemplate the addition of a name to Maine's literary roster; and it therefore gives us delight to write to you regarding your books, and also the Maine Author Collection.

The collection is an exhibit of about a thousand books, written by Maine persons; most of them are inscribed presentation copies, and are kept in the State Librarian's office, where visitors are always welcome.

In addition, we gather all available data: biographical, photographic, and critical; and correspondence with our authors is preserved. You can readily comprehend the scope of such a collection, its present interest and future value. It is the one place, of course, where all the books of all the Maine authors are assembled; and students and researchers in the years to come will find a veritable treasure of Maine's contribution to literature.

It is possible that you would like to present inscribed copies of your books to the collection for exhibit purposes. We would be exceedingly glad and proud to add them to the shelves; and we also hope that you will be so kind as to send us some biographical information at your convenience.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY
March 31, 1940

Miss Hilda Mcleod Jacob, Secretary
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Jacob:

I am sorry I have delayed so long in answering your letter in which you invite me to send copies of my books to be added to the collection of books by Maine authors. I did not have a copy of my one and only book on hand and was slow at ordering from my publisher. I am, however, glad to send you a copy of "the Red Dory" and hope that someday I shall have others to add to it.

As for biographical material— I was born, longer ago than I like to remember, in Portland, Maine. My people have been natives of Maine since before the Revolution. I graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, then received a degree in Library Science the next year from Simmons College in Boston. Then I did library work, first as librarian in Portland High School, then as librarian of the Kirksville State Teachers' college in Kirksville, Missouri, then as head of the circulation department in the American Library in Paris, France, and finally as the supervisor of school libraries in Denver, Colorado. And I'm forgetting one year that I was librarian at Bradford Academy in Massachusetts. For the past ten years I have lived in Washington, D. C. I am married and have a small son eight years old. We have spent most of our summers in Maine and hope to spend many more.

I haven't a photograph but could get one from the publisher, who has one. But can't that go until and if I get something else published? I am working on another book about Maine.

I am enclosing a copy of a review of "The Red Dory." There were a few others but this is the best one.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hazel Wilson
April 5, 1940

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
3921 Fulton Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

You are exceedingly kind to write such a pleasant letter, and present to the Maine Author Collection an autographed copy of THE RED DORY.

It is, of course, an enchanting tale for young readers, permeated with true Maine atmosphere and characters, and we are delighted to be able to claim its author as a Maine writer.

Yes, indeed, we will very patiently wait for a photograph. We will be grateful to you if you will send us something of this nature—even a snapshot—at your convenience.

Please accept our sincere thanks for THE RED DORY, and our best wishes for the new book. We hope when you are again in Maine that you will find it possible to visit the library.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY
In the rush of pre-Christmas publications, a "first story" may easily be neglected: this one should not be by parents looking for something to suit a ten or twelve-year-old boy who loves the sea, which means almost any boy living within our coastal areas. If his parents have a New England background, let them read it aloud, for the humor and fidelity to character will appeal quite as much to them.

This dory was built in the front yard of Capt. Eben's house, "almost a doorstep to the sea." He would have agreed with his own grandfather that it could be painted any color so long's it's red; its lines were trim, and it would stand a lot from the sea. It had to, before the story was over. Donald lived with his grandparents and this was his special boat, as he grew up. Before it was scarcely used to the water it was involved in the capture of lobster thieves. It turned over; the Italian marauder and the captain both held on to it; he was more afraid of the captain than of sudden death and when he was told to "Shut up, and hang on," he did, even after the cap'n, who had discovered that the tide was going out and his feet were on the bottom, at last took pity on his prey and said, "Put yer feet down, gol-ding you." The old man and the boy were taken on as fishermen off the Grand Banks, and lost in the dory in a fog. It went through one narrow escape after another until the great day it went off, with no more change than a new coat of paint, as lifeboat on the schooner of Donald's dreams as a boy, now the craft on which he was to sail as a tall young man.

There is more than just the story in all this. The long tug-of-war between Capt. Eben and Elmira his wife over the purchase of a cookstove instead of marine gear; the rough mutual devotion of the old man and the child; the effect of poverty on the diet (chiefly clams) of small fishermen, and on the way they make a living; and at last, in the sudden surrender of the old woman, after Capt. Eben's death, to the boy's longing to go to sea—all this is true New England, salty and nutritious as a real clam chowder.
August 5, 1941

Miss Marion Cobb Fuller
Research Librarian
Augusta State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Fuller:

For the last six weeks I have been working at the Library of Congress on material about Kennebec County, especially in relation to disputes about land titles during the period of 1800 to 1809, culminating in the trial of David Lynn and others for the murder of Paul Chadwick, a surveyor. The murder took place in Malta, now Windsor. I have the stenographic report of the trial, taken by John Merrick and have found a good deal in books of memoirs, North's History of Augusta, and different memorials or petitions sent by towns to the General Court of Massachusetts, that is, the State Legislature. I also have consulted histories of the town of Gardiner, Sullivan's book about land titles in Maine, and a number of old gazetteers. Can you suggest any other source I might make use of? The library has only one copy of the newspaper, THE KENNEBEC GAZETTE, date, December 12, 1806. If I could consult copies of the paper from September 8th 1809 through November 1809, I think it would be very helpful. I cannot, however, through the Union catalog here find any library listed as possessing files of that date. Do you know of any?

The town of Windsor has no library. I would, however, be interested in town records that possibly might give a clue to what became of the men in the town involved in the murder. Tax records or vital statistics might help. Is there any way of getting at them?

If there would be enough material which I have not seen to make a trip to Augusta and Windsor advisable, I might be able to come.

I hope it is not an imposition to ask you so many questions.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

3921 Fulton St.
Washington, D.C.
August 12, 1941

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
3921 Fulton Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

I have studied your Malta War bibliography very carefully and I can suggest little to add to it, since you seem to have consulted all of the sources available here and some that are not.

I find two items which might be added to your bibliography although they will contribute little to your information. One of these, an article in the GREEN BAG, volume VII, 1895, pages 476-478, THE MALTA WAR IN COURT, by George Varney, is probably available at the Congressional Library. The other, a clipping from the BOSTON HERALD dated about 1882 is based largely on Merrick's report. No author is given. If you care to see this, it can be lent to your local library for your use. Request for such a loan must come from the librarian; postage both ways is charged to the borrower.

We have only a few scattered issues of the KENNEBEC GAZETTE and we do not know where a file including the issues from September 8th, 1809 through November, 1809, may be consulted. Possible the MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, Portland has these issues.

Possibly by consulting in the index volume of A REFERENCE LIST OF MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF MAINE (University of Maine Study #45) the names connected with the Chadwick murder trial you may locate some manuscript material of interest to you.

We have no information about the possibilities of profitable research at Windsor. Perhaps Mrs. Mabel Whiting, Winthrop, Maine, who has made some genealogical notes on Windsor can tell you what the chances are of finding there records of interest to you. The first book of the town records begins with April 1809.

Probably the Kennebec County Court House, Augusta, has more documentary material about the Chadwick murder trial than is available anywhere. If you came to Maine you would certainly do well to consult this collection but I do not know whether it contains sufficient material to make a special trip from Washington worth your while.

Very truly yours

MCF

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
Miss Marion Cobb Fuller
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Fuller:

I received your letter of August 12. I want to express my appreciation for your trouble and thank you for your suggestions, which I shall make use of.

You already have one of my books, THE RED DORY, at the library and I am hoping that eventually I shall have another to add to your collection, but I find the way to a historical novel long and hard.

Sincerely yours,

Hazel Wilson

Received and read
M.C.F.
8/18/41
Mrs. Hazel Wilson
3921 Fulton Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It is good news indeed to learn that your recent research on our Malta War is the foundation of a historical novel. It was an interesting period, and certainly the incidents which you have been investigating should afford rich material for a novel.

We shall anticipate its completion and publication, and shall hope that your generosity will make possible the addition of the new book to the Maine Author Collection, in which we now have THE RED DORY.

Please accept our best wishes for a successful continuation of the work.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY

hmj

SECRETARY
January 22, 1942

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
3921 Fulton Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

As you so truthfully wrote, the way to a historical novel is long and hard; and it is probably quite too early to inquire about the publication of yours with its fascinating background of the Malta War.

That, however, is just what we are doing! How is it progressing? And do you have any idea when it will be available?

Our best wishes continue.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

SECRETARY

hmj
Encl--1
Miss Hilda McLeod Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss Jacob:

Thank you for your letter of January 22nd. I wish I could report more progress concerning my novel of early Maine. For one reason or another I have not gone as fast as I had hoped. I have, however, completed about the first hundred pages and have the rest pretty well planned.

I'm afraid it's too early to have much idea when the book will be available. It seems to shape up to more than a year's work and just now I have far from full time to give to it. There are a few sources in Maine that I hope to consult before finishing the book. Perhaps I shall call on you this summer.

I appreciate your interest.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Hazel Wilson
Mrs. Hazel Wilson  
3921 Fulton Street  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Mrs. Wilson:  

A year and a half ago we wrote to express interest and good wishes for the historical novel that you were writing, since which time we have not seen a notice of its publication. Is it progressing?  

Although we know nothing of the general plot of your book, the fact that its background is the Malta War is of unusual interest to us. Probably an amusing confusion would result about one Malta and another, were the book to come out at present!  

Sincerely yours  

hmj  
Encl—1  

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

It is pleasant to be remembered by you people and I appreciate your interest in my novel about the Malta War. It is, I am sorry to say, still unfinished business. What with war work and this and that I have found little time for writing except for a few stories for children in magazines. I do hope sometime to get back at Maine historical fiction and if I do and do make something fit for publication about the Malta War I shall be sure to send you a copy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

3921 Fulton St. N.W.
Washington, D. C.
September 22, 1943
February 26, 1947

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
3921 Fulton Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

You have surprised us! We expected the Malta War novel, and instead we find THE OWEN BOYS!

The advance information we saw said that the book has a "down east tang," and we know from your RED DORY just how genuine that tang can be. Probably having a young son in your home provided excellent material, also.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection still merits your generous interest and that an inscribed copy of the new book may be added to the shelves. All good wishes to it, and also to the Malta War novel, which we continue to anticipate.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Miss Theresa C. Stuart  
State Library  
Augusta, Maine  

Dear Miss Stuart:

At the suggestion of the author, Mrs. Hazel Wilson, we are sending you a copy of THE OWEN BOYS for your special Maine collection. As you perhaps know, Hazel Hutchins Wilson was born and brought up in Portland, Maine. She attended Bates College and was for three years librarian of the Portland High School. She writes that her great-great-grandfather Hutchins founded the town of New Portland, Maine in 1783 and that most of her ancestors lived their entire lives in the Kennebec country.

I hope you will enjoy THE OWEN BOYS and its representation of life in Maine in the 1880’s.

Sincerely,

Edith Patterson Meyer
Mrs. Nieda McLeod Jacob  
Maine State Library  
Augusta Maine  

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I must apologize for the delay in answering your letter of February 26. I am very happy to send the Maine Library a copy of "The Owen Boys" which should reach you shortly by parcel post. The book was not actually released until April 21st and I only this week received the copies I had ordered from the publisher. Kennebec County is a place very dear to me and this book in a way is in memory of happy summers spent around Belgrade Lakes. My father's family lived near there for several generations.

Sometime I hope to resume work on the Malta Indian story. I seem to do more with juvenile writing just at present.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hazel Wilson
Miss Edith Patterson Meyer  
Abingdon-Cokesbury Press  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York 11, New York  

Dear Miss Meyer:  

The delay in replying to your letter of April 28 is not to be construed as unappreciative of your kindness. We hoped to be able to acknowledge both the kindness and the book, THE OWEN BOYS.  

Now, however, we think perhaps we had best let you know that Mrs. Wilson's book has not yet arrived.  

Indeed we do know that the State of Maine can boast of Hazel Wilson as one of its authors. We look forward eagerly to seeing THE OWEN BOYS, and shall write to you again immediately when it arrives.  

Sincerely yours  

hmj  

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
May 12, 1947

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
12 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

THE OWEN BOYS arrived this morning, and we are delighted to be able to add it to the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our thanks for the presentation copy, and for inscribing it.

Certainly youngsters should be entranced -- we are! -- with this story of Maine of an earlier day. How faithfully you catch the speech and character, and how exciting you make it all seem. It is a book which we shall take great pleasure in placing in our traveling libraries, which reach the most remote towns and villages.

Congratulations upon its publication, and good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

in Charge of
Maine Author Collection
May 12, 1947

Miss Edith Patterson Meyer
Abingdon-Cokesbury Press
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Miss Mayer:

The inscribed copy of THE OWEN BOYS has been received from Mrs. Wilson, and it is with pleasure that we add it to the Maine Author Collection.

This is a fine story, with enough exciting adventure to satisfy the most demanding young reader; and we are particularly appreciative of the authenticity of Mrs. Wilson's countryside, character and speech.

You have our very good wishes for the success of THE OWEN BOYS.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Two weeks or so ago we requested that a copy of THE OWEN BOYS be sent to the Maine State Library but we used the name of Miss Theresa C. Stuart when apparently we should have sent the book directly to you. I hope by this time the book has arrived and that you will have no difficulty in transferring it to your collection.

I am glad that you are acquainted with Mrs Wilson's work and feel sure that you will enjoy THE OWEN BOYS.

Sincerely,

Edith Patterson Meyer  

EPM:mr
May 14, 1947

Miss Edith Patterson Meyer
Abingdon-Cokesbury Press
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, New York

Dear Miss Meyer:

This morning we acknowledge with deep appreciation the copy of Hazel Wilson's THE OWEN BOYS which has arrived from your office.

As we wrote previously, we think it a fine story, and one which we shall be very glad to know will reach many boys and girls in remote sections of this state through our traveling libraries.

A copy is of course in the Maine Author Collection, of which Mrs. Wilson evidently spoke to you. We hope whenever you may be in Maine that you will call at the library, and see this collection.

Please accept our thanks for your kindness.

Very truly yours

In Charge of

Maine Author Collection

hmj

This copy of the book was sent to the BLE.
April 5, 1949

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
12 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Every once in a while, we think of the novel on the Malta War which you have in progress; but each time we see an announcement of a new book by you, it is not this one. We hope the historical novel has not been abandoned.

Of course we are delighted to see that ISLAND SUMMER may be expected soon now. It is just the sort of book we like to include in our traveling libraries, and it will be noted in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, so that all our librarians will be sure to know about the story.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection, which includes your other books, may also anticipate an inscribed copy of ISLAND SUMMER. Our good wishes go to you for its success, and also for a satisfactory continuation of the Malta War volume.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am mailing a copy of "Island Summer" for the author collection. I find it a bit irritating to be referred to out here as a Cleveland author, since I really am still as Maine as Maine can be.

I'm sorry that I have stopped work for the time being on the Malta Indians story. I really do hope to find time to go back to it. I have enjoyed, however, writing juveniles, in fact, am working at present on a sequel to "The Owen Boys." Of course I can't promise that it will find favor in my publisher's eyes. She rather wants me to get away from Maine for another book. Anyway, it takes more than a year to get a book in publication, so it will be some time before I have another book to send you.

At the moment, I need to know what a fair price for a cow would have been in Kennebec County in 1881 or around there, also the price of a year old Morgan colt. I do not know if anybody in the state library has any means of dealing with reference questions like that but perhaps you can let me know to whom I might write. Also was there State Fair at Waterville at that time?
I spent several happy weeks in Maine last summer and hope to get back for a short visit this summer as well. If I happen to be in Augusta I shall stop and say hello to the Maine State Library.

I hope you like "Island Summer." It seems to be doing pretty well already. Personally I don't care as much for it as for my two other books but the children seem to like it as well if not better.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hazel Wilson
April 21, 1949

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
11424 Mayfield Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It was pleasant to hear from you again, and we are delighted to be called upon for service. Our Research Librarian, Miss Margaret A. Whalen, has undertaken the task of searching for values of colts and cows and State Fairs, and she will write to you and let you know what she can find. I hope we can be helpful.

ISLAND SUMMER will be properly acknowledged as soon as it arrives, and we greatly appreciate your continuing interest in the collection.

It is, of course, a compliment that Cleveland wants to claim you, but there is no doubt that you are from Maine. The authentic color of your book settings proclaims the fact, and you need not fear that we shall abandon you to Cleveland! We are far too proud of you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

hmj

Maine Author Collection
April 26, 1949

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
11424 Mayfield Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

ISLAND SUMMER has arrived, and we are again proud and delighted to be able to add your latest book to the Maine Author Collection. I think you know that we purchase juvenile literature for our traveling libraries, and of course ISLAND SUMMER went on to the purchase list as soon as we knew about it.

There is every reason for young people to enjoy your books, and for that matter, for their parents to do the same! The characters are everyday people that one might know in any town, and the situations are always so understandable that the stories seem entirely true -- as though you were simply sharing with readers some experience which had happened in your own family.

Thank you very much for the latest gift to the exhibit.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
June 7, 1950

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
11424 Mayfield Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Every time we see a new book by you, we wonder perversely where the novel on the Malta War has gone! We still anticipate it with more than usual pleasure and curiosity.

This is not to indicate that we are unappreciative of HERBERT, whose remarkable and lively story is good fun for everyone. While you have the material first-hand for such adventuresome tales, we do not much wonder that historical novels wait.

Congratulations on HERBERT and on capturing him between covers as you have.

We hope the Maine Author Collection will be so fortunate as to have an inscribed copy, to add to your other books. And good luck to its sales.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Do forgive me for my delay in answering your letter of June 7. It was one of the letters not forwarded to me on my vacation and the ten days since I returned have been so taken up with A.L.A. and company that I am just getting back to normal.

I am mailing you a copy of HERBERT for your author collection. There is to be a sequel to THE OWEN BOYS out next month and you shall have a copy of that before long.

Thanks for your continued interest in the book I still hope to write on the Malta War. I continue to do a bit of research now and then on the subject. By now I feel that I shall need to spend a month or so in or near Augusta before I can go ahead with the story. And, for the moment, while my son is in college, I am going on with my juveniles, since I have a market for them and also have fun writing them. The historical novel is one I long to do but know it would take all my time for more than a year. But do stay interested in it, for that encourages me.

Cordially,

[Signature]
August 1, 1950

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
2030 East 115th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

HERBERT has come to honor the Maine Author Collection with his exuberant presence, and we thank you very much. HERBERT, by the way, has already been marked as a Christmas gift to a young nephew of mine, whose parents I am convinced will enjoy the book even more than the boy. This is one of those rare and wonderful books which have as much appeal to older readers as to younger ones.

We certainly do stay interested in your projected historical novel, and as long as you do, too, that means that it will be written and published some day. And while we wait, we are glad and grateful for the juveniles.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thad was welcomed immediately, and we place him in the Maine Author Collection, which he will probably regard as too restrictive a dignity; but he will find other young people there with mischief in their eye, and realize that he is contributing a delightful note to the exhibit.

There can be no doubt that you know boys. It shines on every page of your wonderful books for young people. Your insight is perhaps something that will be appreciated only by older readers, but it never detracts from the story, and adds a rich note of humor for those of us who like to read about Thad and Herbert and Steve and Dave and Dicky, too.

Thank you very much for making it possible for the Maine Author Collection to include THAD OWEN, and our best wishes for the next book, which we are sure must be already in progress.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

Maine Author Collection
Mrs. W. J. Wilson
2030 East 115th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

The irrepressible Herbert is to brighten our lives again, we see. MORE FUN WITH HERBERT is on the order list, and we hope it arrives soon, for we are eager to renew acquaintance with this very real boy.

May the Maine Author Collection expect an inscribed copy, to place with your other books?

Aren't your sons about grown up now? Of course the background material which they must have provided for your stories of boys is wonderful, but we still hope to see that novel of the Malta War.

Sincerely yours

hmj

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

December 6, 1954  

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I'm sending under separate cover a copy of "More Fun with Herbert." The children who have read it do seem to like it. I'm glad to add it to your collection.

Yes, my son, Jerry, is now twenty-three and through college and in the air corps. But I still cherish memories of small boys.

There'll be another Maine story by me next August or early September. It's founded on a real incident though of course much expanded. I made a trip to the Indian reservation at Oldtown to be sure I knew the locale though I had been there before. I don't know when I'll get time to do the book about the Malta Indians. I'd like to very much but so far have stuck to juveniles.

Cordially,

(Mrs. W. J. Wilson)
Mrs. W. J. Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It is always fun to welcome Herbert -- fun, mixed with nostalgia for boys one has known, and possibly a little relief that this one is between covers of a book! At any rate, he is a distinguished part of the Maine Author Collection, and we thank you warmly for the latest book of his hilarious adventures.

A happy Christmas to you and Herbert.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. Wilson

Mrs. Hazel Hutchins Wilson's new children's book "His Indian Brother" will be released today. It is the story of Brad Porter's adventures in the Maine woods when he was left alone in the cabin he and his father had built. This is an exciting tale full of authentic nature and Indian lore.

To capture the flavor of the region, Mrs. Wilson revisited the little village in Kennebec County where her father lived as a boy. She knows the country well, having been born and grown up in Portland graduated from Bates College in Lewiston.

She received her degree in Library Science from Simmons and later attended Harvard Summer School. Mrs. Wilson has been a librarian at Portland High School; the American Library in Paris; Teachers' College in Kirksville, Mo.; and supervisor in Bradford, Mass. and Denver.

Robert Henneberger has illustrated the book with typical Maine scenes. He, too, knows the Maine woods well. He summers near York and lives in Providence, Rhode Island. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1950 from the Rhode Island School of Design.
June 27, 1955

Mrs. W. J. Wilson  
4912 Berkley Street  
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

HIS INDIAN BROTHER must be the Maine story which you told us about last winter. Congratulations upon it, and good wishes for its success. We shall use the book in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles, where Maine stories are especially popular.

May we hope for an inscribed copy to place with your other books in the Maine Author Collection?

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
July 13, 1955

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

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

You shall have a copy of HIS INDIAN BROTHER  
soon but the actual publication date is not  
until August 8th. I have not as yet received  
my five advance copies.

It is always a pleasure to add to your  
collection. I'm Maine from way back, as my  
father used to say. And my native roots are  
strong.

I hope the children will enjoy this last  
book. It was a great deal of work but satisfying  
to write.

Cordially,

Hazel Wilson
September 14, 1955

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

It was a privilege to welcome HIS INDIAN BROTHER to the Maine Author Collection this morning. We had seen it a little earlier, for, as you probably know, it is going into our traveling libraries and bookmobiles. We are delighted with the story, and with that flavor of authenticity which permeates all your books. Aside from the background of reality, it's a fine exciting story, and surely must be headed for a gratifying popularity.

Congratulations again, and thank you very much for your continuing generosity to the Maine Author Collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 26, 1957

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Do you think there might be a chance of getting three of your books which the Maine Author Collection lacks? They are STORY OF LAFAYETTE, STORY OF MAD ANTHONY WAYNE and HERBERT AGAIN. Your section in the collection is so nearly complete that we should very much like to make it completely so, and we will appreciate any suggestions you have about these books.

Dare we ask if the Malta War is abandoned? -- Not that we don't love Herbert, but the intriguing possibility of a real novel using this seldom-mentioned historical background is one that we hope will materialize.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob  
In Charge of Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine  

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I'm mailing you under separate cover the three books you mention. Sorry I've been so long getting to it but I've been especially busy. The two biographies do not have perfect covers but they are all I have.

I often wish I could find time to go back to the Malta War. I may in time. Right now I have been kept busy teaching courses in children's literature at George Washington University and continuing to write for the young. I shall have another book with a State of Maine background in the late summer and a fictionalized biography of Madame Lafayette in the fall. This last one is on the edge of being an adult book, though they are to advertise it for teen-agers.

Sometime I hope to visit your library on one of my trips to Maine. I still am a most loyal State of Mainer.

Sincerely,

Hazel Wilson
December 10, 1958

Mrs. W. J. Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

When THE LITTLE MARQUISE was published, we said the author couldn't be "our" Hazel Wilson -- Adrienne was too far removed from Herbert, probably!

After it turned out we were mistaken, and you really did write this lovely book, the sense of shock apparently lingered, because we have not yet written to you about it, and how pleased we are with it, and how of course we hope the Maine Author Collection is going to have a copy.

Holiday greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I am sending you a copy of "The Little Marquise," which you requested for the Maine Author collection. But aren't you afraid that my row of books is getting a bit long? I don't want to take up too much space. By the way, do you have a copy of my last spring's book, "Tall Ships?" It's a Little, Brown book and is for teen-agers. I'll send you one if I haven't already done so. No book for 1959 except a reissue of "The Red Dory," my first book for children. I think Little, Brown have redone it very nicely. As you may have noticed by this time I don't stick to one type of book. It's more interesting though perhaps less profitable to have a variety of interests. But the scales always weigh heavily in the direction of a State of Maine background.

A Happy New Year to you.

Cordially,

Hazel Wilson
Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Your row of books could never be too long for our taste. We take a special delight in the variety, as well as the appeal, of your books. No, the collection hasn't TALL SHIPS yet, and we do want it.

You are a sort of adventure with us now: we watch and speculate on what the next will be! But never does that Malta War appear. Please say you're still interested, and that it may become a book some day.

Meanwhile, we thank you for your wonderful interest in the collection, and for the latest gift of THE LITTLE MARQUISE.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacobs  
Maine Author Collection  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Here is "Tall Ships" for your collection. It has, I think, authentic material about the early history of Portland, not found in any other book for young people. Or in any book of fiction for adults for that matter. I really did the research carefully.

No, I have not forgotten the Malta Indians. There have been just too many other stories I have wanted to tell. And since I seem to belong to the juvenile market at the moment I have not ventured into the adult field. I have carefully preserved my notes, however, and dream of getting at a longer book for adults one of these days. But my husband's ill-health, teaching courses in children's literature at the university, speaking at various meetings of librarians, teachers, P.T.A.s and schools -- why do we let ourselves be so involved?-- all have kept me from doing the sustained writing such a book would need. Also, I enjoy writing for children.

Most cordially,

Hazel Wilson
January 27, 1959

Mrs. W. J. Wilson  
4912 Berkeley Street  
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

TALL SHIPS has arrived, and we add it to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation for the story and for your generous interest. The kind of research you did for this book is the wonderful kind that never obtrudes itself, and is thus the more effective. We are delighted to be able to add it to your other books.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection
June 9, 1960

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Congratulations on the new book. What a comfort you must be to youngsters of Jerry’s age! We’re sure that JERRY’S CHARGE ACCOUNT is off to a good start, and will give spirited ideas to any number of children.

May the Maine Author Collection have an inscribed copy?

Good luck to the book, and a happy summer to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
June 13, 1960

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

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Sometime I am going to surprise you by sending you a book without being asked for it. Though it seems to me that my shelf must be getting a bit long.

I'm sending you "Jerry's Charge Account" without a book jacket. School children keep writing for me to send them book jackets so every book of mine which I own is jacketless. But I have written Little, Brown for more jackets and will send you one when I receive them.

My summers are always happiest when I can come to Maine but it is too soon yet for me to know if I can make it this year. Today I begin my yearly stint of teaching a class in Children's Literature at George Washington University summer school. Washington is a pleasant place to live in but my heart still belongs to the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Hazel Wilson
July 5, 1960

Mrs. Hazel Wilson
4912 Berkley Street
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you for letting the irrepressible and resourceful Jerry come to join your other boys on the Maine Author Collection shelf. No one who reads these chuckly and beguiling stories could doubt that you have first-hand knowledge of boys.

We are always filled with happy anticipation when we see a notice of a new book of yours; and varied though they are, they all have an underlying sincerity and authenticity which we find most appealing. With no flagging of loyalty to your earlier characters, we think Jerry is one of our favorites.

So thank you again. And we certainly hope that you have the reward of a visit to Maine this year.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
MAINE AUTHOR COLLECTION