

10-31-2014

Mary Ellen Chase Correspondence

Mary Ellen Chase 1887-1973

Maine State Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Chase, Mary Ellen 1887-1973 and Maine State Library, "Mary Ellen Chase Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 125.
http://digitalmaine.com/maine_writers_correspondence/125

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine State Library Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Writers Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

CHASE, MARY ELLEN.

Born at Blue Hill, Maine

1887

March 24, 1928.

Miss Mary Ellen Chase

88 Crescent Street

Northampton, Mass.

My dear Miss Chase:

We are under very great obligations for your courtesy in sending us your two books.

You will be very glad to know that our Maine collection now fills eleven shelves of the usual library size. Only last week we received Edna St. Vincent Millay's complete set all autographed.

We find you have written some other books. We are very anxious to receive everything you have written. May we be so bold as to ask you to complete the list if possible.

We will be very glad if you will send us a bill for them, listing all your books at the usual price.

Very truly yours,

HED
ME

Henry E. Dunnack,
State Librarian.

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

April 24th.

My dear Mr. Dunnack:-

I have ordered my other books for you. You will receive them anon. I am more than glad to send them to you. I enclose the bill for them as you suggest. Since you wish them autographed, I have asked that they be sent here first to me so that I may inscribe them; and I shall then forward them immediately to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ellen Chase

The last-named book on the list is to be out in two weeks, and it may be a little later than the others, but I shall take pleasure in sending you a copy immediately it has left the press of Henry Holt and Company.

April 26, 1928

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Chase:

We are very grateful for your kindness in
sending us your autographed books.

To complete the section of Maine authors,
would you be kind enough to send us a photograph
and a biographical sketch, or tell us where we
may secure one.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

May 22nd.

My dear Mr. Dunnack:-

I am mailing you the last of my books today, The Writing of
Informal Essays, which has just been published. That completes the
last.

Sincerely yours,

Wangsten Chase

May 24, 1928.

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Mass.

My dear Miss Chase:

Since writing you on April 26th, we have received the following books from you:

Uplands; Mary Christmas; The Girl from the Big Horn Country; Virginia of Elk Creek Valley; The Art of Narration.

We have received your letter of May 22 stating that you were sending "The Writing of Informal Essays." Very likely this will reach us today or tomorrow.

"Thomas Hardy," has not been received. Have you forwarded it?

We will send your bill to the auditor at once. You will receive a check about June 10th.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

June 14, 1928

Miss Mary Ellen Chase

Smith College

Northampton, Mass.

My dear Miss Chase:

We have now received all of your books.

We are very grateful for your courtesy in this matter.

Your bill will go to the auditor June 20th and you ought to receive your check about two weeks from that date.

Very truly yours

Secretary

C O P Y

November 12, 1949

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase,
Department of English,
Smith College,
Northampton, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Chase;-

I am so glad that a collection of your delightful essays have been published in book-form. We shall take great pleasure in having a copy of it in the library, but we shall also want an autographed copy for the Maine Author Collection, to which you have already contributed.

As we have written to you before about the Collection we don't need to tell you again what it is. We do not ask you to give us your book, but please autograph it, and if you will add also an inscription or some note about the writing of it, it will add greatly to the book's interest as a collection item.

May I say that I admire your work very much, and I never neglect an opportunity to express my opinion that "Uplands" gives the Maine atmosphere as beautifully and as truly as any book I know.

Signed MCF

November 12, 1943

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

1st December.

Dear Miss Fuller:-

Thank you for liking and admiring my work. Your name shows me that you surely belong to Maine! I shall be very glad indeed to send you an autographed copy ^{of *The Golden Age*} for your Maine author collection and shall do so as soon as some more copies come from New York.

Thank you again for your kind words. They are helpful,
I assure you.

Most sincerely yours,

Mary Ellen Chase

January 18, 1930

Professor Mary Ellen Chase

16 Paradise Road

Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:-

MARY ELLEN CHASE

CORRESPONDENCE JANUARY 1930

Inadequate notice of your book.

Very truly yours,

MARY ELLEN CHASE
16 PARADISE ROAD
NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

6th January,

My dear Miss Fuller: Thank you for your
very kind words about Uplands. It is a
pleasure to me to give the library a copy of
The Golden Asse. I have ordered it, and

You may expect it in a few days.

Thank you very much for your
cordial letter, and believe me

Most sincerely yours

Mary Jean Chase

January 18, 1930

Professor Mary Ellen Chase

16 Paradise Road

Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase;-

I received the copy of the Golden Asse and Other Essays which you have sent us for our collection. Thank you for sending us the book and for writing in it an inscription which is the final charming touch to a singularly charming book. Both in subject matter and in format it is a delightful thing, and I congratulate the Maine State Library on being able to add such a book to its Maine Author Collection.

The Maine Library Bulletin has just come from the press, and you will shortly receive a copy of it. It contains what I feel is an entirely inadequate notice of your book.

Very truly yours,

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

May 13, 1930

Dear Miss Fuller:

The length of time I have taken in replying to your very kind letter would presuppose a lack of appreciation, but I assure I do treasure most deeply your courtesy in writing me. You and your colleagues in the Maine State Library have surely been most friendly to me and to my work. I sincerely hope you may like my story when it appears in the July Pictorial Review.

Most gratefully yours,

Wendy Ellen Chase

MEC:N

CHASE, MARY ELLEN, born Blue Hill, 1887, daughter of Judge Edward and Edith (Lord) Chase. She was educated at Blue Hill Academy and the University of Maine, from which she graduated in 1909. From that date until 1917 she taught in high and private schools in Wisconsin, Illinois and Chicago. In 1917 she entered the University of Minnesota as a graduate student in English literature. She received a Master's degree in 1918 and in 1922 was awarded "the highest academic degree possible of attainment in the fields of scholarship," that of Doctor of Philosophy. She received her degree especially for work done in the fields of the English novel of the 18th and 19th centuries "with less, though no small, attention; Middle English literature." Her book "Thomas Hardy from serial to novel," published in 1927, is her doctor's thesis. She was Assistant Professor of English at the University of Minnesota from 1922-1926. She is now Assistant Professor of English at Smith College. She considers Blue Hill her home. "Descended from a long line of sea captains, she has more than a taste for the strange and foreign. She has spent three summers in England, taking long walking trips along the coast, and some weeks in the Hebrides, obtaining local color at first hand from the inhabitants."

Miss Chase began writing for children while still in college. Since 1917 she has given up the writing of juvenile fiction and has written stories reflecting the life of Maine. Her first short story, "A return to Constancy" which appeared in Harper's Magazine in 1922 is autobiographical, a delightful sketch of a child's visit to the state Capitol. More of her work has appeared in Harpers, as well as in the Pictorial Review, Scribner's Magazine and the Atlantic Monthly. She has recently edited two books on the art of writing, "The Art of Narration," and "The writing of informal essays."

BOOKS:

His Birthday, 1915.

The Girl From the Big Horn Country.

L. C. Page, Boston, 1916.

Virginia of Elk Creek Valley. L. C. Page. Boston, 1917.

Mary Christmas. Little Brown and Company, Boston, 1916.

Uplands. Little Brown and Company, Boston, 1927.

Maine Library Bulletin

July 1928

MARY ELLEN CHASE is in every sense a Maine author. Born in Maine, she has lived in Maine and written in Maine and about Maine, and her writings have a Maine quality

which makes her work comparable to that of Miss Sarah Orne Jewett. Her *Uplands*, published in 1927, was one of the really fine novels of the year and her newly published collection of essays, *The Golden Asse and Other Essays*, will take equal rank among the belles lettres of this season. It is a pleasure to know that these charming and beautifully finished essays which have delighted appreciative readers of the *Atlantic*, the *North American Review* and other periodicals have been made available in book form. There are eight essays and sketches in the collection, and they range in subject matter from a sympathetic and humorous presentation of an old donkey once owned by the author to the delightful studies of the seacoast and upland people whom Dr. Chase has loved and appreciated. We have often mentioned Dr. Chase's work and we feel that whatever she writes confers distinction upon her native state. The following brief sketch of her career is copied from an item in the Bangor News.

"Born in Bluehill on February 24th, 1887, of seafaring ancestry, Mary Ellen Chase received her early education in the public schools of that village. Her father was the late Judge Edward Everett Chase, well known throughout the state. Her brother is Edward E. Chase of Portland, who has been a member of the legislature during the last two sessions and who is a trustee of the University of Maine. At seventeen she entered the University of Maine, where she continued an early interest in the subject of English Literature, the classics, and of history. Graduated from the University in 1909, she began teaching in the middle west. In 1917 she entered upon graduate study at the University of Minnesota and in 1922 was accorded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for her work in English Literature and particularly for her researches into the methods of the English novelist, Thomas Hardy. The results of these researches were in 1916 published in a volume entitled *Thomas Hardy from Serial to Novel*. Miss Chase was for nine years a member of the English staff at the University of Minnesota, teaching while she pursued her graduate study. In 1926 she returned to her native New England, where she is now professor of English Language and Literature at Smith

College in Northhampton, Mass. Two years ago the University of Maine gave her further distinction by conferring upon her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters. Dr. Chase will leave Northampton in June for England, where she will continue study on a proposed biography and criticism of William Hazlitt, the great English essayist."

Maine Library Bulletin

January 1930

Miss Mary Ellen Chase was born February 24, 1887, at Blue Hill, Maine. Trained in the Greek and Latin Classics, she entered the University of Maine, and was graduated in 1909 with a B.A. Degree, having majored in History and minored in Greek and English literature. She then started teaching in the private schools of Wisconsin and Chicago and public schools in Montana. In 1917 she began graduate study in English literature at the University of Minnesota and completed a doctorate of philosophy there in 1922. For four years thereafter, she was assistant professor of English at Minnesota, teaching English composition, the writing of imitative prose and the technique of short story writing. In 1926, she came to Smith College where she is now professor of English language and literature.

Her first short stories were published by Harper's Magazine in 1918 and 1919, when she was doing graduate work. Subsequently, have appeared in Scribner's, Atlantic Monthly and Pictorial Review. In the last three years she has turned to the essay and has written reminiscences of Maine scenes and people. Since 1926 she has published five books and a sixth "The Silver Shell", a book primarily for children will be brought out this summer by Henry Holt and Company. She writes us:

"I honestly believe a study of the classics, both Greek and Latin is the best preparation for any kind of really fine writing, whether narrative or expository or poetic. In fact I know that the one most indispensable asset for my teaching and writing of English has been my reading in Greek and Latin literature.

\$2.00 net

Mary Ellen Chase

is indeed well qualified to use a Maine setting for her story, "Mary Christmas." Born in Blue Hill, Maine, in 1887, she was educated at Blue Hill Academy, one of the old-time classical academies of which New England is justly proud, and at the University of Maine, where she earned her B.A. degree. She received the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where she has been Assistant Professor of English since 1922, but she still considers Blue Hill her home, and her sympathies, she acknowledges, are decidedly "rural." Indeed, she says, "I would rather work in my garden than do anything else in the world—except perhaps read or walk in England or in Maine."

Descended from a long line of sea-captains, she has done some sea-faring herself, and has more than a taste for the strange and the foreign—inherited, no doubt, along with the "sea fever" of her nautical grandsires. In addition to studying in Germany in 1913, she has spent three summers in England, taking walking trips along the coast, and some weeks in the Hebrides, obtaining local-color at first-hand from the inhabitants.

She began writing for children while still in college, and she published her first two books for young people in 1915 and 1916. In November, 1918, *Harper's Magazine* published her first short story. More of her work has appeared in that magazine since then, as well as in *Pictorial Review*, *Scribner's Magazine* and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

UPLANDS

By MARY ELLEN CHASE

Along the rough coast and in the upland pastures of North Dorset, Maine, three figures struggle to work out their own destinies. Colin, poet and dreamer, studies for the Catholic priesthood; Jarvis, longing to get away, finds release in love and death; Martha, torn by her affection for the two men, escapes, but at a crisis in her life writes to Jarvis's mother: "I should like to come home now. I am not afraid of North Dorset."

With the courage of her own perception of beauty, Miss Chase has told a simple romance of first love and birth and death. A native of Maine and a jealous lover of its landscape and its people, she knows the psychology of minds which must struggle against narrow and hard environment, knows their religious vagaries, their habits of silence and repression. In "Uplands" her knowledge is written into pages of intense beauty and sympathy and of exquisite skill.

"An Atlantic Monthly Press Publication"

Boston LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY Publishers

Mary Christmas

By Mary Ellen Chase

When Mr. Wescott came home one day *wearing his collar and tie* it was a sign that some event of unimaginable importance was about to occur. The strangely beautiful story which followed is of the passionate Armenian woman peddler—Mary Christmas—and her dramatic pilgrimage from village to village along the coast of Maine. Mr. Wescott's politics, the mingled delight and embarrassment of all his family at the exotic gifts of their strange visitor, the tales of Etchmiadzin—all are told with a humor and insight which is unforced and with a reality which makes them not only a fact but a romance to the reader.

How she became the symbol to the Wescotts of "far-off things" and of an intensity of feeling which but for her they could never have known, is told with unusual beauty and with a voice that speaks to the spirit.

"The poetic appeal of this little story is very persuasive. There is all the romance of beauty and strangeness in the figure of the Armenian peddler woman who brings to the little Maine villages a breath from another world."—*The Boston Transcript*.

"Mary Ellen Chase has portrayed a phase of American life in 'Mary Christmas' which has heretofore been overlooked. We should be grateful to the author for reminding us of it in such a charming manner before it has been forgotten completely."—*The Chicago Evening Post*.



THE PICTORIAL REVIEW COMPANY

PUBLISHERS

214-228 WEST 39TH STREET

NEW YORK

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

May 19, 1930

Editors of Library Bulletin,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

Gentlemen:-

I am enclosing some information about Mary Ellen Chase who won first prize of \$2500 for her short short story "Salesmanship", in the contest conducted recently by Pictorial Review.

This contest in which three prizes were awarded, totalling \$5000, attracted eleven thousand manuscripts from all over the country. The judges were the editors of Pictorial Review. Miss Chase's story will be published in the July issue of the magazine, out June 15th.

The purpose of the contest was to find out if modern writers can do the type of story for which O. Henry and de Maupassant were famous. Only stories of 2500 words or less were considered.

The second prize of \$1500 was won by Rada Bercovici, daughter of Konrad Bercovici, the novelist, and the third prize of \$1000 by Lois Seyster Montross, of Woodstock, Vermont.

I hope this will meet your needs.

Very truly yours,

Richard L. Mealand,
Associate Editor.

RLM-w

SMITH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

24th October.

Dear Miss Fuller: Your letter brought me great
pleasure and encouragement, I do
appreciate your words more than I
can well say. Hope it is a good
book. It was written and re-written,
revised, found wanting, and revised
again. Every word, literally, has been
scrutinized and tested.

Hope, too, it does have a 'personality' as
you suggest and one that will make friends.

Thank you more than I can say for
your kind letter, and Hope to see you in
February.

With kind regards to Mrs. Smart as well
as to you, I am most sincerely yours

Mary Ellen Chase

* A Goodly Heritage

A Friendly Hour with Mary Ellen Chase

The Author of "A Goodly Heritage" Looks at Her Days of Teaching
and Writing

By Helen Wallace Palmer



Boston Evening Transcript.

THE town of Northampton lies with such deceiving quietude close to the benign uplift of Mount Tom and Mount Holyoke that one is at first scarcely aware how much of activity, mental and physical, is stirring. Near its center stands an inconspicuous dwelling, of appearance home-like and of contour Victorian, called "The White House Inn." There it was that I met Miss Chase.

Few people, I can well imagine, meet Miss Chase for the first time without feeling a very positive sensation. Miss Eleanor Duckett, the Latin teacher who has shared habitation with her for four years, has described her first awareness to Miss Chase's presence as "a consciousness of some vibrating energy radiating from somewhere near." And such is, truly, one's sensation! She came in as I was sitting in a cheerful, sunny corner of the Inn, enjoying its friendly peace. At her entrance there occurred a change in the atmosphere, a swift rush of freshness, of activity and quickening life. As she shook my hand, her blue-grey eyes smiling a welcome, I was conscious first of all the sudden and buoyant energy that seemed to fill the room. And next of the young face—in sharp contrast to the whitest of white hair—and the fine eyes and well-shaped features. Recollecting her own description of herself in childhood as "a distinctly plain child with nothing whatever to make me stand out save very red cheeks," I concluded that either some revolutionary change must have taken place in the very contour of her features since those days, or else she possessed an exceptional modesty.

Soon we were pleasantly conversing. She told me of her early desires to write, of how at sixteen she would scribble pages of poetry or short stories and send them off surreptitiously to magazines, of how the editors would respond to these with little slips of rejection. She early came to know and to have great regard for Sarah Orne Jewett, whose studies of Maine character and background led Miss Chase into the same field of writing. Surely she has captured as well some of Miss Jewett's clarity and fine simplicity of style.

Her first piece of published writing dealt not with Maine, however, but with football, a short story she sold to the American Boy for the seemingly tremendous sum of \$17. She was then a

twenty-one-year-old college girl trying to defray some of the necessary college expenses. For the next few years she wrote more stories, two volumes of adventure for girls and numerous reviews of children's books. **July 7, '34**

"There is only one book I have written," she told me, "which is worth anything at all, and that is 'A Goodly Heritage.'" And how delightful it is, this account of New England coast life in the nineties! Although the material largely concerns life in her own family, were you to call the book mere autobiography, you would provoke justly Miss Chase's wrath and indignation against you. For the purpose of the book is not to relate the events of a life, but to paint a picture of a time now well-nigh obscured forever in the maelstrom of mechanical invention, industrial growth and a fast-moving, war-affected generation. Since many of the Western States have grown primarily out of New England stock, it is not rightly even of a section that she writes, but of the traditions and ways of life that form much of the foundation of the American people. Her family she considers typical of the time, and the family life depicted in "A Goodly Heritage" purely illustrative, one of many such families the country over.

The richness and abundance, even the absurdities, of rural life forty years ago, have been portrayed by Miss Chase with an understanding that is her heritage and a charm very much her own. Here are described the daily "chores," from the less agreeable ones such as feeding the family pig to the more coveted task of rocking the baby to sleep in the library, during which time one might read anything from Froissart's Chronicles to "Wuthering Heights." "I prepared for the graduate school by that cradle," writes Miss Chase. "Today when college freshmen confess to an ignorance of the Waverley Novels or 'The Scottish Chiefs,' 'Lorna Doone' or 'Great Expectations,' I am lenient, remembering that their brothers and sisters were never rocked." One is ever made aware of the traditions—sea-faring, Puritan, classical and social—that played such a part in the lives of these people. It is strange to think that forty years ago there was a distinct social cleavage between those who had been schooled in the classics and those who had not; that even the better families of the farming class were familiar with Greek and Latin.

And it is an enviable picture that, of the Chase family about the dining room table in the evening, each child intent on his studies or translating aloud to Mrs. Chase, who, heading the table with her mending basket and her texts of Caesar, Cicero and Virgil, supervised the accomplishment of each lesson.

The Puritan heritage, which made possible this juxtaposition of manual labor and intellectual pursuit, bound the community in a oneness of religious faith which is surely cause for wonderment in these free-thinking times. Sunday was a day to be taken with high seriousness. All manner of labor, even knitting, was strictly forbidden, except for the minimum amount of cooking and clearing up; there were church, Sunday School and Christian Endeavor meetings to attend. When Miss Chase at the age of six played "ghosts" with some neighboring children, and wishing to be somehow distinguished from the rest, unwittingly called herself the "Holy Ghost," how deeply was she made to feel the weight of guilt for this unconscious blasphemy!

Many are the letters of appreciation which Miss Chase has received in regard to her vital and altogether charming book. "Some came even from Florence and Pisa," she said, "in reference to the game of statues I mention, a game popular among Italian children." And imagine the thrill of receiving a radiogram from the S. S. Jacob Ruppert in the Antarctic! Quite appalling, too, it must have been to be the recipient of one hundred and seven knitting machines in the daily mail. These odd packages came from every corner of the country, many of them quaintly decorated with Alice-in-Wonderland scenes or graceful carvings. Then there were letters asking for advice or information, sometimes of an extraordinary nature. "My maiden name is the same as your great-grandfather's. Could we possibly be related?" . . . "Would you most kindly advise me about a school for my son?" . . . "In 'A Goodly Heritage' you talk much of the sea. Could you please tell me the names of the Seven Seas?"

Those who have read "A Goodly Heritage" know how firm a foundation was Miss Chase's in education. There were, besides the evening gatherings about the family table, the village school and later Blue Hill Academy. Then followed the University of Maine, to which Miss Chase and her elder sister repaired with their astonishing wardrobes. There she com-

to her own experience, but has also influenced her ideas of education. The study of history and the classics she considers of foremost importance as a background to the study of English literature. The necessity of obedience to authority, one of her most insistent tenets, surely has affinity with the classical adherence to an accepted form. This principle she daringly upholds to freshman classes, though 'tis a lesson that comes hard to the would-be emancipated minds of freshmanhood. In "A Goodly Heritage" one perceives a certain not unkind criticism, both implicit and explicit, of modern educational methods. It is her belief that people today grasp too hastily at anything with the glitter of novelty. Progressive ideas, fine in themselves, too often are rushed to an extreme. "What we need today," she told me, "is a better sense of balance. And students should possess a greater feeling of personal independence in their intellectual work." Too often, she thinks, knowledge is handed out to them in neatly labelled packages. A strong faith she has in her ideas and the desire to carry the world along with her.

Not content with writing one thing at a time, Miss Chase is also writing a novel which is to be published in September. It is a story of the Maine coast, showing the effect of sea-faring life upon a Maine woman who spent thirteen years on a merchant vessel. The decay of ship-building, the change of industry from sea-faring to the maintaining of summer visitors and the influence of this change on the country people constitutes the theme of this latest work from Miss Chase's lively pen.

"A Goodly Heritage" is not, of course, the only one of Miss Chase's books "worth anything at all." It was not long before she herself admitted that there was one other book of hers which could possibly bear glancing into. That is "The Golden Asse." I know someone who claims that whenever she is in need of a particularly choice Christmas present for a particularly nice friend, she buys a copy of "The Golden Asse." This slender sheaf of essays, originally published separately in magazines, has a charm that makes it "golden" indeed. If you have read "A Goodly Heritage" and desire to know more of that most co-operative and thrifty family life there described, here you have it. It recounts in greater detail the ways of that contemplative donkey, "Richard Mansfield," who for many years was a barnyard playmate of the Chase children. He was one who dearly loved to lie down in green pastures, nay, even insisted upon so doing at intervals, no matter where he was being driven, nor how urgent the errand.

It was from reading a certain book on the top of this strange Parnassus that Miss Chase early conceived a longing to visit the Hebrides. The book concerned in somewhat redundant fashion the life of Duke Rollo of Normandy, who invaded those far-distant and romantic isles. In cherished interludes of travel she has journeyed to other countries as well, to France and Germany, where she studied for a time in 1913. Every summer she sails for England, especially the southern coast, to Somerset, Cornwall or Wiltshire, where there are glorious stretches of ideal country for one who is fond of tramping and exploring tiny villages. Or else she goes to Dorset, the haunt of Hardy, to visit the quiet, untouched town of Dorchester, Hardy's "Casterbridge," where stands his home, and where a two-mile walk over sunny fields dotted with cows and occasional farmhouses (Tess is surely still there), brings one to the diminutive thatched-roof cottage that was Hardy's birthplace and to the sweep of "Egdon Heath" beyond.

Through her magazine writing Miss Chase has, perhaps, become most widely known. In them is a treasure-house of material, sufficiently varied—and each article or story with its special charm—to delight all responsive hearts. There are stories of fine penetration into human feeling such as "Salesmanship," which was awarded, over eleven thousand manuscripts, the Pictorial Review prize of \$2500 in 1931; stories of country life—"The Return to Constance," "Marigolds,"

"Sure Dwellings"; stories of character, such as "Mrs. Gowan Gives Notice," and the incomparable "Mrs. Penlun on the Damascus Road." Delightfully conversational essays are to be found in the pages of The Atlantic Monthly on New England people and customs, the giving of old-fashioned remedies for illness, the country doctor bringing in the house with him the "wholesome, if unhygienic smell of the barn," an odor "compounded of hay, harnesses, old lap robes, grain bins, manure." In them always is the keen glint of her humor, a quick perception of the nuances of thought and feeling, the meditations of a mind that contemplates rather than philosophizes, that is interested in the significance and beauty of small and quiet things.

One of Miss Chase's earliest books is that small, inviting little volume called "Mary Christmas." Although Miss Chase included this among those books of hers not "worth anything at all," one could see that she had a certain feeling of affection for it. Well she might, for it has a particular grace and poignance that should place it among the very choicest bits of her writing. This character study of an ardent-spirited Armenian pedlar woman and the unusually dramatic story of how she came to know and to be loved by the Chase family—they are called the Wescott family here, but what reader of "A Goodly Heritage" could mistake them?—combine to make a haunting tale of rare delicacy.

There are many times when Miss Chase is neither writer nor teacher nor lecturer, when she says with good grace, "Farewel my book and my devocion," and sets forth to enjoy a long walk through the winter snow, or, if the year's at the spring, to tend her flower garden, her chiefest delight, and to search out the sporting ground of birds and "bestes smale of gentil kinde." Besides taking sheer joy in the study of nature she believes a knowledge of it is essential to a writer interested in rural background. She is not only a writer, a possessor of degrees, honorary and academic, a college professor, she is one who sets store by all things living. The human value is at the basis of all she writes, and her generous spirit brings cheer and warmth to many hearts.

November 24, 1934

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Haymarket
c/o American Express
London England

Dear Miss Chase:

Please accept our grateful thanks for your kindness in depositing the manuscript of your latest book, MARY PETERS, with the State Library.

We realize the great honor you have paid us, and assure you of our appreciation. The manuscript will be carefully preserved, and will increase in value through the years.

May we also congratulate you upon the publication of this book which is undoubtedly one of your finest, most sympathetic novels.

Very truly yours

hm

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
By

Secretary

November 13, 1935

Prof. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Mass.

Dear Miss Chase:

Once again it is our pleasure to express our sincere thanks to you for writing a splendid novel of Maine life. SILAS CROCKETT has arrived at the library, and is being placed at once in the Maine Author Collection. It is a significant contribution to American literature, and the people of Maine realize anew their indebtedness to you for writing so authentically and understandingly of our seacoast towns and the life of the inhabitants. Each character is drawn with your usual clarity and sympathy, and each possesses a refreshing individuality. May we congratulate the achievement of a novel of so distinctive a calibre.

Very truly yours
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

SMITH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

17 November 1935

Dear Miss McLeod,

Thank you for your very kind
letter to Miss Chase. She is in
England on sabbatical leave and
I am forwarding it to her there.

Sincerely

Gladys P. Nute

Secretary to
Mary Ellen Chase

A FINE PAGE IN AMERICA'S PAST

Miss Chase's New Novel Tells

the Story of Stalwart Generations

SILAS CROCKETT. By Mary Ellen Chase.
404 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.50.

By STANLEY YOUNG

FOLLOW the Maine Coast from Bath to Bar Harbor, from Casco Bay to Penobscot to Eastport, and you will find the background for Mary Ellen Chase's fine romantic story of four generations of a seafaring family. You will find, too, the remnants of the Crocketts who made maritime history for a hundred years and who, like the family of Mary Peters, knew the coast before change was upon it, before the last sound of hammer and mallet closed the clipper-ship era and all the brave journeying of Yankee sailors around a world traversed by white sails.

In Silas Crockett, with whom this chronicle opens, there was bred that spirited love of the sea common to the early, pure-strained English families of New England's coastal towns. His grandfather, Captain Reuben Shaw, had fought pirates off the Guinea coast, turned privateer in 1775, followed the fur trade to Puget Sound, and tacked around Cape Horn to enter the lively competition for the new Cantonese trade. Likewise, for thirty years of his life, his father, James Crockett, had sailed as shipmaster to the uttermost ends of the world, returning with cargoes that turned the great house at Saturday's Cove into a kind of elegant repository for the artistic handiwork of half the globe—rugs from Persia, tapestries from China, East Indian perfumes and damask cloths, books from London stalls.



Mary Ellen Chase.

At 23 Silas was a ship's captain who had already experienced enough of his ancestors' exciting world to know that his life was forever bound up in the restless pacing of a quarterdeck. He was returning now from a record voyage in the Seven Seas to marry Solace Winship, and to carry her off with him on his next voyage. It was an uncommon thing to do in 1830, to take a woman into the pirate-ridden waters of the East, and Silas, at first, was struck through with misgivings as to the family's reaction to his proposal. But as he moved eastward through the fogless dawn and entered home waters he took courage from old, familiar sights. The bustle of activity that raised the skeletons of brigs and barques and schooners in every village port, the cries of riveters and shipwrights and framers and seamers excited him and filled him with a prideful courage in his ancestry and his calling that nothing could undo.

Solace's first voyage ended tragically

with the loss of her first baby and froze her heart to Silas's passion for ships and the sea until one day in 1850, when the clipper ship *Surprise* was launched, something in her husband's proud face made her suddenly understand the nobility and

dignity of the Crocketts' tradition of bold seamanship. This flash of comprehension left her able to endure more patiently the coming of her second child after Silas had sailed alone for Australia.

Their son was Nicholas, a Crockett through and through who took to the sea with incredible swiftness, married Deborah Parsons, and, in the face of her increasing impatience, stuck to the worn-out tradition of those who went down to the sea in sailing ships rather than in the incoming steam-driven craft. At 25 Nicholas lost his life at sea and left behind him Reuben, a less venturesome Crockett, but one, nevertheless, destined to carry on family tradition somewhat humbly by commanding a coastwise steamer that

plied up and down the fog-swept stretch between Rockland and Mount Desert.

But by the time Reuben's son, Silas 2d, lay squirming in his crib in the decaying grandeur of the Crockett house, the second decade of the Nineteen Hundreds had

changed the face of all Maine villages. Where the docks, the fisheries, the saw-mills and shipyards had stood were rising the certain signs of the Summer colony—the country clubs, the fancy yachts, the antique shops. All that energetic industry that had fired the heart of the first Silas Crockett was going. The old houses were exchanging hands, and Summer residents had driven out all but a handful of the early families. Reuben Crockett, staring into the eyes of his dignified ancestors who peered down from the gilt-edged portraits, held on to the family homestead as long as he could.

But the day comes when Reuben and his wife, Huldah, have stripped the house of sandwich glass and portraits and old

china and all the fine pieces that brought ready cash. They are obliged to sell, and in the face of their disaster young Silas leaves college in the Spring of 1931 to take a job in the herring factory. When he goes with Ann, his future wife, to visit the old Crockett house and is denied entrance by the butler, the entire tragic decay of a great family and its tradition is implicit in this finely observed encounter.

Yet the book ends with Silas spiritually above reverses of fortune. He faces the future alive to the poise and dignity and roots of his heritage:

"Looking out from his eyes, standing firmly in the poise of his head, were unchangeable things—the daring of Amos and James, the humorous wisdom of Abigail, the steadfast devotion of Solace through years of fear, the faith of Silas and Nicholas hanging to fast-dying sail with the world against them, the secure and patient ways of Reuben, the unshaken and glorious reality of Huldah's love for God * * * the substance of all things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen, the everlasting triumph over time and chance."

Miss Chase is decidedly filled with longing and regret for the times that are no more. Her sympathy and perception are awakened by a thorough and long-standing knowledge of the dispirited towns of the Maine coast. In calling up their past, she is, perhaps, inclined to make their culture and traditions appear more desirable than they really were. Yet by an astonishing selection of quiet incident and descriptive detail she re-creates a vanished way of life that is tender and refreshing and inspiring to the end—a life in which we want to believe. Clearly, she sees her deserted villages with the eyes of a Goldsmith rather than a Crabbe, and we come away from her strong, lovable characters with a sense of exultation that few people now writing can give. Her people manage to make a satisfactory pattern of life. They have courage and conviction and values that are timeless.

This book definitely extends Miss Chase's reputation. To my mind, it goes far deeper in interpreting the heroism of the past and the stubborn passion of sea-going families than did ever "Mary Peters." With this novel she imposes order and peace and serenity out of the materials of the past, and she does so without any tricks of style, without false moves or devices. She has the gift of understanding disciplined by the gift of selection. With "Silas Crockett" she takes her place among the rarer talents of the present.



From the End Papers for "Silas Crockett."

December 12th,

Burnt Close,
Grantchester,
Cambridge

Dear Miss W. L. L. I do thank you
and all your associates in the
Library, particularly Mr. Drummach,
for your gracious letter about
Silas Crockett. I hope he deserves it!

Burnt Close,
Grantchester,
Cambridge

I am pleased to
think of his taking his
place among the genuine authors!

With many thanks and best
wishes to you all
Mary Ellen Chase

November 13, 1936

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Mass.

Dear Miss Chase:

We awaited the publication of THIS ENGLAND eagerly, and we were not disappointed! Our only disappointment at present we hope will be remedied: we have no copy in the Maine Author Collection.

We hope you will want to continue your past generous interest in this project, and present an inscribed copy of your latest book to the library for this purpose. We assure you of our enduring gratitude: for the books, and for being able to claim you as a Maine writer.

Very truly yours

hm

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

SECRETARY

Smith College
Department of English
Northampton, Massachusetts

18 November 1936

Dear Mr. Dunnack,

Thank you for your letter. I am mailing to you tomorrow an inscribed copy of my new book which I send with great pleasure and all good wishes.

Sincerely yours

Waring Allen Chase

MEC:N

November 25, 1936

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

We have received the copy of THIS ENGLAND, and are delighted to add it to the Maine Author Collection. Thank you!

The book is proving extremely popular in the lending section of the library, as is to be expected. Such a truly charming book!

Thank you again for sending us the copy for the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

October 14, 1937

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

It is always a congratulatory event in Maine when we learn that a new book by you will appear shortly: we are glad of the opportunity to send you congratulations, and we congratulate each other on Maine's good fortune in being permitted to claim you as one of her brightest stars in her literary crown.

This is by way of saying that we are extremely glad to notice that a book will be published next month, DAWN IN LYONESSE, and we hope that an inscribed copy will be ours to add to the Maine Author Collection.

It may be a bit premature to offer our best wishes for the success of this book, but you know that our interest and enthusiasm for your work is always increasing.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

Smith College
Department of English
Northampton, Massachusetts

17 October 1937

Dear Miss McLeod,

Thank you very much for your kind letter. The publication of my new book has, for several reasons, been postponed until March. When it appears I shall be most glad to send you an autographed copy for the Maine State Library.

Most sincerely yours

Mary Ellen Chase

MEC:N

October 19, 1937

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Department of English
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

Thank you for your letter regarding DAWN
IN LYONESSE. We regret that a delay has
occurred, but we will anticipate the book's
publication in March, and continue to wish it
success.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

March 11, 1938

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Department of English
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

Your lovely DAWN IN LYONESSE, which seems to us an elusively beautiful parable, impresses us anew with gratitude for being able to say proudly, "Mary Ellen Chase is a Maine author!"

We hope that your generously promised, inscribed copy will arrive, to be placed in the Maine Author Collection.

You have our continued congratulations, and a sincere hope for the success of this unusual book.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm
Encl--label
4c stamp

SECRETARY

March 24, 1938

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

DAWN IN LYONESSE has arrived, and we are profoundly grateful that a Maine woman is the author of this book. Its delicate charm, and the adroit, imaginative manner in which you have treated the theme, make it rarely appealing. It is not strange that the story of Ellen and Susan, with Cornwall's romantic background, is winning new friends each day.

We congratulate you and express our deep thanks for your generous gift to the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

September 19, 1939

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

Of course we are looking forward to the publication of A GOODLY FELLOWSHIP, and we have already requested Campbell's Book Store in Portland, Maine, to send you a copy of the first edition.

We hope you will be able to find a moment in which to inscribe the volume for the Maine Author Collection. A return label and postage are enclosed for your convenience in sending it on to us.

Please accept our very best wishes for the success of the book, which we consider practically assured!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm
Encls--2

SECRETARY

November 18, 1939

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

The autographed copy of A GOODLY FELLOWSHIP
has been forwarded to us by Campbell's Book Store,
and we very much appreciate your kindness in
adding this distinctive touch to the volume for
the Maine Author Collection.

It is a fine book, a charming one; and one
which we are very happy to add to the Maine Author
Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hm

SECRETARY

August 25, 1941

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

Recalling the flavor of MARY PETERS and SILAS CROCKETT, and learning the beautiful simple promise of the title WINDSWEPT, we are impatient for publication day! We know virtually nothing of incident and character in your new novel -- only that the setting is Maine -- but perhaps this very lack of knowledge will enhance our pleasure in reading the book.

We hope that your generosity toward the Maine Author Collection will make it possible for us to include an inscribed copy of WINDSWEPT. Our good wishes for its success are yours.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

7 September 1941

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Of course I shall be most pleased to send you an inscribed copy of WINDSWEPT. The date of publication is Nov. 12th. The book was finished at Petit Manan Point only a few days ago.

Will you please give my love to your new State Librarian. I should have written her a dozen letters of congratulation during the past months but, like St. Paul, I have done just this one thing for a year. I only hope you will like the book.

With many thanks for your kind words and with all good wishes, I am

Most sincerely yours

May Helen Chase

MEC:N

November 25, 1941

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

The gift copy of WINDSWEPT for the Maine Author Collection has come, and we are grateful not only for **your** generosity, but also for the privilege of adding such a beautiful piece of work to the exhibit.

This is surely one of your finest novels, with characters and personality of setting that live on after the last page has been read. Those of us who have had the opportunity to read WIND-SWEPT are deeply enthusiastic, and feel certain that it will enjoy a prosperous life.

Congratulations to you upon its publication! We appreciate the honor of a book like WINDSWEPT to represent the quality of Maine literature. Thank you very much for the inscribed copy for the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

hmj
Encl--3¢ postal
refund

SECRETARY

November 30, 1944

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

Congratulations upon THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER. It is an especially fine book to have right now, and we certainly hope that it will enjoy a long life.

Our copy for the library is on order, but we have not yet had the privilege of actually seeing a copy. We hope to soon, however; and meantime, we write about the Maine Author Collection, to which you have shown such unfailing generosity.

May we hope to include an inscribed copy of THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER?

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

December 19, 1944

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

What lovelier messenger of the true Christmas spirit than your beautiful book, **THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER!** The Maine Author Collection copy arrived, and we are happy beyond words to have for its shelves a book of such warmth and distinction. It is already in demand, and certainly it should but increase its circle of friends. Please accept our thanks, our good wishes for the book, and our holiday greetings.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--7¢ postal refund

Secretary

October 15, 1948

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

It always seems years and years between your books, as indeed it is; but finally we have the opportunity of expecting one within a few days. JONATHAN FISHER has been ordered for the library, and we expect to make his further acquaintance soon.

May we hope that your generous interest in the Maine Author Collection continues, and that it will be distinguished by the inclusion of an inscribed copy of your latest book?

Please accept our congratulations and good wishes for the new volume.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

November 8, 1948

Miss Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Chase:

It is heart-warming to have your kindly inscribed JONATHAN FISHER to place in the Maine Author Collection. He was a remarkable man, and surely no other biographer could have so understandingly presented the story of his life.

Thank you very much for your gift to the collection. We hope the new book will enjoy a lasting success, and be a source of much satisfaction to you.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Smith College Graduate

Classroom Reactions to

Maine's Mary Ellen Chase

BY ELOISE EVERETT *of Hallarell*

MAINE CAN POINT with pride to Mary Ellen Chase, the novelist and essayist. But students from all parts of the country will remember Mary Ellen Chase, the teacher. Many of them will recall her particularly as one who taught the Bible not as a dull, theological tome, a companion of ecclesiasts, but as vital, readable literature.

Her classes, dominated by her dynamic personality, are stimulating and provocative. Miss Chase is, first of all, a master showman. From the classroom podium, she can perform in the drama of teaching as vividly as Evans can execute a Shakespearean soliloquy. Her tremendous enthusiasm for the Bible communicates itself instantaneously to the class. She endows Delilah, David, Jephthah, or Jonah with personalities that are warm, human, and distinctly individual. No character remains wooden or dull in her hands.

Accent Not Bluehill's

To assure these characters immortality (at least for her students), Miss Chase reads aloud. Her accent (presumably acquired in England, certainly not at Blue Hill) adds immeasurably to the total effect. Reading for example, the lament of David, (a favorite of hers) the words will forever be in many ears not simply "The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen" but "The beauteh of Israel is slain upon they high places: how are the mighteh fallen." When she is in top form, the accent may be more pronounced than on other days. But even without the accent, her reading would be memorable simply because of the expression and fervor with which she renders the sixteenth-century language.

Often after finishing a passage, she will slap the page with her hand and exclaim, her eyes glowing, "Mahvelous! Mahvelous! Learn it. Learn it so you'll never forget it. Recite it in the bathtub. I do some of my best reciting in the bathtub."

Selections from Harvey's "Fifth Reader" probably play a prominent part in these bathtub recitations. In frequent allusions to her Maine childhood, she always speaks an enthusiastic word for that outmoded textbook. Apparently it was the corner stone of the Blue Hill school system, and as Miss Chase mastered reading when very young, she learned, and still knows, its pages by heart. Mr. Harvey fed his young readers sterner stuff than his "progressive" successors, for Miss Chase was introduced to Plato and Mac-auley at an early age.

Disciplinary Virtues

Miss Chase believes in many of the educational theories of her generation. She has great faith in the disciplinary virtues of memorizing and often threatens the class with an intensive test on dates in Hebrew history. Her examination questions occasionally strain the undisciplined memories of her students who are asked to cite, for example, Biblical passages that mention parts of the body—and, to increase the difficulty, where these passages occur. Woe to the student who forgets that the expression "the apple of his eye" is found in the Bible (but where exactly I have, alas, forgotten.)

The examinations in her English novel course are often a series of one-sentence quotations from a particular book. At the top of the paper is the inexorable demand: "Who said it and to whom?" Those who have been through such ordeals firmly believe, and probably started, the campus rumor that "Chase knows the first and last paragraph of every book she has ever read". And, undoubtedly, many of them in between.

Comment Often Sparkling

Yet Miss Chase is far from dull or pedantic. Her classes sparkle with vigorous assertions on the state of the nation and refreshing anecdotes as well as scholarly comments. Nor does she discourage divergent views or interpretations from her students whom she regards as individuals, not merely as names on the roll-call.

As one brought up to know and love the Bible, she deplores the fact that many of the present generation of students know nothing about it. A few years before "Chases Bible" appeared on the curricula, while lecturing in another course, she happened to mention the prophet Elijah. She was about to explain to a Bible-ignorant generation just who Elijah was, when she saw a face in the second row light up with a gleam of recognition—a reaction which encourages teachers to go on teaching.

"You know who Elijah is?" inquired a surprised and happy Miss Chase. "Of course", came the confident reply, "Elijah walked across the river on ice-cakes in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'". This incident probably hastened the installation of the Bible course.

Hardy-Dickens-Bronte

Miss Chase's course on the English novel is also popular in spite of its being held at three o'clock, an hour when most professors fight a losing battle with mid-afternoon naps. I left the course with three in-

teresting bits of information; Hardy is marvelous. Dickens is marvelous, and "Wuthering Heights" was the worst movie Hollywood ever made.



MARY ELLEN CHASE, Educator and Author

She teaches, in addition, a part of the English composition course for freshman. For Miss Chase's particular section many apply, but few are chosen. All freshman are required to take this basic course, and most freshman want Miss Chase. Coming from Maine or knowing someone who knows the novelist are rumored to be helpful tickets of admission, but are not necessarily. Regardless of how she got into the section, any freshman whose theme merits an "A" from Miss Chase is automatically regarded as a genius who will probably head best-seller lists in a few years.

On the Home Front

Miss Chase's small Cape Cod cottage on Paradise Road is often open to herd students who go away filled with tea, cookies, and visions of "Windswept", a summer home at Petit Manan Point in Maine. Miss Duckett, a faculty colleague, and Gregory, a white terror of uncertain years (Miss Chase says he is nine, while Miss Duckett stoutly swears he is only eight) share both summer and winter residences with Miss Chase.

The three are inseparable in campus minds—so much so that when a faculty member was told what a fortune-teller had prophesied for the Misses Chase and Duckett, he exclaimed, in astonishment, "What? Nothing foretold for Gregory?"

It is always amusing to listen to the friendly banter between the two women. They have a host of stories about each other which they will tell with little persuasion. Miss Chase will describe Miss Duckett's sitting in the poison ivy and Miss Duckett will counter with Miss Chase's run-in with the President's dog, a huge animal who got much the better of the deal. Both women speak with a commendable enthusiasm of their graves at "Windswept". Here they sit and drink their tea in the afternoons. I have never heard whether Gregory too, has his

grave on which he can munch his dog biscuits of an afternoon.

Friend and Teacher

In addition to cookies and entertaining tea-table talk, Miss Chase is also ready with advice and help for anyone who seeks it. She is, in short, a friend as well as a teacher. Her well-tailored figure is often seen in Northampton eating places with one or more students in tow. Her friendliness is a quality especially appreciated by seniors who are preparing for their "pavement-pounding" days and need recommendations.

At a recent student show, a girl did a "take-off" on a Chase lecture, complete with accent and favorite adjective "mahvelous". The following day, the girl received a corsage with the card "You were mahvelous, Mary Ellen Chase." All of which proves Miss Chase is a good sport, and, any way you say it, marvelous.

(This article is by a Hallowell young woman, Smith, '45, accelerated now with the business staff of the Lewiston Sun-Journal).

Mary Ellen Chase Pays Tribute to Me. Town's Integrity

New York City, Nov. 8—Small Maine coast villages can continue to exist without the loss of that independence and integrity which in the beginning established them, according to Mary Ellen Chase.

Mary Ellen Chase was born in the Maine village of Blue Hill, and she returns there annually. During these yearly visits, she has been able to observe "the changes wrought upon Blue Hill by time and chance" as being continuous, rather than sudden.

The greatest change, says Mary Ellen Chase in **Hometown Revisited**, an article appearing in the November issue of TOMORROW, is in the relationship between village people and summer people. "The summer people today who come to Blue Hill are increasingly a part of the village itself. They are interested in its welfare — these schoolteachers, college professors, artists, musicians and writers—and contribute far more than material prosperity in return for the peace and freedom which they enjoy."

This is a far different attitude from the one that prevailed between 1895 and 1920, when "the native integrity of the people, their former independence and pride in their inheritance was inundated weakened" by the first summer invasion of outside people—"people from away" in the Maine coast phrase. . . .

"The twenty-five years of this first invasion from the outside world of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Cleveland," Mary Ellen Chase sincerely believes, "wrought more toward the detriment of Blue Hill than toward its gain, except in terms of mere money. . . . These summer people remained in their great houses forever apart from the village—and without doubt, the villagers were partly to blame; for they felt out-of-place and ill-at-ease in the shadow of great wealth."

But through whatever changes

Blue Hill has passed, it has remained "a village, like most of the so-called towns in the distinctly rural state of Maine; and I devoutly hope that it will always retain that standing and that pleasant name."

June 16, 1949

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

It always seems years and years between your novels, but your readers are amply rewarded by the absorbing, rich, penetrating books which are produced by you.

We are accordingly delighted beyond measure to know that we may anticipate THE PLUM TREE this fall. It will be included in our traveling libraries, and we hope that the Maine Author Collection may be honored by the inclusion of an inscribed copy.

Our very good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

June 16, 1969

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

16 PARADISE ROAD

NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JUN 27

his daughter,

Peter. M. Chase.

June 23rd

Dear Mrs. Jacob: Of course, you may
have an inscribed copy of the Phoneme.
Only jog my memory in October, please!!
It's quite a MAD book, but I hope you
may like it. Thanks a lot for being so
nice about it. Mary Ellen Chase

Our very good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

June

October 25, 1949

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

You were most kind to send the inscribed copy of THE PLUM TREE for the Maine Author Collection. We are delighted to add it to your other books, and always we feel a twinge of regret that your books are so far apart.

THE PLUM TREE is a gem. It is the deceptive sort of writing which seems so simple, and yet which has a wealth of underlying perception and knowledge of human nature.

Thank you for your continuing interest and generosity.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

lmj

October 25, 1949

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
18 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Wilder House

November 1st

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Jacob:

Thank you for the kind
words about The Plum Tree. May
you be a life! Yours always,
Mary Ellen Chase

Thank you for your continuing interest and

generosity.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Jan

September 28, 1950

Dr Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER was placed on our order list at once, and we expect it before long. We hope that the Maine Author Collection will be enriched by the inclusion of this new biography.

Whether it is to the Bible or plum trees, Blue Hill or England, that you turn your attention, we know that we can count on an outstanding book that will mean reading enjoyment to your large public; and we look forward with eager interest to seeing ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

12th October

NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Jacob:

Thank you for your kind
words about Abby Aldrich
Rochefeller. Do I usually
send you a copy of my
novel notes for the Maine
Author Collection? If I do,
and I forget, will you
let me know if you
want a copy.

With my best wishes

to all my friends within
your high gales, I am

Always yours

Mary Ellen Chase

October 16, 1950

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Yes, you have previously been so kind as to inscribe and present your books to the Maine Author Collection; and we hope that ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER may also be included through a continuance of this happy generosity.

Since writing to you, the book has reached the library (our lending copy, that is), and we are really delighted with this biography of an unusual and gracious woman. It required, we think, an author of charm and skill to do justice to Mrs. Rockefeller.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 6, 1950

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Thank you very much for presenting the inscribed copy of your latest book, ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER, to the Maine Author Collection. It is a happy addition to the collection, and we are proud to be able to include it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

27 January 1953

JAN 29
Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Thank you for your
nice note to Miss Chase.
She is in Europe for an
indefinite stay. I have
written her of its re-
cept. No doubt she will
get in touch with you at
some future date.

Sincerely yours,

Gladys P. Nite

Secretary to
Mary Ellen Chase

November 17, 1954

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

It was a pleasure recently to welcome to our library your new book, THE WHITE GATE. You cannot write often enough of the magic early years and the heritage which you so infectiously appreciate. It is a wonderful book. We have noted it for the Maine in Print list which appears in the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association, and it should certainly enjoy a steady popularity for a long long time.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection may have an inscribed copy to place beside your earlier volumes; and do you know that the collection lacks your charming little RECIPE FOR A MAGIC CHILDHOOD? Is it possible to have a copy of this, too?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dear Mrs. Jacob: I have placed your
letter on my desk under a little iron
anchor which holds only "immediate"
and "necessary" things. And once some
more letters (ordered) come my way,
I will send you one, together with a
Recipe. Thank you for your kind
words about this last rather fragile
book. Of course, it's meant to be
just that — its one aim being to

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ancient Realities in the minds of
others and to make them complete
that I purposely have left unsaid.

Most truly yours

Mary Ellen Chase

18th November.

November 29, 1954

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

The two books arrived safely, and we add them to the Maine Author Collection with a sense of their enduring worth. The little RECIPE is quite charming, but only a teaser; THE WHITE GATE is a beautiful book, full of fundamentals which may not be recognized as such because they are so simply and easily stated. But for whatever purpose this new book is read, it cannot fail to bring a strong realization of the rewards distilled from such a childhood. Incidentally, it's the perfect Christmas gift.

Thank you very much for your kind letter, and for your continuing generosity to the collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

January 22, 1953

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

It is a wonderful season when we have a book of yours to add to the library, and this has been triply so in recent months, for we have added READINGS FROM THE BIBLE, the new edition of THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER and the charming little RECIPE FOR A MAGIC CHILDHOOD. They're all popular, too, and being read constantly, which is, of course, always the way with your books.

We seem, however, to have neglected sending our customary word about the Maine Author Collection, which has had your complete works up to now. Do you suppose this appalling situation can be remedied?

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 22, 1955

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Your wonderful new book, LIFE AND LANGUAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT is in the library, of course; and we have noted it for the Maine in Print column of the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association.

Now it is our pleasure to write about the Maine Author Collection, which proudly includes your work. May we anticipate an inscribed copy of this most recent volume to be placed beside your others in the exhibit?

We think Ellery Sedgwick used the aptest phrase to describe LIFE AND LANGUAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: "a perpetual exhilaration." It is indeed, and today's readers should be profoundly grateful to you for making the Bible so inviting and rewarding. We hope the book has a wide and long success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

December 2, 1955

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Thank you very much for the Maine Author
Collection copy of LIFE AND LANGUAGE IN THE OLD
TESTAMENT. We are grateful for your continuing
interest and generosity, and proud to add this
volume to the Maine exhibit.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 10, 1957

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

How very kind and generous of you to remember the Maine Author Collection! We are proud to be able to add another novel by you to your distinguished writings, and it is indeed a rare pleasure to have such a beautifully written, honest and sympathetic book.

We shall order it for wide use in our traveling libraries and bookmobiles, and thank you for giving us another volume to enjoy and recommend. Thank you also for the gift copy for the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

December 10, 1958

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

The publishers certainly selected the right author to make an exciting and worthwhile story of seafaring families. Your SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS promises a treasury of adventure, and we send you warm good wishes for its success.

We do hope that the Maine Author Collection is going to have an inscribed copy.

A brief newspaper notice a few weeks ago indicated that we may expect a book on The Psalms, though it didn't say when. We trust this work is progressing satisfactorily, and we shall certainly anticipate its publication with unusual interest.

Holiday greetings to you.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

January 27, 1959

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS has arrived, and we add it to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation of your art and background, as well as your generous interest.

It is a fine book, and we know that it will enjoy great popularity.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

The
GOLDEN
ASSE

and Other Essays



by
MARY ELLEN CHASE

THE GOLDEN ASSE and Other Essays

by Mary Ellen Chase

Miss Chase needs no introduction to those readers who have for some years enjoyed her stories and sketches of Maine, its country, its coast, and its people. For the uninitiated we introduce her as Professor of English Language and Literature at Smith College, as a novelist, whose *Uplands* and *Mary Christmas* have received enthusiastic comment from reviewers here and abroad, and as a critic and reviewer for such periodicals as *The Yale Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Commonwealth*, *The New York Herald Tribune*, and *The Saturday Review*. Her study, *Thomas Hardy from Serial to Novel*, published in 1927, ranks her as a scholar of distinction as well as an essayist and as a writer of narrative.

The eight essays contained in the present volume are especially delightful. Their titles are: The Golden Asse—A Tribute; On

Kitchens and Cloisters; "Not in Cadiz"; "Have You *Martin Chuzzlewit*?" Wormwood for Thoughts; "Mystical Mathematicks"; A Kitchen Parnassus; and The Saints in Maine.

CRITICAL OPINIONS

"The essays of Mary Ellen Chase are always full of charm and vitality, and a collection of them is to be warmly welcomed."—VIDA D. SCUDDER, Professor Emeritus of Wellesley College, author of *The Disciple of a Saint*, *Brother John*, etc.

"'Not in Cadiz' is the best essay I have read in a blue moon; in fact, I believe it is the best personal essay of the twentieth century."—ROBERT P. TRISTRAM COFFIN, Professor of English Literature, Wells College, author of *An Attic Room* and of other volumes of essays.

"Here are essays in the good old New England tradition with a demure sparkle and a delicate tang. In the fine art of reminiscence Miss Chase excels."—FLORENCE CONVERSE, author of *Long Will* and a member of the staff of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

"Whatever Mary Ellen Chase writes seems to me to be characterized by a certain penetrating and vivacious quality, by an energy which gives her prose style a distinctive rhythm. She is sensitive to words in motion as well as to the color of words: and since her thinking, too, is energetic and colorful and fearless, there is every reason to anticipate with confident pleasure her latest book, *The Golden Asse and Other Essays*."—GRACE HAZARD CONKLING, internationally known poet, author of *Flying Fish, Witch*, and other volumes of poetry.

ORDER FORM

HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY, INC.,
One Park Avenue, New York.

Gentlemen:

Please send me _____ copies of THE
GOLDEN ASSE AND OTHER ESSAYS
by Mary Ellen Chase. Price, \$2.00.

☐ I enclose \$_____. ☐ Send C.O.D.

Name _____

Address _____

March 22, 1960

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Your DONALD MCKAY AND THE CLIPPER SHIPS was ordered promptly for the library, and a most satisfying and deeply interesting book it is.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection still enjoys your interest, and that an inscribed copy may join your other books in the exhibit.

Our warm good wishes to you for the success of your most recent book, and for the happy completion of the work on THE PSALMS, the publication of which we eagerly anticipate.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

May 2, 1960

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Your new novel is going on to our order lists for the traveling libraries and bookmobiles, sight unseen. The advance notice piques our curiosity and eagerness, and we anticipate the usual pleasure and reward which your books always give us.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection will continue in your favor, and that a copy of the new book may grace its shelves. Good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

May 2, 1960

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

16th May

16 PARADISE ROAD
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Jacob: If ever you shall
have both the Donald McKay and the
Lovely Ambition if ever I get time to
run down to the Bookshops and signs

noted

them for you. This time of year in a
college town is completely mad as in
some you know. But have patience!
They will come in a few days. In the
moment in Hartford for a few days of
relative peace. Thank you always for
your kind interest. Mary Ellen Chase

May 2, 1960

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Your new novel is going on to our order lists
for the traveling libraries and bookmobiles, and
unseen. The advance notice gives our curiosity
and eagerness, and we anticipate the usual pleasure
and reward which your books always give us.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection will
continue in your favor, and that a copy of the
book may grace its shelves. Good luck to it.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

lmj

June 27, 1960

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

How wonderful to start the week with the package containing your two satisfying and most welcome books to add to the Maine Author Collection! Thank you very much.

Now that we have had opportunity to secure our copies of THE LOVELY AMBITION, we are impressed with its quiet charm of writing and pervading grace of spirit which you so easily convey to the reader. It is an endearing book, and we confidently anticipate a successful life for it.

Our warm thanks to you, and our very good wishes for a happy summer.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 7, 1962

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Our profound thanks to you for remembering the Maine Author Collection with a copy of your beautiful and truly exciting PSALMS FOR THE COMMON READER. You will surely make uncommon readers of us all.

We are grateful for your continuing interest, and proud to have this distinguished new book to place with your others in the collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

January 26, 1962

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

THE FISHING FLEETS OF NEW ENGLAND is fascinating,
and although it is written for young people, there is
no reason why older ones can't learn a great deal
from its pages -- painlessly, too!

What excellent judgement the publishers showed,
in persuading you to do this title.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection will
have an inscribed copy to place with your other
books.

Good luck to the new one.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

August 27, 1962

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

Thank you very much for the gift copy of
THE FISHING FLEETS OF NEW ENGLAND for the
Maine Author Collection.

We are delighted to have it, and grateful
for your faithful interest in the Maine exhibit.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

October 25, 1963

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

It is not often that a publishing season is blessed with two books of yours, but this fall has something for everyone, doesn't it?

THE PROPHETS FOR THE COMMON READER we put on the order list for the main library at once; and VICTORIA will make the acquaintance of our bookmobile readers. Victoria is absolutely entrancing, not alone for the pampered creature herself, but for the underlying sadness and wisdom of life.

We hope that the Maine Author Collection will benefit from your generous interest again.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

July 7, 1964

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
Northampton
Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

A copy of the hilariously captivating DOLLY MOSES has arrived from your publisher; but we suspect that our thanks are due to you.

She was indeed a startling creature, and the quiet manner in which you tell the tale accentuates the bizarre quality of her life.

The Maine Author Collection is sadly behind the times: we lack THE PROPHETS FOR THE COMMON READER and your tales of Victoria and Richard Mansfield. We do earnestly hope that these books will sooner or later find their way into the collection, for it is incomplete without all your books.

It occurs to us that in this series (or is that too formal a work?) of childhood reminiscences you are relaxing -- just having fun! The format charmingly complements the stories and the mood, too. We like to think that there will be more.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

16 PARADISE ROAD
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Ann. Jacobs:

I'll send the three books along:

The Prophets, Victoria, and Richard.

Yes, these last Silly books are
just "for fun", as you suggest. One more

is coming, and then they are to be

bound in one volume. They are a new

Technique, as you see - stories for

16 PARADISE ROAD
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

children in the language of adults
— at its best, I hope.

I always mean you shall have all
my books. I can't see how W.W.

Norton slipped up on the others.

Yours always

Mary Ellen Chase

13th July,
1964

July 17, 1964

Dr. Mary Ellen Chase
16 Paradise Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Chase:

We are indeed rich: THE PROPHETS and the three new books are warmly and gratefully acknowledged for the Maine Author Collection.

Please don't call the new ones "silly" After all, the children's classics are the books which don't talk down to their readers. These are charming and literate, and their appeal lies not only in the outrageous characters and adventures, but also in the excellence of language.

It's just another instance of your versatility and capability, and we are, in a way, as proud of Victoria and Richard Mansfield and Dolly Moses as we are of your more profound work.

Thank you so very much.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection