

April 2016

Kate Douglas Wiggin Correspondence

Maine State Library

Kate Douglas Wiggin 1856-1923

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WIGGIN, Kate Douglas

Born at Philadelphia, 1859.

Died at Harrow-on-the-Hill, England, 1923.

April 1, 1920

Mrs. George C. Riggs,
145 W. 58th Street,
New York City

Dear Madam:

We are making our library
Bulletin for April a special Maine num-
ber, one section of which will present
Maine writers of today.

Will you please send me a
photograph and any personal notes that
we can use in preparing this sketch. A
prompt response to this request will be
very greatly appreciated. I am

Sincerely yours,

HED/od.

P.S. Will you also include a list of
your published works.

April 5, 1920

Mrs. George C. Riggs,
145 W. 58th Street,
New York City

Dear Mrs. Riggs:

I am under great obligations
to you for your prompt reply to my re-
quest for a photograph. I received it
this morning. Please accept my sincere
thanks for your kindness. I am

Sincerely yours,

HED/od.

April eighth,
Nineteen twenty.

My dear Mrs. Riggs:

The package containing materials for a brief sketch of your life and work, has been received at the Library. It was very kind of you to take so much trouble in bringing together this material, and I wish to assure you of my deep appreciation.

I am very anxious to have a complete set of your books in the library, if possible in the same bindings. Would it be too much to ask you to send me a complete set of the best bindings and would you kindly write your autographs in each one? Of course you understand that I will send a check by return mail for the books. I would send it in this letter, if I had any idea of their price.

My purpose in asking you to select and send the books, is that I may have the right set in the library. It may interest you to know that I am trying to secure a complete set of the works of all Maine authors. I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. George C. Riggs,
145 W. 58th Street,
New York City.

Wm J R April 14. 1920
145 West Fifty-eighth Street.

Dear Dr. Drunick.

I don't know when the Express
will come, but an autographed
& inscribed edition of my
books (the Successive Uniform
Subscription edition) will be sent
in a day or two.

I had bought a set intending
to autograph it for a wedding
present in June but as the box
is opened & I can do the
writing & sending more easily here
than at the Publishing Office
you may send the \$25.00 to me
& I will buy another when needed.

Sincerely,
Wm J. Ruggs

April sixteenth
Nineteen twenty

Dear Mrs. Riggs:

Your letter just received.

I enclose Order No. 2691 for one autographed set of the Quillcote Uniform Subscription Edition. The bill will be sent to the Auditor at once and your check should reach you in about ten days.

Please accept my thanks for your prompt response to my request. I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Kate D. Riggs,
145 W. 58th Street,
New York City.

WIGGIN, Kate Douglas.

An American author, whose maiden name was Smith. She was born in Philadelphia (1859), whence her family removed to Hollis, Maine. After graduating from Abbott Academy (Andover, Mass.) in 1878, she went to California, where she studied kindergarten methods and gained success as a teacher, organizing the first free kindergartens on the Pacific coast. In 1880 she was married to S. B. Wiggin, a California lawyer. He died in 1889 and six years later she became the wife of George C. Riggs. They lived in New York and at Hollis, Maine. "The Birds' Christmas Carol", a story published in 1888, was the first to attract attention to Kate Douglas Wiggin, and it continued to be very popular. Her other chief successes were "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" (1903 and "New Chronicles of Rebecca" (1907) and the Penelope series--"A Cathedral Courtship" (1893); "Penelope's English Experiences" (1893), "Penelope's Progress" (1898), "Penelope's Experiences in Ireland" (1901), and "Penelope's Postscripts" (1915). Other stories were widely read. They include "The Story of Patsy" (1889); "Timothy's Quest" (1890); "Marm Lisa" (1896); "Diary of a Goose Girl" (1902); "Mother Carey's Chickens" (1911); "The Story of Waitstill Baxter" (1913). With her sister Nora Archibald Smith, well known as a kindergartner, she edited various books for children and wrote "Froebel's Gifts" (1895); "Froebel's Occupations" (1896), and "Kindergarten Principles" (1896). Bowdoin College honored her with the degree of Litt.D.



Yours sincerely
Kate Douglas Wiggin
Aimé Dupont. Photographer

Wiggin, Kate Douglas.

The Birds' Christmas Carol.

Inscription: To the Gentle Reader-- The preface of this my first book tells all of me and all of my work there is to tell! It breathes my thanks for the affection, the loyalty, and the undeserved appreciation of my constituency.

Gratefully yours,

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920
K. D. W. Her first book.

A Summer in a Cañon
Polly Oliver's Problem.

Inscription: California stories, with the background of fifteen years of my life.

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920

Penelope's English and Scottish Experiences.

Inscription: "Here we are in England,
Salemina, Francesca and I".
Penelope's English Experiences.

"Edina! Scotias darling seat!
All hail the palaces and towers".

Penelope's Scottish Experiences

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920.

Penelope's Irish Experiences:

Inscription: "Sure a terrible time I was out o'
the way,
Over the sea, over the sea,
Till I went to Ireland one sunny day,
Betther for me, bhetter for me".

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.

Inscription: Yours by way of Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, all Maine, from head to foot!

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920.

The Village Watch Tower.
Marm Lisa.

Inscription: Stories written under my apple trees at "Quillcote", Hollis, Maine.

Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Library of the State of Maine, 1920.

Chronicles of Rebecca.
Cathedral Courtship.
Goose Girl.

Inscription: Tales of New and Old England by
Kate Douglas Wiggin.
"When Joy and Duty Clash
Let Duty go to smash!"
Rebecca's first attempt at poetry,
somewhat radical.
Library of the State of Maine, 1920.

Rose O' The River.
Peabody Pew
Susanna and Sue.

Inscription: Three State o' Maine tales. May
they exhale something of the breath
of the pine woods, the freshness of
the sea breeze or the sweetness of
her May flowers.
Kate Douglas Wiggin..
State Library of Maine, 1920.

Mother Carey's Chickens.
Christmas Card.

Inscription: "By and by there came along a flock
of petrels, who are Mother Carey's
own chickens."
Kate Douglas Wiggin.
State Library of Maine, 1920.
The Author,
K. D. W.

The Story of Waitstill Baxter.

Inscription: An imaginery tale of the Saco Water
Valley with one figure in it true
to local history, that of Jacob
Cochrane.
Kate Douglas Wiggin.
To the Maine State Library,
1920.
The Author,
K. D. W.