Ruth Suckow: a Calendar of Letters (II)

Frank Paluka

[This list concludes the calendar of letters begun in the previous issue. These letters form part of a considerably larger collection of Miss Suckow's papers, presented to The University of Iowa Libraries by Mr. Ferner Nuhn. Appreciation is hereby expressed to Mr. Nuhn and to those whose gifts have added to the collection: Mrs. Clifton Woodhams, Mrs. Clara Seifert Roberts, Miss Evelyn Cady, Professor John T. Frederick, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., the Viking Press, and Rinehart & Company (now Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.).]

1932
Fred A. Robbins to R. S. Chicago, 16 February 1932. Asking whether there is any connection between a character in The Bonney Family and a woman in Grinnell, Iowa. T.L.S. 1 p.

1933
Anne Parrish to R. S. Manchester-in-the-Mountains, Vermont, 26 August [1933]. Inviting Miss Suckow to lunch or dinner. A.L.S. 1 p.
James Norman Hall to Edward C. Mabie. Papeete, Tahiti, 19 November 1933. Concerning the possibility of an experimental production of a play by Hall, based on Miss Suckow's story "Uprooted." T.L.S. 1 p.

1934
James E. Downing to R. S. Des Moines, Iowa, 1 October 1934. Enclosing the text of a sermon by Miss Suckow's father, delivered in Fort Dodge, Iowa, circa 1908. T.L.S. 1 p.


Anne Parrish to R. S. Englewood, New Jersey, 28 October 1934. Expressing her enthusiasm for *The Folks*; finds a resemblance to D. H. Lawrence in Miss Suckow’s descriptions of flowers and growing things, and praises her honesty. T.L.S. 2 p.


Westberg Family to R. S. Bellflower, California, n.d. Concerning their enjoyment of *The Folks*; suggests that there is an error in the description of preparations for Dorothy’s wedding. Typescript copy. 1 p.


Walter H. Wilcox to Farrar and Rinehart. New York, 5 November 1934. Suggesting that one of Miss Suckow’s descriptions in *The Folks* is in error. T.L.S. 1 p. with carbon of reply.

Douglas Bement to John Farrar. Arlington, Virginia [circa 20 November 1934]. Expressing thanks for a copy of *The Folks*; says he has been impressed by all of Miss Suckow’s works. T.L.S. 1 p.

Marya Gregory to R. S. [New York] [9 December 1934]. Concerning Mrs. Gregory’s work, her health and her husband Horace; mentions James T. Farrell; comments on the news from Russia and famine in the Ukraine. A.L.S. 4 p.

1935


Rose Wilder Lane to R. S. Mansfield, Missouri, 6 March 1935. Expressing her enthusiasm for *The Folks*. T.L.S. 1 p.


Thomas P. Beyer to R. S. Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1 May 1935. Thanking her for her criticism of stories by students at Hamline University. T.L.S. 1 p.


1939

1941
R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 2 January 1941. Concerning a gold bracelet given to R. S. by Mrs. Woodhams' mother and its loss in a New York fire; references to her father and to the trip she and her husband made to Scandinavia and England two summers ago. A.L.S. 4 p.
R. S. to John Farrar. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 20 February 1941. Concerning the compressing of the second part of *New Hope* into a final chapter; mentions a forthcoming visit and lecture in Cedar Falls by Sigrid Undset. T.L.S. 2 p. with 13-line autograph postscript concerning the minister in *New Hope*.

Ferner Nuhn to John Farrar. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 24 June 1941. Concerning the revised jacket for *New Hope*; mentions that Miss Suckow is rewriting and expanding the second part of her manuscript. T.L.S. 2 p. with carbon of reply.
Ferner Nuhn to John Farrar. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 5 August 1941. Concerning the revised form of *New Hope*; it preserves the original idyll and dispenses with a later story or sequel. T.L.S. 1 p.

1942


R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 28 April [1942?] Concerning points of resemblance between characters and places in her novel *New Hope* and actual people and towns; remarks that old landmarks in Algona, Iowa, seem to have changed. T.L.S. 2 p.

1943
Adelaide A. Sherer to R. S. New York, 14 April 1943. Stating that the Doubleday Doran Dollar Book Club is taking 2000 of some 6000 warehouse copies of *New Hope*; reference to the death of Stephen Benét. Carbon typescript. 1 p.

1945
R. S. to John T. Frederick. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 18 October 1945. Concerning his request to reprint a portion of “The Folk Idea in American Life”; mentions that she has been writing intensively. T.L.S. 2 p.
R. S. to R. E. Ellsworth. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 5 December 1945. Concerning the preservation of her manuscripts; states that she seldom keeps notes and early drafts of her work. T.L.S. 1 p.
R. S. to Adelaide Sherer. Cedar Falls, Iowa, 28 January 1946. Consenting to the use of a simplified version of "A Start in Life" in experimental classes at The University of Texas. T.N.S. 1 p.


Marguerite J. Reese to Ellan McIlvaine. New York, 9 April 1948. Referring a request from radio station KUOM to broadcast a radio adaption of The Folks; mentions that Miss Suckow has not been well and expresses interest in having another book from her. Carbon typescript. 1 p. with typed note.


Stanley M. Rinehart, Jr. to Ellan McIlvaine. [New York] 27 April 1948. Hoping that someday Rinehart can reissue The Folks; suggests that costs are too high at present. Carbon typescript. 1 p.


Diarmuid Russell to John Selby. New York, 26 April 1950. Forwarding the manuscript of Sequel by a Later Hand; notes a resemblance to Willa Cather in Miss Suckow's mood and attitude toward life. T.L.S. 1 p.

John Selby to R. S. New York, 19 May 1950. Concerning a manuscript submitted by Miss Suckow; suggests that the long story entitled Sequel by a Later Hand be replaced by additional short stories. Carbon typescript. 1 p. with three related memos.


R. S. to John Selby. Tucson, Arizona, 7 June 1950. Suggesting that her manuscript might be supplemented either by additional stories which she [34]
has in unfinished rough form or by an autobiographical sketch which she has in preliminary draft. T.L.S. 1 p.

John Selby to R. S. New York, 20 June 1950. Asking Miss Suckow to make the decision as to how she supplements her manuscript, but indicating a preference for the autobiographical sketch. Carbon typescript. 1 p.


Diarmuid Russell to John Selby. New York, 17 July 1950. Asking that the manuscript of *Winterset* be returned to Miss Suckow; mentions that she is working on an autobiographical sketch to replace it. T.L.S. 1 p. with carbon of reply.


1951


Ferner Nuhn to John Selby. Tucson, Arizona, 12 February 1951. Indicating that Miss Suckow has no preference concerning the order of *A Memoir*; mentions a visit to Whittier, California. A.C.S.


Diarmuid Russell to John [Selby]. New York, 2 April 1951. Indicating that Miss Suckow wants to discuss certain points in her contract. T.L.S. 1 p.


R. S. to John Selby. Tucson, Arizona, 12 May 1951. Suggesting *Some Others*
and Myself as the title for her book. T.N.S. 1 p. with carbons of his inquiry and reply.


R. S. to Marguerite J. Reese. Earlville, Iowa, 24 July 1951. Concerning the list of stories sold and submitted; mentions that she is spending a few days in the small town where she once kept bees; mentions a visit from Margaret Stewart, who is preparing a doctoral thesis on Miss Suckow’s writing. A.C.S. with carbon of reply and related memo.

Marguerite J. Reese to R. S. New York, 16 August 1951. Concerning copyright assignments of the stories to be included in Some Others and Myself. Carbon typescript, 2 p. with carbon memo.

R. S. to Marguerite J. Reese. Tucson, Arizona, 23 August 1951. Indicating the magazines to which certain stories were submitted; remarks that she considers “Eltha” one of her best stories. T.L.S. 1 p. with carbon of reply.


R. S. to Adelaide Sherer. Tucson, Arizona, 7 December 1951. Ordering ten extra copies of Some Others and Myself. T.C.S.

R. S. to Grace Wormer. Tucson, Arizona, 8 December 1951. Concerning the manuscript of Some Others and Myself; mentions that the parts were written at widely different times. T.L.S. 1 p.


1952

John Selby to R. S. [New York] 3 January 1952. Enclosing proofs of ad-
advertisements for *Some Others and Myself* and a review. Carbon typescript. 1 p.

R. S. to Stanley and Frederick Rinehart. Tucson, Arizona, 7 January 1951 [i.e. 1952?] Thanking them for a specially-bound copy of *Some Others and Myself*. A.N.S. 2 p.


R. S. to Grace Wormer. Claremont, California, 10 September 1952. Concerning the manuscript of *A Memoir*. T.L.S. 1 p.

R. S. to Grace Wormer. Claremont, California, 22 September 1952. Conveying the address of Miss Stewart in Kentucky. T.C.S.


R. S. to Opal Suckow. Claremont, California, 28 October 1952. Concerning a request for photographs for use in an exhibit; mentions her copies of English, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish editions of some of her books, including an inscribed copy of *Cora* sent to her by Sigrid Undset. Typescript copy. 1 p.

1953

R. S. to Evelyn Cady. Claremont, California, 20 February 1953. Recalling people and events in Algona, Iowa, at the time Miss Suckow and Miss Cady were classmates in the first grade; remarks on the Revised Version of the Bible and quotes a poem by Emily Dickinson. T.L.S. 4 p.


R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. [Claremont, California] [circa 1953?] Hoping that Mrs. Woodhams will visit in Claremont. A.N.S. 1 p.

R. S. to Grace Wormer. Claremont, California, 9 June 1953. Replying to a request for biographical information about her husband, Ferner Nuhn; mentions a proposed sequel to his book The Wind Blew from the East, to be entitled Emerson, Lincoln and Whitman. T.L.S. 1 p. with autograph postscript.

R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 2 October 1953. Concerning a visit to the Los Angeles County fair; remarks on the renewal of old friendships; reference to her forthcoming article in Midland Schools. T.L.S. 2 p.

1954

R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 7 May 1954. Concerning the absence of her husband on a three-month speaking tour; records her reactions to the McCarthy-Army hearings on TV and mentions her old Grinnell friend Joseph Welch. T.L.S. 2 p.


1955

R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 17 August 1955. Concerning the death of a relative in Nebraska and plans for a trip east in October; mentions a visit to the LeCrons at Chokecherry Gulch. A.L.S. 5 p. on one folded sheet.

R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 9 September 1955. Concerning the illness of Mrs. Woodhams' father. A.N.S. 1 p.

R. S. to Caroline and Clifton Woodhams. [Claremont, California] [December 1955] Concerning her ten-day visit on a Nebraska farm; praises the great helpfulness of the farm neighbors and comments on their religious attitudes and practices. A.L.S. 4 p. on one folded sheet.

[38]
1956


R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. [Claremont, California] n.d. Concerning her illness and slow improvement; mentions that she has a book half finished. A.L.S. 3 p. on folded sheet.

1957

R. S. to Marguerite J. Reese. Claremont, California, 19 January 1957. Thanking her for a package of books, including *The Fur Person*; remarks on her cat named Chris; mentions that she is revising a short novel; alludes to a request from the New York Public Library for a Suckow manuscript for their Emma Mills Collection. T.L.S. 1 p. with carbon of reply.


1958


R. S. to Pascal Covici. Claremont, California, 6 December 1958. Agreeing to send some material he has requested. A.N.S. 1 p.

1959

R. S. to Pascal Covici. Claremont, California, 4 March 1959. Concerning a mention of *The John Wood Case* in *The Des Moines Register*; alludes to her work in progress, a novel she has had in mind for many years. T.L.S. 1 p.

R. S. to Pascal Covici. Claremont, California, 6 April 1959. Concerning a statement on the dust jacket of *The John Wood Case*; suggests there is no close parallel between this story and a person mentioned in *A Memoir*. T.L.S. 1 p.


R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 12 August 1959. Concerning the reception of *The John Wood Case*; mentions her husband's work, her birthday, and a visit to Grant Wood's sister. T.L.S. 4 p.

R. S. to Pascal Covici. Claremont, California, 21 September 1959. Concerning her novel in progress, tentatively called *Some Boundless Thing*; briefly characterizes the central figure, Nanne Cameron. T.L.S. 1 p. with autograph postscript.

http://ir.uiowa.edu/bai/vol2/iss1
R. S. to Caroline Woodhams. Claremont, California, 5 October 1959. Concerning her husband’s work; mentions Khrushchev’s visit to the farm of her friends the Roswell Garsts near Coon Rapids, Iowa. T.L.S. 2 p.

R. S. to Marcus A. McCorison. Claremont, California, 12 October 1959. Concerning her manuscripts; mentions the summer she spent in Robert Frost’s home and her friendship with Dorothy Canfield Fisher. T.L.S. 2 p.

R. S. to Marcus A. McCorison. Claremont, California, 5 November 1959. Concerning her intention that her papers and manuscripts go to The University of Iowa Library. T.L.S. 1 p.

1960

Ferner Nuhn to _______. Claremont, California, February 1960. Concerning R. S.’s last year and expressing thanks for sympathy at the time of her death; mentions a novel she left unfinished entitled A Boundless Thing. Duplicated typescript. 1 p.


Ferner Nuhn to Friends. Claremont, California, December 1960. Concerning his activities during the year; mentions the publication in the Iowan magazine of selections from a notebook by R. S. Duplicated typescript. 1 p. with autograph postscript.