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**THE HENRY A. SHUTE RESEARCH MATERIALS COLLECTION
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**By
EMILY M. NEWELL**

**Portland, Maine
October, 2021**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: These papers were bequeathed in 1998 by Barbra Winn Adams.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The Henry A. Shute Research Materials Collection are the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Library. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or her legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Special Collections Librarian.

Cite as: The Henry A. Shute Research Collection, The General Manuscript Collection, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

HENRY AUGUSTUS SHUTE (1856-1943): Henry A. Shute was born on November 17, 1856 in Exeter, New Hampshire. As a boy he attended Phillips Exeter High School, class of 1875. He then went on to attend Harvard College, class of 1879, where he studied law. Returning to Exeter, Shute was appointed as the Exeter Municipal Judge in 1883, and he remained there until his retirement in 1936 after forty-three years of service.

In his retirement, Shute took up writing, and would come to publish popular children's novels such as "The Real Diary of a Real Boy", "Sequil, or, Things Whitch Aint Finished in the First", "Farming it", and "A Country lawyer" all of which can be found in the University of Southern Maine's Special Collections Library in the Edith C. Rice Collection of Children's Literature. Shute also wrote short stories for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Shute passed away in Exeter, New Hampshire on January 17, 1943.

(Sources: "Harvard College Class of 1879 65th Anniversary Bulletin 1944", "Memoir of Henry Augustus Shute of the Class of 1879 Harvard College by Frank Crawford Published by the Class of 1943", and *The New York Times* Jan. 26 1943, p19.c2)

SCOTT ADAMS (1909-1982): Scott Adams was born on November 20, 1909 in Agawam Massachusetts, and died on October 3, 1982 in Louisville Kentucky. He was married to Barbra Winn Adams (July 18, 1911-November 10, 1997), and was the father of Susanna Adams.

Susanna donated this collection to the University of Southern Maine as part of the Edith C. Rice Children's Literature Collection which was a bequest of her mother, Barbra Winn Adams in 1998. Scott was an independent researcher who appeared to be trying to assemble enough information on Henry A. Shute to comprise either a memoir or a biography about the author.

(Sources: "United States, *Genealogy Bank Historical Newspaper Obituaries*, 1815-2011", database, *Family Search* Scott Adams, 1982.)

Description of the Papers

This collection of research material spans from 1936-1944. Collected by Scott and Barbra Winn Adams, these materials are part of a large number of children's books by Henry A. Shute, in the Edith C. Rice Collection of Children's Literature bequeathed to USM.

In this collection there are 2 letters from Shute to Scott Adams, 1 Letter from the editor of the newspaper *Exeter News-Letter* to Scott Adams, handwritten bibliographic notes, 1 page from a bookseller's catalog offering 2 Shute first editions, 3 published memoirs of Shute with accompanying correspondence, 1 clipping of a brief obituary in the New York Times the day after his death, and a photocopy of a photograph and article on the author on the front page of the *Exeter News-Letter*, accompanied by 2 remembrances, and 9 photographs of key locations in Shute's works.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
1	1	Scott Adams Research on Shute	1936-1943, n.d
1	2	Correspondence between Adams & Shute	1938-1944
1	3	Photographs	n.d

Keywords

Henry A. Shute, Scott Adams, Barbra Winn Adams, Susanna Adams, Boys, Juvenile Fiction, Fiction, Farms, Agriculture, Neighbors, Exeter (N.H.), Legal Stories, American Prose, Male-Authors, 20th-Century.