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[Matthes, C] Library

HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE

R.M.S. "Westerdam"
July 10th '47

Dear Mrs Roosevelt

Leaving this country of yours. I want to tell you personally what I told every American I met during my lonely stay of 3 months in Virginia, how we in Holland have been living during war-time on and by the radio speeches of your husband Mr. F. D. Roosevelt. The things he said, his voice, his choice

of words kept us up and gave us strength to go on! Listening to the voice of a real gentleman in those times was for us, who were living in the midst of brutes, the Germans, a real treat! – I wished (not really!) you could have seen us than huddling together in a very small hiding place on our attack – listening to a forbidden radio, cold and hungry .. but full of hope! Mr. Roosevelts speeches have been .. life for us! And that is

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what I wanted to tell you —
Hoping that you do not think this letter
too silly, but that you will accept these
words as a great esteem from a Dutch
friend

I am yours very sincerely

Charlotte A. Matthes.

home address:

54 Leidsche Gracht

Amsterdam

New York City
November 22, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Many thanks for your nice note of November 13, about the books I sent you and Miss Thompson, and for the postscript asking if Natalie and I were going to see you again. Nothing short of a broken leg would keep either or both of us from coming to see you at any time you have two extra chairs at your table or two extra cups in your teapot. We called Miss Thompson two or three times since our return from our round-the-country junket, in hopes we could take you both to lunch or dinner and return, in some small part, your past hospitality, but she explained that you were rather thoroughly tied up with your UN work. We left word with her that we would be very happy to see you at any time convenient to you. Since our schedule is approximately as informal as yours is difficult, we both agree it is best to let you name the date, rather than suggest one ourselves.

I understand my friend Fala is ailing--somebody wrote a piece about it. If true, tell him an admirer is rooting for him.

Sincerely,

Bill Mauldin