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National Recreation Assoc.

I take your statement  
very much & think it  
is accurate. Perhaps  
you might look to  
the History M. of the  
Linnæus Man Foundation.

*Not Rec. Assoc*

# NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

A Service Organization Supported by Voluntary Contributions  
Founded 1906 as the Playground Association of America

Serving Over 6000

Communities a Year

315 FOURTH AVENUE



NEW YORK 10, N. Y.  
February 26, 1947

*Handwritten notes:*  
I let it (the statement) associated with the N. Y. of the Assoc. for the study of the N. Y. Association

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt

A few months after the President died when I was thinking of all that he had done for recreation, we wrote out the enclosed brief statement. Nothing has been done with it. From time to time I have wondered how this idea might be used to further recreation, which was one of his many many interests. I have had no inspiration about it, but I send it on to you for two reasons. First, I would want to be sure that it is accurate. Secondly, during these months you may have had suggestions of individuals to whom this idea might appeal.

You of course know about the work of the National Recreation Association. You have been to national meetings. You will recall that the President himself served as sponsor of the Association and helped to raise money for it even before he was governor of New York. You know how much Dr. John Finley did for it through the years. Even now I recall with great pleasure the meeting we had in Washington when Dr. Finley donned the Scottish kilts because he wanted to do something extra in presenting you to the Recreation Congress.

Well I wish we might have in the Association a memorial fund, the income of which would provide services to local communities which would in a way carry out in the President's name the kind of things he believed in and stood for in the recreation field.

You may know of some individual or some group to whom this idea would appeal. If you think the idea has merit, I shall of course be happy to talk with you or anyone else about it further.

Sincerely yours

T. E. Rivers, Manager  
Personnel Bureau

TER/lh

OFFICERS

1 ROBERT GARRETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

4 M. LEE, THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT  
AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

ADRIAN M. MASSIE, TREASURER  
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, TREASURER EMERITUS

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Recreation Service

Franklin D. Roosevelt believed in recreation as one of the fundamental parts of a high standard of living. He also believed that recreation was one of the means of bringing people together and of giving expression to the democratic way of life.

He believed very greatly also in the power of individuals to bring about a better way of life. He put more emphasis upon leadership than upon buildings. All of his life he worked for parks and playgrounds and swimming pools. He put the weight of his personality and the weight of his public office behind the development of the recreation movement.

Those who are considering a living memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt should give careful consideration to the idea of endowment that would free personalities to work in this field which meant so much to him and in which he believed so strongly.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
THE NATIONAL ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

CHU CHIA-HUA, CHAIRMAN  
YEN WEN-YU, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Apartment 8-D  
542 West 112th Street  
New York 25, 1947

CHUNGKING OFFICE:  
56 FU HSIANG ROAD

October 16, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Apartment 15-A  
29 Washington Square, West  
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was a great honor and pleasure as well meeting you at Hyde Park and my only regret is that the interview was so short that I could not talk much about our library plans. I can easily realize how busy you have been at the UN meetings and I should not disturb you at this time, that is why I have not written you since my visit to your home.

I wish to thank you for the beautiful portrait of the late President which was sent to me by the New York Graphic Society. It will be hanged in our library for our people to pay respect and to get inspiration.

Enclosed please find a copy of our plans for the development of the library which I humbly hope that you will give us your cooperation. Would you be kind enough as to suggest some friends of yours to whom I can approach for help?

I know you are interested in many things for which people ask for your help. I hope that you will give us your special attention to this institution which is founded to show Chinese people's love and reverence for the late President and which will serve as a medium whereby mutual understanding, appreciation and cooperation between our two nations will be greatly enhanced.

Yours very sincerely,

*W. Y. Yen*  
Wen-yu Yen  
Executive Secretary

Enc.1

*✓ Section do*  
*I hope you will*  
*submit soon.*  
*How soon see?*

PLANS OF NATIONAL ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

1. To get from the Roosevelt family some possessions and souvenirs of the late President to be taken to China for the exhibit in the Roosevelt Memorial Room (Mrs. Roosevelt and her children will be looked for help)
2. To get by gift books by and on the late President in all languages including materials about the New Deal and TVA
3. To make photostat and microfilm copies of documents and papers of the late President which are allowed to make public
4. To get the recorded voices of President Roosevelt such as RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY, and a copy of the ROOSEVELT STORY film
5. To get the important documents of New York State for the period when Mr. Roosevelt was governor, and U.S. federal documents of the Roosevelt administration
6. To build up a special collection on international relations, World War II, United Nations, and books interpreting the United States ( The UN has included the library as one of the depository libraries to receive its publications)
7. To install all equipments which will help the library's mass and adult education program, such as film book, microfilm recordak, sound motion picture projector, talking book machine, illustravox, book-mobile, etc.
8. To make a book drive by sending letters to institutions and individuals asking for unused books on all subjects with some of the famous Roosevelt friends as signatories
9. To form a FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ROOSEVELT LIBRARY IN AMERICA  
An Executive Committee, with a chairman and a secretary, is to be formed