

Sherwood, Robert C.
1945-52

pb

The Playwrights' Company

MAXWELL ANDERSON • S. N. BEHRMAN • ELMER RICE • ROBERT E. SHEERWOOD • JOHN F. WHARTON • Directors

ER Papers

Sheerwood

Circle 5-7930

439 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 20
VICTOR SAMBOCK • Business Manager
WILLIAM FIELDS • Press Representatives

6-10-3-206

May 27, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York City 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am going Wednesday evening to spend the night with Vincent and Minnie Astor at Rhinebeck. They will deliver me at Hyde Park at 4:00 P.M., Thursday afternoon and I imagine it would be permissible for them to stay for the ceremony. I am not quite sure whether I am supposed to go first to the big house or to your cottage.

As I work on the Harry Hopkins papers I become more than ever convinced of the extreme urgency of organizing the work on President Roosevelt's papers which will lead to the first official and definitive biography. As you said, there must be extensive interviewing of people all over the world while they are still alive. I find this over and over again in Harry's papers; there are innumerable notes which are largely incomprehensible without reference to the persons involved, such as yourself, or the Chiefs of Staff, or Aubrey Williams or innumerable others at home and abroad.

Therefore, I feel that an organization should be started immediately to proceed with this gigantic task. It should have the authorization of you and the Roosevelt Estate and of President Truman and the Memorial Committee, the last named organization to provide the financing. I think that the task of organization and of writing the biography --- a job which might take ten years to complete --- should be officially entrusted to two men; one of these two men should, in my opinion, be Sam Rosenman and the other either Professor Sam Morrison or Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

When I saw Morrison at Hyde Park on April 12th last, I spoke of this to him and he said he could not possibly do it, as he has a long job ahead of him completing the Navy history of the war and then he is most anxious to

- 2 -

return to Harvard and resume his long interrupted career there. If he remains firm about this, I believe that Schlesinger would be a remarkably good alternative. He has written a brilliant work, "The Age of Jackson", which won the Pulitzer Prize. He is now embarking on a work on "The Age of Franklin D. Roosevelt".

Sam Rosenman, of course, is the perfect collaborator, with his extraordinary personal association dating back to the first gubernatorial campaign of 1928.

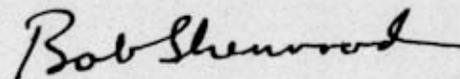
Furthermore, I feel very strongly that authorization should be given to Sam Rosenman immediately to put together the final volumes of the state papers, starting with January, 1941, and going through the years up to President Roosevelt's death. It is my earnest hope that this can be published next Fall or in the Winter of 1947.

I shall communicate these same thoughts to George Allen, Frank Walker, Sam Rosenman and Franklin, Jr.

By the way, young Franklin gave a very fine speech at the Memorial Service for Harry Hopkins in Washington last Wednesday. I wish you could have been there. You would have been greatly moved by the various tributes, including the one written by John Steinbeck and delivered by Burgess Meredith.

With very best regards and respects,

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Sherwood

RES:GM

o
p
y

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

Mrs. Roosevelt,
I think you'll be interested to
read this exceedingly kind letter
which I received from President Truman.

H.S.

May 23, 1946

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

I have learned with peculiar satisfaction that to you has fallen the responsibility of preparing for publication the papers of that valiant servant of the public, the late Harry L. Hopkins.

You are exceptionally qualified to perform this task which I consider of the highest importance. You were on terms of intimate friendship with Harry and with his Chief, my lamented predecessor, and shared, as I am fully aware, their complete confidence. In fact, you were a witness to many of the developments which it is now your duty to chronicle.

If I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to call upon me. I hope also that you will receive the fullest cooperation of all whom you approach in the performance of this great trust.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ HARRY TRUMAN

Robert E. Sherwood, Esq.
The Carlton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Circle 5-7930

Sherwood

The Playwrights' Company

MAXWELL ANDERSON • S. N. BEHRMAN • ELMER RICE • ROBERT E. SHERWOOD • JOHN F. WHARTON • *Directors*

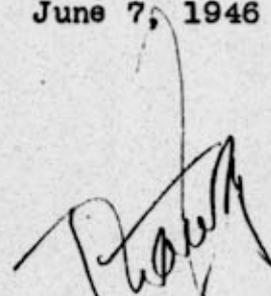
630 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 20

VICTOR SAMROCK • *Business Manager*

WILLIAM FIELDS • *Press Representatives*

June 7, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York 11, New York



Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

You were kind enough to ask for a copy of the speech I made at Hyde Park on Memorial Day. Enclosed are two copies --- the one I actually used, with insertions and amendments written on it, and a plain copy subsequently made from this. I thought if you wished to put this in the Library, the original copy would be perhaps of more interest.

Last Tuesday I had lunch with Frank Walker and Henry Morgenthau and we discussed getting action really started on the papers. It is my understanding that Frank is arranging another meeting at which, it is hoped, you and also young Franklin will be present.

With very best regards and respects,

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Sherwood

Encl.

RES:GM