



7-24-1942

## Letter From John Van Antwerp MacMurray to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, July 24, 1942

John V. A. MacMurray

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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

*HW*

July 24, 1942.

Dear H.W.:

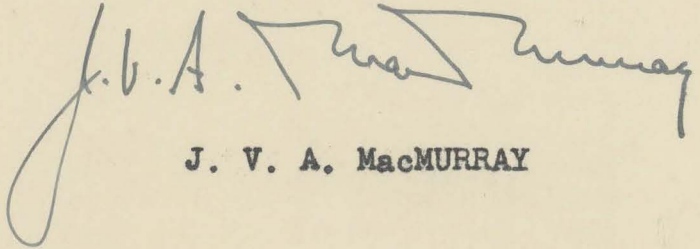
It was a surprise and a great pleasure to me to receive, a few days ago, the letter that you were moved to write me after talking of me with Dorothy Dearing. That friendly letter brought back to me clearly what is in my recollection an age almost of innocence--of youthful wonder and the feeling of companionship in a thrilling adventure--days in which the thinking of all of us youngsters in the Department was largely formed upon your ideas and your hopes for the Service. I am afraid I stood rather apart from the group that was closest to you--possibly because, with what I now look back upon as a tinge of false pride, I was fearful of being or seeming to be a bootlicker. But although not one of those of my generation who were your intimates, I (like most of the others) felt an enthusiastic loyalty to you in what you were doing to build up the Department and the Service, and took pride in the forcefulness and the courage with which you fought for your ideas. And that at least remains in the memories of those of us who survive, even though there be all too little general appreciation of what the Service owes to you.

I

F. M. Huntington-Wilson, Esquire,  
Hopelands,  
Woodbury, Connecticut.

I fully share your desire that we meet again, and hope that we may somehow manage it in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, let me thank you for your letter, and assure you of my warm regards and good wishes.

Yours, very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. V. A. MacMurray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

J. V. A. MacMURRAY