## Alfred Cunningham Papers, 1910-1937, n.d. (Correspondence Series) Schenck Letter to Cunningham, 26 April 1931

## **Transcription**

[Transcription of a handwritten letter addressed to "My dear Charlie" from German forester and former Biltmore Forest School director Carl Alwin Schenck penned aboard the Holland-America Line's *S.S. Statendam* ship. In the letter Schenck thanks Cunningham, a former student, for his continued friendship and support even after Cunningham's change in profession from forester to printer. The original spelling and formatting of the letter has been maintained in the transcription below without any editorial correction. Digital scans (150 dpi; maximum pixel limitation of 600 pixels) of each page of the letter are included at the end of this document. The letter is part of the Alfred Cunningham Papers held by the Library and Archives of the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina.]

S. S. Statendam After sailing 4/26/31.

My dear Charlie,

Your farewell wire tells me what I have seen: Old Charlie Cunningham continues to be "my" boy; and I am glad & elated & thankful for that; and I meant some more!

Your package of books, too, is in my cabin, and I am delighted to have the fruits of your flock: What difference does it make that you became a printer instead of becoming a forester? The chief thing in life isn't the "what" but is the "how"; doing a common thing uncommonly well; doing it so that it is an inspiration to others; the spiritual life after death being the inspiration given before death. And in

this connection, a cobbler can be as immortal as a poet, and a farmer as deathless as a preacher.

This year, I am leaving the U.S.A. in really great elation: My old boys continue to love me; + they do not mind to show it; + thus my life was worthwhile.

I'll be back in late fall;
Ames and Syracuse and some others
want me for another farewell tour;
and I'll come! If I can come
to Denver, I'll spend a real weekend
with you in the hills; + w'll climb
the highest mountains, and slide down
the other side!

Best regards from the Ollis for you, and for your parents from me. Very sincerely, C. A. Schenk

## **Digital Scans**

S.S. Staturday fut of your flood : Wet difference I was it walken Abol you be come of sinto my den charlie, instead of becaming a forestor? Jana farmed-vin helle The chief thing in life me what I have seen: Old is a "t the "ortat" but is Charlie Cuming how continue the for ; daing a common to be in boy; ow our thing meaning well; doing it so that it is on flat a classed a thought forthet; out ) want from suspiration to other; the spicitual life Ita death Jan podlage of books, liesty the inspiration from too, is in my caling out I am delighted to have there before death. and in

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