MARC Assignment

Running head: MARC ASSIGNMENT

MARC Cataloging of Single Item – MSS Assignment

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Archives and Manuscripts

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School of Library and Information Science – San Jose State University
Introduction

This assignment is an attempt at using MARC encoding to create a bibliographic record for a letter written by Jessie Katherine Marsh Freeman to Cornelius Van Hemert Engert and which was written aboard the SS Nieuw Amsterdam during a voyage from Plymouth, England to New York during the period November 13-18, 1920. I am including a transcript of the letter, in which I attempted to the best of my ability to transcribe as much as I could, though I found some of the writing to be illegible.

The information in the MARC record was found by searching online using Google, the Library of Congress Authorities, the UC Berkeley OPAC (Oskicat), and the Biography Reference Bank. These searches also employed cross-referencing among these resources. Guidance in the proper use of MARC encoding was received from the “MARC Standards” page provided by the Library of Congress.

Note: I did not include anything in the 710 field, as I did not find anything in the letter that would fit there.

Letter from Jessie Katherine Marsh Freeman to Cornelius Van Hemert Engert who was a diplomat with the US State Department on his way to a posting in Tehran. The letter was written on board the ship SS. Nieuw Amsterdam and describes Mr. and Mrs. Freeman’s trip to Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and London. Includes envelope.

Jessie Katherine Marsh Freeman was the wife of Allen Gleason Freeman who was the general manager for the wholesale commission merchant J.K. Armsby Co. in San Francisco, (Calif.). Mr. and Mrs. Freeman lived in Berkeley (Calif.). Cornelius Van Hemert Engert was a career diplomat with the US State Department and an expert on Middle Eastern affairs.

In English.

Collection processed at item level in [year].
610 20$a Holland-America Line.
610 20$a Hotel des Indes (Hague)
610 20$a Manchuria (Ship).
610 20$a Nieuw Amsterdam (Ship).
610 20$a Pacific Mail Steamship Company.
610 20$a Waldorf-Astoria Hotel (New York, N.Y.).

650 0$a Bolshevism.
650 0$a Paris Peace Conference $d 1919-1920.
650 0$a Socialism.
650 0$a World War $d 1914-1918.

700 1#$a Adams, Mrs.

852 The Bancroft Library, $e University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
Appendix A – Sample Page from Freeman Letter

The following image is a sample page from the letter written by Jessie Katherine Marsh Freeman to Cornelius Van Hemert Engert. It is the property of the University of California, Berkeley Bancroft Library and is used with the permission of David de Lorenzo, the Associate Director of the Bancroft Library. Mr. De Lorenzo is also the professor for this course.
Appendix B – Transcription of Freeman Letter

Written in top margin: Have you seen the autobiography of Margot Asquith – I wish I could send it to you. Very interesting.

mid-Ocean – little west – perhaps

SS. Nieuw Amsterdam – d____

Nov. 13, 1920

Dear Mr. Engert,

The additional syllables in the name of this ship describes the voyage – November weather. Cold gloomy and rough seas. The rolling ship filled with everything except the perfume of violets and in addition 2500 of the most uninteresting passengers including 1800 steerage which will be anything but an acquisition for the no. we already have in the USA. You see this is not an optimistic morning. Only the memory of your dear letter and postcard find ___ (___London) from Berkeley – just as in embarking for Plymouth and not opened (in a large packet of mail) until we reached the steamer. Too late to tell Mrs. Adams about your letter: the dear lady went with us to Paddington Sta. to see us off. Had all kinds of nice things to leave with us to make the trip more pleasant besides the very many lovely things she and Dr. Adams did for us the week we were in London. Did you ever know such kindly thoughtful lovely gracious people. They radiate everything that adds to the pleasure of living.

Your good letter of July 27 written some place in the Red hot sea and your card of Aug. 18 rec’d at the same time – I wonder if you will ever reach Tehran – not until the mail I sent will be too old to be of any interest to you – Mrs. Adams said when I left her “when you write Mr. Engert tell him that we talked about him a lot, that John and I have been
worried for fear he is in a very hot climate and conditions all about him are so terrible. We wish he would come home. Give him our love” rcoc(?). On Friday, the day before we left London, Mrs. Adams gave a tea at the English Club for her two nieces, very attractive girls, and there met many interesting people, but none more sweet and attractive than the hostess. Dr. and Mrs. Adams dined with us at the Savoy the day after our arrival and the next afternoon Mrs. Adams came in and stayed for dinner as Dr. Adams had a late lecture. Allen was in bed with a lame foot (gout) and we had dinner served in our room at the side of his bed. Very jolly and informal and Mrs. A did add so much to the pleasure of the evening.

I must tell you – if you can read the ships writing – of our quick trip to Europe in Sept. I have been wanting to go off on a pleasure trip for sometime but Allen’s business demanded a sudden trip to Germany, so he said if I would go with him he would go any place else I wanted in the spring, so we left NY on Sept. 11 on the old Pacific Coast liner “Manchuria” for Hamburg. It was a 12 days voyage but we had such pleasant rooms and the steamer was so “steady going” on the sea. Very tranquil, better than San Fran bay on a spring morning. The whole voyage was a perfect delight and I never dreamed an ocean voyage could be so very restful and enjoyable.

Only 144 1st class, no 2nd class passengers. We had beautiful weather in our travels all over Germany, Denmark and Holland, and after six weeks travel reaching London in a dense fog which lasted pretty much all the week. I could write you much of the conditions all over Europe from our quick but close observations and study but perhaps this letter passing ___ USA and we are still at war, ____ as it may be – with the poor Germans – I had better wait for a while to write. While they are not allowed in our
country we were treated with the greatest courtesy by them. As I look over the ships deck
down at the 1800 steerage passengers and see what quality of intellect the USA is
welcoming to her states and at the same time closing its doors to the greatest German
scientist if he desires to go, it seems an abnormal condition of things. What do you think
about it?

We spent a week at the Hague, Hotel des Indes. It seemed better getting home after our
long stay in 1915. What a very comfortable place it is. While Holland made a good deal
of money after the war and saved the lives of her men also, they told us things are in bad
condition now because of the large no. of men out of employment – the factories not
having the materials to work with and the people are taxed to pay these idle men a
normal wage – as long as they are receiving a normal wage without work they are not
hunting for employment. We visited a very large family at Enschede. They are people of
great wealth and refinement and have large interests in factories in Enschede. They have
an estate of 1200 acres not far from Enschede, a beautiful country home with wonderful
gardens and little things (?). Mr. van Heek is quite restless on account of the possibility of
the government confiscating large holdings and cutting them up and thus destroying the
seclusion of their home. He says the Bolshevistic rule is plainly felt in the Dutch
Government and so he is planning to turn 1000 acres of his estate over to a Reserve
Board (for they of(?)) which is an operation ___ and this present calamity. They are
expecting to visit America (and California) next year as our guests and if you should
happen to be in Berkeley at the same time you would meet two very well worthwhile
Dutch people – very genuine lovely people. You are having a very interesting experience
in your travels and will have to tell us when you come back, as an equal, so ___ write
you(?) are detained long. Will the change of government affect your work – we don’t wish you anything but what you sincerely wish for yourself – you know the pretty saying “your greatest wish, wish I thee” but I cannot refrain from telling you we are glad to hear the news of the presidential elections. We have been reading E.J. Dillon’s “The Inside Story of the Peace Conference” and The Economic Consequences of Peace by Keynes who represented the British ___ at the Conference and we have our ears to the ground to hear the estimate all kinds of intelligent people of Europe give to the part we played all through the war and this Peace Conference. We have read the London Times and Manchester Guardian, the Berlin and French papers or comments from them and it has been educational.

Wednesday Nov. 17/20

We had such a storm last night as we neared the NY harbor. The pilot was due to reach the Nieuw Amsterdam about 11 (?) but on account of a heavy wind which was almost a hurricane he could not get out until about eight this am. No one on board slept last night. I imagine rather a strenuous night for the nice captain and his crew. It did not seem possible any ship could weather such a storm but the night wore on and we are safe this morning and hope to land about noon Friday. The dirty old docks at Hoboken will look pretty good to me, anything that will stand still a moment – you would not mind it a bit probably but I am a fair weather sailor – never a crowded ship again if we can avoid it and we could easily have done so this time by taking an English line. We’ll mail this in NY and hope it will soon be on its way to you – to carry our love and wishes for your continued good health and happiness.
New York, Nov. 18 – we were not surprised to hear they had a heavy wind and rain storm here last night and everything bore evidence of this as we drove through the st. to the Waldorf. We are delightfully ___ here and would better to spend the winter, especially as this morning is like a California spring morning and the street organ man is playing under our window ______.

I wonder where this letter will find you. Please send us a card occasionally to assure us you are safe from the Bolshevists – where will you spend the holidays?

Allen wishes loving greetings to you from the USA. Business conditions here are most depressing. Everyone says that socialism (?) is coming like a whirlwind! What a funny people we are!

Always affectionately,

Katherine Freeman