

## ONLY EXTANT LETTER FROM A VAN STOCKUM GRANDMOTHER

**Letter to Hilda from Grandmother van Stockum, Theresastraat, the Hague,  
1913**

Translated by HvS, September 14, 1999

Dear, dear Hilda,

It was such a surprise to get the beautiful bouquet of flowers with your card on it. Your flowers were the first and will you thank your aunt<sup>1</sup> for me for her help for you could not have been able to do it alone and if it is again my birthday I hope I'll be able to thank my dear grandchildren in person!

And there were those five dear cousins going all alone to Tinteren and happily arrived back healthy and safe – a bit the worse for wear but that doesn't matter. I put your picture on the mantle piece, next your dear father,<sup>2</sup> who wrote me he is longing to see all his darlings again – but has to have patience for another four months.

This afternoon Aunt van Hamel is coming with George Maurice. Do you remember visiting them in Paris? Give one another a kiss and remember that it is Grandma kissing you! Do you remember me, the old lady with white hair, who had such pleasure in the French poems you had to learn from your French nanny?

Goodbye darlings, Willy goes for a few days to Gr[andma? Greece?] so you may come to kiss me. Much love from

Gr[and]ma

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<sup>1</sup> HvS didn't know which aunt when she translated this in 1999 – JTM.

<sup>2</sup> Bram van Stockum, who was at sea with the Navy.