

Letter by Natalie Curtis to Ferruccio Busoni (Far Rockaway/N.Y.,)

Friday
Wave Crest
far Rockaway
New York

Dear Master,— Yes, the announcement of the Inn was offered as bait. But I see it in poor fishing where you are concerned at present! However, the Curtis family does not live at the Inn, but in it's own cottage where I have lived ever since I can remember (and before! – having first come here at the ripe age of 6 months!) But during the winter the Inn was put-up next door to us. When it gets too hot for human endurance in N.Y. you might like to try a cool sea breeze. – Meanwhile, if I would not interrupt you, I will stop in & see you for a moment some day in N.Y. where I have to go for some reading of the Public Library – I meant to go last week, but did not get away, having so much to do here first. I hope that you and your dear wife are well & have not felt the heat too much. I wish that our 90.000.000 were more what you desire in the way of sympathy & interest -

I am glad, nonetheless, to think that you are safe, your family intact, no partings, no separations, no tragedies such as fall to the lot of so many innocent & non-belligerent mortals in these terrible days. I met an obscure Canadian physician not long ago, who had never been abroad, & had no European affiliations of any kind. He had lost both sons in that stand that the Canadian troops made near Ypres, & his wife + daughter, who went to bring back the bodies of the boys, were drowned on the Lusitania! – Yes, I am thankful, dear Master, that you & your wife & children are all safe, even though in an alien land!

I am most keenly interested in what you tell me of the new world, & wish that I could hear it.

The song, by the way, (beaten-hoofed) is a Buffalo-dance Song. I wish that I could do something real to help make the summer more endurable to you & yours. Sending a few songs is very little – if there ever is anything more definite, please count on my friendship.

With my love to your dear wife,

Affectionately yours,

Natalie Curtis