

February 17, 1949

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
Valley Club of Montecito  
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I have just written to Mrs. Stover, sending her an up-to-the-minute list of the Dumbarton Oaks garden Library books. I have given her an extra copy for your files also.

Mrs. Bliss is having a New York binder estimate on re-sewing and re-binding some of the books which need attention and he is supposed to come in with her this afternoon to take the books with him to New York; several of the books now in the Founders' Room are being done over at the same time.

You will be glad to know that I have at long last completed the card list of plants, flowers, trees &c., and am so glad it is finished. It was a laborious task copying the required information from the Rehder and Bailey &c., but I hope you will approve of what I have done.

About the card cataloguing, I am not so happy about this job as I am never too sure I am indexing the proper notations, and some of the authors are so hard to locate in the older books, but I am hoping to get it finished soon.

Washington has been indulging in a pre-showing of Spring and the star magnolia is out as well as some crocuses and the scillas, snowdrops and aconite and the elm trees look as if they were ready to burst. You in California have been getting more than your share of winter and I hope it has not caused you any discomfort. The reports are dire but I hope exaggerated somewhat.

The Bryces are in Florida and trying to make plans for a permanent home there - you have no doubt heard all about this, so I won't go into the matter. Mr. Thacher asked me not to write you about it as he preferred to advise you himself and he tells me he has written you. The situation here is very strained.

Mrs. Bliss has a woman helping her in the Founders' Room cataloguing the material to be retained there. Mrs. Clark, as you may have heard, has really retired ! However, some of those RARE books have found their way back to the Founders' Room, but I have them in my card index.

I just ran across an ad. for a set of Mrs. Woolcott's Wildflowers for \$100.00 by a local dealer in natural history subjects, and brought it to Mrs. Bliss' attention, so she is having the set sent here for examination and no doubt will communicate with you about the desirability of adding it to the Dumbarton Oaks book shelves.



Mrs. Farrand - Page 2.

It has been on the list of possible purchases for sometime and Mrs. Bliss says she can't recall why she didn't buy it when it was offered to her some time ago but she feels you will agree that we ought to have this set.

I hope you have been well this winter and that Miss Walter is also keeping in first-rate condition - I know she is taking extra good care of you and you both must have been exhausted when you got through all the many duties at Reef Point last summer and autumn. Before long you will be wending your back back there again and I know will be welcomed with open arms.

I haven't been to New York since Christmas but want to get up soon before the week-end garden tours start again - I may go up for the New York Flower Show which is always interesting.

With all good wishes and greetings to you and Miss Walters,

Very sincerely,