

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
~~124 EAST 40TH STREET~~
NEW YORK

Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California.

January 13, 1942.

John S. Thacher, Esq.,
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library,
3101 "R" Street,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

Thank you for your letter of the 6th, which has helped to clear the clouds out of the Orangery question. While it is true that no direct order has come from the Board for restricting the flower planting, I quote from a letter from Professor Sachs, which certainly looks as though the Board wanted to cut down on the outdoor work, flowers and so on, and you and I both know that we have been asked to shorten up on the flower plantings.

"I trust you realize that it is our wish to maintain, as far as possible and suitable the general character of the grounds, with particular emphasis on the care and replacement of the trees and shrubs, which, after all, are the essential structure of the grounds, and therefore, should not be neglected.

In view of the uncertainty of these times, it seems to me that, we must review with care and thought each time the question of new planting of flowers comes up. It is naturally my hope that as few changes as possible will have to be made, but until this emergency is over we may have to curtail our activities in many ways which we do not like."

Among the many reasons it does not seem quite wise to use the Orangery is that the plants would have to be moved out next month when Miss Sweeney's classes in botany begin to assemble. Therefore, the change of position would only serve for a few weeks, as the orchids, and so on, would have to be moved down to the lower house as soon as the Orangery was again needed.

Neither you nor Bryce have said that the government was asking private growers to cut down their greenhouses, and if it is not a question of patriotic duty, and only a question of distribution of costs, it would seem much wiser, from a general point of view, to continue as nearly as may be, the present system, so that the "furnishing and decorating" plants could be had at least through this Winter.

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The question of the plants has not again been discussed with Mrs. Bliss as I think she fancies her opinion was told you fairly directly in her telephone conversation.

She is, at the moment, very busy in defense classes and air raid examination, so that there does not seem any immediate need for reopening this subject unless you let me know that things cannot correctly be carried on approximately as they are.

Friends of Mrs. Bliss's tell me that she apparently has no plans for going back to the east for the next month or two, and that she seems convinced that on Mr. Bliss's account, it will be advisable for them to stay here for a considerable length of time.

He gains slowly but apparently satisfactorily. She varies from day to day, sometimes quite calm, and at other times rather overwrought. You may be sure that if it seems advisable to suggest your coming here to speak with the two, you will receive some sort of fairly urgent message from me. I think you know how much my thoughts are with you and Dumbarton in these difficult days.

Yours sincerely,

Beauvoir Trenchard