

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
~~124 EAST 40TH STREET~~
~~NEW YORK~~
Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California.

January 29, 1942.

Mr. John S. Thacher, Executive Officer,
Dumbarton Oaks,
3101 "R" Street,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

You are indeed a delightful person with whom to collaborate, as you are so quick on the uptake and so understanding even of techniques to which you have not already been trained. It seems to me the whole difficulty in the relation between the "heads" and you and me at Dumbarton is that they do not quite understand that a garden is not a static object, and that it must be constantly not only weeded and cared for, but that it must be replanted from time to time in order, like the Red Queen in "Alice," to stay in one place, as otherwise it gets overgrown, untidy and as shabby as one is oneself if one does not wash one's face every day. A letter to Mr. Sachs is being drafted and will be enclosed to you. If you think well of it, post it. If not, consign it to the waste basket, and it can be rewritten after you and I have had the advantage of talking things over on the spot in April.

Some of these days give me an idea of your possible spring plans, if indeed you know them. We expect to leave here about the first of April, and it would look to me as though I might, in all likelihood, reach Washington some time about the 12th of April of a Sunday. I should hope to be in Washington at least three or four days, during which time you and I would at least have scraps of talk, which are always so helpful to me.

Perhaps it would be wise to poke up Miss Sweeney as to her botanic classes since February is approaching and her classes were supposed to begin next month. A note is going to her by the same post to which she may refer when she sees you.

Obviously you have met the question of Bryce's position with your usual kindness and good sense. Mr. Russell says he has had a good talk with you as well as with Bryce, and that both Bryce and Ralph seem more satisfied than they have for a long time past. Naturally, the coming weeks, months and possibly years are not going to be easy ones, and undoubtedly

(P.T.O.)

there will be criticism by the ignorant in keeping up Dumbarton
as it should be kept up in order to maintain it and carry out
the agreements made for its care.

They
People who don't understand the need for constant
care and refreshment of growing things have ~~as~~ little imagination.
~~as people who don't~~ realize that they are dealing with things
that are alive and moving, and not with lovely marble objects which
remain as they are, year in and year out. It is one reason why
gardening is so perennially and perpetually exciting - because
there are always things coming up which make unexpected moves
immediately necessary.

In your recent letter you thought it might do
Mr. Bliss good to go off to the desert, as you remember the
deluges of rain of last year. This January has been mild and
lovely. A bit foggy at times, but both neighbors have been really
well and Mrs. Bliss speaks of his going to the desert some time
when spring has really started and he will get real warmth. There
is nothing to worry about with either of them. My Chief continues
to gain and I seem to plug along with my usual speed.

Yours ever sincerely,

Reinif Tarned

PS. I have written to Mrs. Bliss with regard to the deposit for
Miss Sweeney's salary.

So glad you enjoyed my "Memories"
Lantern Slides.