

BEATRIX FARRAND
~~1650 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point
~~SAN MARINO CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

June 30, 1944

Lieutenant Commander John S. Thacher, U.S.N.
Dumbarton Oaks,
3101 R Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

Again you are a mind reader and your letter to me of June 27th has crossed my letter and memorandum to you sent two days ago. You will have received my notes which are practically the duplicate of yours. However, in order to be really "systematic" - a terrific effort for me - your questions will be answered in your order.

1. Miss Sweeney's vacation may possibly be more wisely taken in winter if the gardens are to remain open in August. Thank you for offering the use of Miss Sweeney's spare time for typing some of the copies of the record book. This should reduce my secretarial account.
2. The herbaceous border is mentioned in my first note, the drawings are ready for it and in your files. Mr. and Mrs. Bliss have decided not to do anything with regard to the herbaceous border wall scheme.
3. The drawings for the ellipse are to be re-worked in consultation with Mrs. Bliss and on the Dumbarton Oaks account.
4. No vegetables are to be planted at Dumbarton Oaks except for the small area reserved for Bryce and Kearney.
5. No planting to be done at the dump.
6. Flowers to be curtailed in the greenhouses and space used for propagation.
7. This note is answered already in my fourth note as Mr. and Mrs. Bliss are willing to grant the use of a plot on their White Haven Street lot.
8. The oaks are to be planted in the Green Garden next spring and possibly Magnolias later. The design to be made for flagging the major part of the Green Garden also agreed upon. Costs will be submitted when drawings are approved.
9. The question of the postcards was also taken up in my notes and will be reported to you.

10. Thank you for the allocation of \$25. for the coming fiscal year for the purchase of garden books for Miss Sweeney to be bought under my direction or by her.

11. If Bryce can get away for two weeks leave to go to Bar Harbor your permission is granted provided the D.O. budget is not responsible for his expenses.

12. You will notice that the second page of my notes reports on the Baker-Bartlett situation and that the tree work is likely to cost less than it has in the past, but I doubt whether the Dumbarton Oaks general budget can count on the elimination of the cost of the full time of one man.

13. It will be most helpful if Kearney can be released from the Army as he seems to be a key man in Bryce's little group. The question of the extra cottage for the garden staff was mentioned to you as it seems both to Bryce and me necessary to put such matters before you, but we quite understand that Mrs. Clark's tenancy of the present little cottage may continue indefinitely.

14. It would be distinctly wise to let the men have the two weeks holiday to which they are entitled. It is not only wise for them to have a relief from their work but they are legally entitled to it even though they are paid double for remaining at Dumbarton. May I say something to Bryce with regard to this as he always is very reluctant to let any of his men go, particularly during the hot "watering" weather. Do you suppose it might be possible to so space the vacations that some of them would come in winter?

15. Like you I hope that Bryce may be able to do without the service of one man but frankly I think this extremely doubtful as the upkeep of the place has suffered even with all Bryce's efforts, and a considerable amount of pruning and thinning must be done in order to preserve the trees and shrubs in good condition, and one item on which we did not touch was the replanting of the south lawn to young oak trees during the coming spring. Preparation for this must be made in advance and of course the tree planting will mean a certain amount of labor.

An additional note was made by me that a study should be put on our agenda for moving the exit drive.

Also that Miss Havey might well come with me next autumn, but that intermediate visits were not thought likely to be necessary.

Of course I well understand that both you and I would like to spend more than possible on the Dumbarton Oaks budget. Both of us are deeply interested and you are very patient in allowing me to be so constant a beggar for the part of the work which is my particular province.

During the course of the coming month, or in August, I hope to make the contribution you mention to Harvard for the garden budget at Dumbarton

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Oaks and I am much obliged to you for allowing me to use a part of this fund for the utility garden books for Miss Sweeney and possibly another part of it toward Bryce's holiday.

Thank you again for your understanding and willingness to see the garden point of view as clearly and sympathetically as you do. We both of us are so deeply interested in different phases of the work at the place that it is a great help to me to be able to make a review with you such as we did in our two brief days together last week. My Chief and I both send you our very best regards and to these please let me add further thanks.

Yours very sincerely,

Randy Farnand