

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

October 20, 1943.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street
Washington, D. C.

Thank you my dearest Mildred for having so quickly replied as to the salesman. Apparently I have left things so late in the season that Max and I have agreed that the trinkets had better return to the safe deposit until we get back in the spring as there would hardly be time for letters to and fro, estimates, etc, but I am keeping your address with care and gratitude.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is of course much on my mind as fairly frequent communications come from Mr. Van Rensselaer, as I am glad to be a safety valve for the poor bethered creature. Quite clearly Mr. McCoy must be getting increasingly difficult as Mr. Van Rensselaer has told me in this recent confidential communication that the disagreeable trustee has now turned against another trustee and is nagging him. Mr. Van Rensselaer does not quite see the reason for the delay in asking for Mr. McCoy's resignation except that the General is so much absorbed by other work that he seems less available for Garden affairs.

They all so light-heartedly say they await my return to Santa Barbara before going over the whole situation with me, but both Max and I are determined to take a two or three weeks rest after we get there, therefore I am afraid they will have to bottle themselves up until I catch breath.

There also seems to be a peculiarly difficult situation between Mr. Lockwood de Forest and the Garden group, as the Director reports also in entire confidence, that ~~he~~ ^{Mr. de Forest} and his father-in-law have spent several days at the Garden apparently re-making the whole garden plan, but nothing was said to the Director with regard to this and he fancies that this new plan is to wait my return and then to be sprung upon the Board. In all likelihood it may be a much better plan than the one made last year, in which case you may be sure it will be enthusiastically supported by me. It also appears from what the Director says that the deForest experience in the camouflage division was a very unhappy one as he could not make himself collaborate and apparently has left the Army embittered and soured. The report is that he and his wife have left Santa Barbara and that he is employed as draftsman in an airplane factory and that they announced before their departure for Los Angeles that they did not expect ever to return to Santa Barbara again. Truly it must be a nuisance to have so temperamental a member of the family and so hypersensitive an individual as to criticism as a part of ones household. One can't help but be sorry for

Mrs. Bliss Oct.20,1943 page 2

him and also for her, as she backs him magnificently and has helped him I fancy more than anyone knows.

A nice letter came from Newton Drury, the head of the National Park Service, with a good word for Dumbarton Oaks Parks and Mr. Harry Thompson, so evidently he still has us in mind, and if you think we are going to have a crack of time in which to see Mr. Thompson Miss Sweeney knows how to get at him, but individually I think we have done everything with him that is needed for this autumn and that the few hours at our disposal should be entirely given to Dumbarton Oaks. The herbaceous border walls, the ellipse, the north vista, and the planting questions - to say nothing of the 28th Street garden - all will take time.

If you happen to think of it remind me to speak of the Santa Barbara situation in odd moments on the Sunday and Monday which lie ahead of me with a sense of happy anticipation. Again thank you for taking time for the address.

Yours ever, & always

Trix