



DUMBARTON OAKS  
GEORGETOWN  
WASHINGTON D.C.

February 10th, 1938.

Dearest Trix,

The golden sun is casting long shadows, while the fresh breeze waves the shining magnolia leaves opposite. Carpets of aconite and little pools of dewdrops are cheating one into really believing that March is not going to destroy us all. The spirea at the Orangerie south door is bursting into leaf; and only last week Bryce sent a note to me on the breakfast tray, "Madam can skate on the pool to-day if she likes" !

It is only now that I am able to turn my attention again to the garden, having been stopped abruptly after my last talk with Miss Havey in December in New York. To enumerate :

Catalogue House Miss Sweeney is back. Various trails are being spaded for supplementary coloured pictures. The Brasher bird collection is amazing, a super Audubon. I wish the Government would buy it. Miss Sweeney or I will report to you later what progress is made.

Orangerie Now that Bryce is taking over Gray's note-books and papers we will discuss means of suppressing the dracaeneas.

Colours for iron-work Those and the dummies are being seen to-day or to-morrow.

Dummies Miss Havey has been asked for the drawings for the north bay of the Herb Garden and the lanterns, and I enclose now for you the rough sketches of the forsythia gate which seemed to Robert and me the most promising. Let me know your reaction, and let us now get to work on this with a will.

The new survey is complete, the wills being drawn and insurance policies in order, so that very soon we could afford to die if we had to !

Obviously the Caroline and William platform seats and inscription must await the building of the arch.



Star Garden

The constellations and lettering are in place and very satisfactory. We should be glad to settle the seat for the Terrior so as to have the use of it this spring and summer.

When are you planning to come east? We want to go off for a week's museum tour the end of March perhaps or early April, and this year we would like to see the Virginia gardens, the tour being arranged from April 25th to 30th. Our last lecture takes place on March 4th. We have a gay wedding party on April 23rd to celebrate Virginia and Bob's silver and our pearl anniversaries, and in May a musical event of real importance, date as yet undetermined, subject matter a surprise! We ought to go to Paris for the Iranian Congress, but think it will be impossible, owing to the celebrations of the Swedish Tercentenary and the presence of our Swedish friends. Aside from this, there are no dates or individual plans. The only thing we want is to stay here and be let alone to enjoy it and fuss over it, destroy papers and do the last trimmings.

Casa Dorinda

Lucking has written a good account of the work accomplished on the north lawn, and says you will send a kodak of the dracaenea, etc. Thank you for your explanatory letter regarding Marra. That issue seems to have been successfully and finally met. I have told Weeks that the Loquat Island need not be suppressed, the cost being altogether too high, and to arrange some ivy to dissimulate the unattractive border and base. I also told Lucking that it was pleasant to hear he had a young hard-working man, and that I saw no reason to increase his wages at the moment, that that might be taken up later on if he proves satisfactory.

Robert has been very pleased with Bryce, with whom he has had several talks, and we both feel that Bryce is sufficiently experienced already (due to the amount of work he did during the last year, owing to Gray's illness) to do far better along the curiously personal lines which are the essential characteristic of Dumbarton Oaks than could a stranger, however able. His heart is certainly in the place, and he has dignity and character, as well as competence in his line, so we have decided to let him carry on, with MacRae as second in command, and if subsequently it appears necessary to have an older man at the head of the place Bryce, being fore-warned, will understand.

We are working on a little tablet which we want to erect to Gray's memory, and when that is ready Robert will use the occasion to give a little talk to the men, which will not only be a tribute to Gray, but a help to Bryce in his relations with them. Mrs. Gray is carrying on admirably, but I think her future plans are not yet clarified. Everybody on the place misses dear Gray's sunny smile, and I can't seem to get used at all to not having him here.

*Gr. coming from  
wilds.*