

November 11, 1949

Comments on recent book purchases for Mrs. Bliss.

We have ordered and expect to receive from Quaritch

- ✓ (1) What is supposed to be a remarkably fine copy of the Elwes Monograph of the Genus *Lilium* which at the devalued rate of 125 pounds amounts roughly to \$375. This book is said to be a good bargain at this price by the Librarian of the Arnold Arboretum.
- ✓ (2) Garden Design at six pounds is a series of plates which is also a good buy at this modest price. *Le Nautre, Le Pautre, Le Blond*
- ✓ (3) One of the strong recommendations of the Arnold Arboretum was to buy the Lambert's Description of the Genus *Pinus*, 3 volumes folio at eighty-five pounds. This is supposed to be one of the most stupendous books on botany ever published in any country.
- ✓ (4) We are also able to get the folio edition of Dyke's definitive book on the Iris species with 48 colored plates at ten pounds and ten shillings.

Three of these purchases have been recommended by the Arnold Arboretum at the prices indicated by Quaritch, and the Garden Design was a purchase I knew was worth while from its title and its engravers.

From Staack in Camden we have recently bought:

- ✓ (1) An uncommon book speaking of Royal villas and chateaus in Augsburg for \$95. *Kleiner*
- ✓ (2) What seems to be a remarkably good purchase is a big collection of views by Rigaud in their original state bound together in an old binding. If Reef Point had not had a considerable number of the Rigaud reproductions which Mrs. Bliss admired while she was here I should have annexed the Rigaud for this place as it seems to me it is a really "capital" book for the Founders Room and I am sure Mrs. Bliss will be pleased with it.
- ✓ (3) The Demortain of Versailles is interesting and worth while because it contains many of the earlier Louis XIII views of Versailles before Louis XIV began his vast changes. Both this Demortain and the Rigaud have of course a few stains and a few torn corners, but as the books are over 200 years old and the plates are mostly in very good condition the prices seemed to me unusually favorable at \$137.50 and \$135. respectively.
- (4) The Le Bouteux is a good collection of designs of different gardens and although its price is not as favorable as the extremely inexpensive Rigaud, it seemed to me worth the sum which Staack asked. Also Mrs. Bliss may like to know that by bargaining the prices of the books from Staack were reduced about \$50.00.

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Among the books of less importance but worth while is a standard
✓ book by Audto on the composition of gardens of Paris 1859.

✓ A very uncommon book is the Barriere, Ville Aldobrandina, which is
so rare that it took the collator a considerable time to find it
in searching through certain libraries.

✓ Also a collection of Swedish Gardens and palaces, hand colored
engravings, including a few of Augsburg. *Müller*

✓ The last item is a book on Fetes at Versailles, published in 1723,
this also is a very rare item and seemed a good purchase at \$75.

Pierre. Père de Bretagne