

June 15, 1944.

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I have your letter of the 12th asking me to send you some notes on matters needing to be discussed when you reach Washington. I had been holding them against your coming to Dumbarton Oaks, but inasmuch as you want to have them beforehand, I submit some of them herewith:

First, all the inscriptions on the various plaques and seats/ I have finally got the quotation on the Wistaria Arbor fountain from Mrs. Clark, but as yet have not got those on the marble benches on the Forsythia steps and on the knoll overlooking the Hazel Walk. Then, the source of the quotation on the Zodiac Court and some information regarding the Terrior column and Iron swing.

No, I have never had any pictures of the house or the garden before the face-lifting job. Mrs. Bliss promised to look up for me the quotation in the Catalogue House from Mrs. Kellogg's poems but has never done it.

You know we talked of picture post cards of the gardens and I have had so many requests for them, also for a little map of the grounds, or a descriptive booklet. Mrs. Bliss promises we shall have them but when I mention them to Miss Carpenter there is only a raising of the eyebrows and dead silence.

Mrs. Bliss still defers all matters regarding books to Mrs. Clark and I don't want to go through such an unpleasant experience as I had the day you left last Autumn when Mrs. Clark threatened to throw all the books in my direction. I don't want it mentioned to anyone but it seems no matter what I say it's the wrong thing. So I've made up my mind to ask Nothing. Mrs. Bliss purchased a set of Addisonia from the N.Y. Botanical Garden and has told Mrs. Clark she would purchase a set of Sargent's Silva if one can be found. She asked me to write the Horticultural Society in New York to see if they had any knowledge where such a set might be obtained. Mrs. Clark says it is Mrs. Bliss' desire to build up the Garden Library but certainly Harvard has no such plans as far as I can gather.

Our Sunday garden tours are over for the summer. Suddenly Mr. Thacher gave notice they were to be discontinued as the Polish Relief is having a fete this coming Sunday and the use of grounds, pool and Orangery, and following that other United Nations are to be given the use of the grounds on various Sundays. The week-day tours will continue until I go on my holiday--probably in August.

I don't see the Garden Club Bulletin any more so have not been able to read about composts. It may be very interesting but I do not find that

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the people who come to see the gardens are anxious to learn anything. Sundays I have not taken anyone around as there have been too many to handle and we have told everyone to walk around on their own. I was keeping the last reports for you but will enclose them with this so you may see the number of visitors we have had this Spring.

I have secured several Addisonia prints from the Botanical Garden-- several of which I have been anxious to get and will mount and have them lettered. I am making an alphabetized list of the complete set of plates which we have through Mrs. Bliss.

I am glad to be able to report that a great deal more interest seems to be evidenced when I have plates on display in the Orangery and the various magazines and books of reference. Especially on Sundays a great many come in and ask questions and I find it helpful to have Bailey, Hortus, the wild flower and bird books &c. Some of them never get down as far as the Catalogue House without a guide but Bryce seems to think someone ought to be on hand in the Orangery to answer questions and give directions, and he and an officer wander about the grounds to see that everything is all right.

Regarding the planting of the Museum Court - I guess I forgot all about it as it is so shut off from us that I never think of it as being part of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens. I will try and get it for you from Bryce or ask him to let me in there long enough to make some notes.

Please don't think me a chronic fault finder - somehow I hate to put such things to paper - they always sound much worse than if I could talk to you about them, but I find even my most innocent remarks are so distorted in the re telling that I think it wiser to stay dumb.

If you can think of any books that Mrs. Bliss might purchase, let me know what they are, as long as she is in a philanthropic mood - certainly Harvard isn't inclined to give any money to the Garden Library. Publicity has been very good this Spring in the papers and I think our Sunday visitors were the most appreciative of the opportunity of seeing the gardens.

You will be starting south about the time you get this, so don't think too much of the little worries here - they will probably iron themselves out ere long. I will be so glad to see you again and hope you are feeling quite tip-top. Please give my best greetings to Mr. Farrand, Mrs. Stover and Miss Walters as well as the rest of the family at Reef Point.

Very sincerely,