

July 12th, 1938.

Miss Dorothy Kingsford,
c/o Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
Dumbarton Oaks,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dorothy:

Your letter of the 21st of June meandered around the country as my California mail was at that time being forwarded to Bar Harbor. It now comes to me here, but I am quite uncertain how long I shall be here, probably about another week or ten days.

The correspondence from Mrs. Reid is enclosed and I have kept copies. Evidently, from what Mrs. Reid says, her gardener is the great Edwin Beckett, a very well-known English horticulturist and one of the best gardeners now living. It will be a shame if he is out of a place. I fancy his salary would be high, but he has done a splendid piece of work at Mrs. Reid's.

With regard to the Nerines, I will write to one of my "victims" in Delaware and see whether he would be interested in the bulbs, but of course it is very difficult to know whether or not to counsel their purchase as Mrs. Reid gives no price. Do you suppose it would be possible to get a price from Mrs. Reid? Here the bulb grower is unable to supply true Nerines but large similar bulbs are \$6.50 per 100, medium size \$4.50 per 100. I should think Mrs. Bliss, from the point of view of association, as well as from the quality of the bulbs which seems to me really first rate, might like to buy 6 or 8 of the pots for her own use, provided Mrs. Reid's price does not seem too great for Dumbarton to compass.

It was nice to hear that my two friends were less tired than when I last saw them. I fear, however, the strain of the illness of the Swedish royalty, the disappointment of their necessarily postponed visit, and the present royal "hoorush" may increase their fatigue. The two Farrands have just returned from a life-giving fortnight in the North--such forests and rivers and lakes, and such magnificence of foliage I have never seen anywhere, and as for the flowers in Victoria, it was a sort of continuous "Chelsea Flower Show" performance from beginning to end.

As Dr. Millikan's illness affects our plans intimately, I shall certainly wait here a few days and see how things go before making any decision as to departure.

With very best to you, and affectionate thought of Dumbarton and all it means, as well as fondest messages to my dear Milrob, I am

Yours affectionately,

BF:KCE

COPY of Mrs. Ogden Reid's letter to Mrs. Bliss, 5/26/38;

Dear Mildred:

Harry du Pont has written me that he told you of our collection of Nerines that we would like to sell because we are closing down Mrs. Reid's greenhouses. I understood from him that you were interested, and if you would like to have any more detailed information I shall be delighted to send it to you.

Do you by any chance know of any one who would like a good gardener? Mrs. Reid had an excellent man who I am trying to help find a place. I can not recommend him too highly, both as a man and a worker.

I loved your picture postcard and the view of your garden made me all the more sad at having missed your party.

Affectionately yours,

COPY of Mrs. Bliss' letter to -

Mrs. Ogden Reid,
15 East 84th Street,
New York City.

June 2, 1938.

Dear Helen:

Thanks for writing me about the Nerines. I should be very glad to have more information regarding the lot you want to dispose of, their quantity, age, price, etc.

It the gardener you are trying to place Mrs. Reid's head man - a superintendent or an actual flower grower? If you will, tell me what wages he receives and the type of work he has done, our Mr. Bryce might be of help in finding him a place. I spoke of him on Long Island to a few friends I saw at Alexandra Moore's, and wonder whether the National Association of Gardeners or Marshall Field's man might not be of assistance. One does so dread having competent retainers find themselves without work.

Many messages to you both from both of us.

Affectionately yours,

COPY of Mrs. Ogden Reid's letter June 16th to Mrs. Bliss:

Dear Mildred:

Here is the list of Nerines as it was given to me by Beckett.

Brownie and I had such a delightful time last night and the small boy will long remember the beauty of your grounds and your home. In spite of his silence he absorbed a great deal and he was full of conversation on the way home.

Many, many thanks to you and Robert from us both.

Affectionately yours,

LIST OF NERINES

16 - 7"	pots, averaging 8 bulbs to a pot
34 - 6"	" " 7 " " "
40 - 5"	" " 6 " " "
248 - $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4"	" " 4 " " "
80 - 3"	" " 3 " " "
90 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3"	" several small bulbs

Practically all the above listed Nerines are the variety Fothergilli, bright red in color. *

The numbers given as the average to a pot represent approximately the number of large bulbs in that size pot. Each pot also contains some smaller bulbs.

Large bulbs will measure 2 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.

* Brick or tomato red.