

For Miss Sweeney

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Reef Point
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Bar Harbor, Maine.

September 8, 1941

Mr. James Bryce
3203 S Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bryce:

You will I know realize what a help and pleasure it has been to have Miss Sweeney here for the last two or three days. We have been carefully over a good deal of her work and have laid out a tentative "route of parade" for one of her guide service tours. It will of course have to be somewhat flexible and vary from time to time as we will need to take into account the condition of the plants as well as the type of person whom she is guiding around the garden. Undoubtedly her work and guiding will be at regular hours, perhaps two or three days a week, in either morning or afternoon as it may best be arranged. She and I are laying out a possible journey around the place which will give her enough time for a short introductory talk in the Orangery and about an hour's walk around the grounds.

The journey as we are mapping it out would include passing through the Beech terrace, the Box terrace, down the Box walk to the Ellipse and so to the Catalogue House - where there will be a brief pause and some of the material exhibited and discussed, - then back byway of the Bird walk between the two vegetable gardens to the herbaceous border, by the orchard steps to the north gate of the rose garden, through the rose garden (taking a look over to the Fountain terrace) out the south gate of the rose garden and around the south lawn to the east gate. This route can be reversed if it is thought better.

You will see that the class will in all likelihood go up to the rose garden through the orchard from the herbaceous border and I wish you would take a look at this problem and see whether it would be very much of an undertaking to widen these orchard steps and perhaps make them a little easier so that the class wouldn't fall down or get sprained ankles on the way!

Of course, as you will see, a good deal of the place is being omitted, such as the Open Air Theatre, Melissande, etc. Some places definitely will have to be left out on account of time and others, like Melissande, are not advisable because the walk down the Alle' is too narrow.

Miss Sweeney and I have also gone over the question of the arrangement of the Catalogue House and its necessary changing (which will of course have to be more frequent than in the past) and as she and I both think

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that her hours will be fairly regular I am sure you can arrange for her to have some one carry down and back some of the material to the Catalogue House at regular hours on regular days.

If Miss Sweeney is to be given the use of the Orangery for her classes it is of course clear that there must be some sort of at least rudimentary storage place nearby in which some of her display fixtures can be kept. I should think a cupboard not more than two or three feet square and perhaps four or five feet high would be sufficient as she and I have worked out a sort of folding stand which will allow her to show her group two or three each of the various Catalogue House exhibits (trees, shrubs, flowers) plus three or four vases which will have cut material in them - whether branches, buds, flowers or leaves.- Miss Sweeney will be able to let you know the day before her class meets what material she will need and the collection of it ought to be comparatively simple; or in fact she may collect some of it herself on her preliminary tour if you can help her as to the storing of the vases, perhaps in the flower room, and getting out and putting away the stand she will need for the Catalogue House card display. It will also probably be necessary to have the classes met at the East gate and brought up to the Orangery by one of your men.

Another thing that I am sure will interest people, whether adult or children, will be from time to time to have some object lesson, as to the difference between a tuber, a corm, a laminated bulb like onion or narcissus, a tulip and a rhizome, so that sometimes she would ask you for material of this sort. Perhaps at other times she would want various members of the Rose family, such as Apple, Strawberry, Hawthorn and Rose, whether flower or fruit.

Other suggestions which we have discussed from the point of view of education are the addition of a few species rose plants to the north rose hill (the total cost could not amount to over \$10.) For instance *Rosa damascena* and *centifolia*, in which one could include the White Rose of York, *Rosa gallica* and the York and Lancaster rose, and the Moss Rose and possibly the Scotch rose (*R. spinosissima*) if all or some of these are now lacking from your collection. They would interest both grown-ups and children as few people realize that the old Damask rose is so called from Damascus whence it was supposed to have been brought to Europe, and that the White Rose of York is a hybrid of *centifolia* and *alba* and is identically the same as the one that was used as an Emblem for the War of the Roses. All of this sort of odds and ends of incidental information interests people even though they may not be horticulturists. I am suggesting to Miss Sweeney that she also inform herself as to the use of some of the woods which the children or grown-ups will see as they go a round the place, and whence some of the trees came, what their names are and why they are called by such names, and all the various scraps which you have known and perhaps forgotten years ago.

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These are just told you in passing so that you may get an idea of what we have been talking about in the last few days. Clearly it is going to take time to organize the guide service wisely and to see what groups are likely to be most frequently guided.

You will also be interested to know that I have written Mr. Thacher a couple of days ago asking him to have in mind the possibility of enlarging Miss Sweeney's working place and quarters. It is going to be rather a tight fit for her and you in the small room and I have therefore suggested to Mr. Thacher perhaps taking some part of the Bliss store rooms to the south of your room and adding a toilet and wash stand for her use and giving her more storage space without interfering with the work space you must have.

I have also reminded Mr. Thacher that at one time he and I spoke of Miss Sweeney having the use of the laundry and asking him whether the laundry is to be used or whether conceivably it now could be turned over to Miss Sweeney. It has of course been impossible to follow all of these different alterations of plans with Mr. Thacher during the summer therefore I don't know how unchangeably the use of the laundry is now determined.

Miss Sweeney may need another photostat map of the place on which she can outline her tour to show her hearers where they are going and what they are going to see. This of course will have to be settled later on when the route has made itself more clear as a result of trial and error.

You will I know like to hear that Mrs. Bliss approved the tentative report made for Harvard on the Dumbarton situation so now I must work it into shape, and of course you will have a copy of it for your records.

It is hard to know just when I shall be in Washington as several members of my household are taking a really much needed holiday and rest and until Mr. Farrand is stronger and able to drive and walk about more normally I shall of course not feel like leaving him as it would be both very tiresome and bad for him to be left alone.

This letter will go to you in advance of Miss Sweeney as she is spending tomorrow at the Arnold Arboretum and will therefore not reach Washington until Wednesday. She is taking a carbon of this letter with her in order to save repetition to her. I have asked her to take the answer to this letter herself so as to save you bother in writing as there are one or two replies that seem fairly urgent.

Yours ever sincerely,

Miss Sweeney will tell you that Mrs. Bliss's friends, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Elmhirst of Dartington, are going to be in Washington probably between the 10th and 14th of this month and I have suggested that they communicate with her or with you as they want very much to see the gardens again.