

Dealer

July 16, 1942

Mr. Jan de Graaff  
Oregon Bulb Farms  
Sandy, Oregon

Dear Mr. de Graaff:

You may think that I have forgotten your willingness to reserve some fine trumpet daffodil bulbs for possible use in the National Picture Gallery in Washington. This, however, is not the case as I have tried over and over again to get an answer from the National Gallery executive committee as to whether or not we of the Dumbarton Oaks-Harvard group are to grow for the Gallery. Committees are proverbially slow in moving and this National Gallery Committee seems to be slower than any other I have ever met even in the Colleges. I can't make up my mind to release you from the possibility of our needing the bulbs and I am therefore enclosing a list to you of what I have submitted to them in the hope of their accepting. If most of these sorts have already been sold out will you cast your eye over what approximate equivalents you think you could supply and what their total cost would be. Undoubtedly the Committee think all they have to do is to say on the 1st of November that they want daffodils in December, but you and I know that this is not the case and that we must have a decision and order our bulbs without any more delay than absolutely necessary.

Will you also look at the list of bulbs ordered for James Bryce at Dumbarton Oaks and see whether you could furnish in the approximate sorts some 200 or 300 more as I am told by Mr. Bryce that Harvard may by some financial arrangement be growing bulbs for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss. These are my two major problems and worries at the moment. The others are comparatively simple and can be easily disposed of.

In the first place tell me what you would suggest for one or two hundred daffodils, preferably of the whites, for the cottage at Santa Barbara if Mr. Farrand and I have the good luck to be able to go West again for this winter. As the cottage does not belong to us we naturally want to be as economical as possible and I am wondering whether 100 or 150 of the mixed short cups would be our "best bet".

Finally, I think we shall need some yellows for Reef Point, approximately of the same sorts as those ordered last autumn. As you have my list of Leedsii's perhaps I might add a few more sorts that I have not planted here. You may like to know that May Maloney, Poldhu, Snowdrift, Tenedos, Marmora and Primrose Girl were quite spectacular, with Stateliness, Sublime and Comrade not far behind.



Mr. de G. 7/16/42 -2

I also am strongly tempted to try some *Ixiolirion pallasii* here but as Mr. Bailey says ferociously that it is absolutely not hardy I quail before his often inaccurate information. What do you think? Would ten be worth while just as a try out?

I shall also need for Reef Point ten *Iris reticulata*, and I would like you please to help me as to which of the small Daffodils, such as *bulbocodium*, would be best worth while in this boreal climate. I tried *minimus*, *minor* and *nanus* and none of them were satisfactory and I think you told me you were not surprised as they were by no means easy to grow. Our *bulbocodiums* seem to be doing well but I have doubt about *lobularis*, *moschatum*, etc.

You may like to know that where the Universities are cutting down in every direction all my University "children" have allowed me to place the daffodil orders with you and each one has said to me separately that they think the early bulbs and what they do for the students and visitors to the Universities is an asset which no University could afford to neglect. I think you may like to know this as in these days of drastic economy, anxiety and danger it should be a pleasure to you to hear what you are contributing to many thousand University and College students and visitors in different parts of the world.

With sincerest good wishes and hoping you do not feel this letter will be troublesome to answer, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

A regular order for all of these different inquiries will be sent you properly as soon as your reply is received.

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