

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

New Haven Lawn Club  
New Haven, Conn.  
Jan. 3, 1941.

Mr. John S. Thacher  
Resident Director, Dumbarton Oaks  
3101 R Street  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

The kindly authorities at Princeton and Chicago have acceded to my suggestion as to proposed dates and I therefore hope to be available for Dumbarton on the morning of Friday January 17th, and shall arrive at the Shoreham the previous evening in order to be fresh for our work the next day.

In our talk we should consider the new situation at Dumbarton primarily with regard to what seem to us essentials and non-essentials looked at from the point of view of a necessarily somewhat impersonal institution rather than from the intensely personal point of view of owners who have poured themselves and their hearts into the design of the grounds as well as the arrangements of the house and collections. For example, it would seem to me a great pity to let the flowers in the gardens be reduced to such a point as to make a noticeable change and blank in the general aspect of the grounds, but I am sure that certain economies can be made without altering the skeleton of the design, and that certain re-plantings should be considered from the point of view of long-distance planning.

As the new establishment is primarily educational it would seem to me distinctly advisable to make provision for the carrying on of the Catalog House and possibly still further development. This enterprise of Mrs. Bliss's has been a real use in helping the visitors to identify plants, trees, and shrubs and it would seem to me as though the neighboring schools could well be encouraged to bring classes to the grounds and the Catalog House. This is but one of the many facets of the new Dumbarton of which I should like to speak with you.

A note is going by this same post to Bryce telling him with what pleasure I look forward to the interview with you and how I hope he will prepare a few notes for our meeting, which will undoubtedly help both you and me.



Mr. Thacher page 2 Jan.3,1941.

If the budget has been approved by the authorities at Harvard and I may learn what the Committee has in mind it will help me to a better perspective of the new problem if the Committee decide they wish me to try to help them.

Looking forward to seeing you and the new, and yet old, Dumbarton in two weeks time, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Beaury Tarrand*

P.S. The friendly welcoming letter has just come and I shall be glad to come to what you so pleasantly call "my room at Dumbarton" for the night of Thursday the 16th, and shall hope to arrive at about 6:30 from Princeton, and perhaps you and I could have a few minutes talk in the early evening if you will get in touch with me and allow me to dine with you without putting on a "ball dress". The next day I must take the five o'clock train for Chicago as the University has been neglected there the last few months. If Mr. Finley wants to see me I shall be very glad to have a little talk with him, perhaps on the way to the railway station in the afternoon.

With renewed good wishes ~~that~~ this New Year and all the others that are ahead of Dumbarton Oaks, and looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you and discussing the old and yet new problems of Oakdom, I am,

Yours sincerely,

BF