

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

April 6, 1950
47/2

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Dearest Mildred:

Your Jamaica post cards refreshed me as the visit refreshed and rested you, a ten hours sleep is a real achievement.

What do you think of giving us a sight of you at Reef Point at the end of next June? It would be lovely: alas we no longer have a spare room as good Clementine needs a competent helper in summer for the endless dusting, tray carrying, etc. so I am moving her into your room and putting the aid in her old room, but wherever you are on the island you are my guest, and no arguments!

You will think me a troublesome croaker, but it seems necessary to tell you again what you already feel and know. The interest in the garden, books, records and outdoor is really an artificially stimulated one by you in Mr. Thacher's mind. The big collection of Dumbarton Oaks drawings which is going to Dumbarton Oaks very soon is of real value as few places have so long a carefully kept record of attempts, accomplishments and failures. For the art of landscape these records are worth while and they should be kept safely, catalogued and protected. There is no question of whose designs they are, their value lies in the long series of years they cover in the work done on a place that hopes to be permanent. There is going to be real difficulty in keeping the garden unit - perhaps this has already been legally attended to, but if not, your croaking friend urges an arrangement which will assure the separate and agreed upon measures to keep garden and garden centre going, instead of being sucked into Cambridge.

If you are willing to let me have an eye to the book buying as even Miss Shillaber may not catch the significance and the real value of certain books for the collection. For instance Suecia Antiqua does not compare in value to the Repton volume which has been suggested by Quaritch and which has been recommended heartily to Mrs. Willgoose.

Mr. Bullard has had one of the stupid virus colds since he got back, so I have not seen him, but he sent a copy of your letter. How generous you are to the garden, it is worth it and is hard pressed for funds. So you are off to the Isles of Greece again. What splendid energy, a vivid and darling person you are, and Uncle Roberto too. Your holiday must have been perfect.

Your ever devoted

Trix

Jm.s.