

August 28, 1937.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
Casa Dorinda,
Hot Springs Road,
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dearest Dumbarton Twin:

Do angelically help me with a short dictated letter as to some of the Dumbarton work. Miss Haven met me with a number of drawings that you and she had worked over and I have tried to piece together the information acquired from questions to Miss Haven, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Davis a clear idea of some of the schemes spoken of by Miss Havey, but some of them still remain nebulous and I need your help. A short note will be sufficient, but I do need that in order to walk hand in hand with you in the direction you have in mind. Miss Havey's list is full of excitement and novelties. I append a copy.

1--Wood top for lead and iron table.

Quite understood.

2--Orion and Bootes Chairs.

A question comes to my mind as to whether wood panels can be inserted in these rather slender iron frames without being so much heavier in material as to look somewhat clumsy. Then too, what is to happen to the old panels if the chairs with their new wooden backs are to be used at Territor? No drawings for that work have been sent me by Miss Havey.

3--Bases for terra cotta urns.

Cheers.

4--Pedestal for Lead Vases--

Frankly, I am delighted that you have decided to discard these. They never seemed to me happy north of the Music room with its very quiet elevation.

5--Base for lead soldiers.

No drawing or photograph received from Miss Havey.

6--Lantern for Green Garden--

The position of the lantern seems to me a stroke of genius. It will give a light where it is needed, and effectively. Am I right in thinking the existing overthrow which Mr. Davis tells me is to be used is a little commonplace in its design and that it may not compare in the least favorably in its workmanship with the really good neighboring gates in the green garden? I feel a little hesitant about using this fragment, as

I remember it. The quality of the iron work on your piece does not seem to me as spirited as the gates nearby. Might it be more far-sighted to have a simple new overthrow made which in its quiet design would harmonize better with the simple step railing?

7--Lantern near garage driveway.

A most happy suggestion. The steps have always seemed to me dangerous, and Mr. Davis tells me they have proved so this summer. The actual design for the lantern does not quite explain itself to me. Is the heavy wood post and ship's lantern type of sketch which Miss Havey has sent me actually what you have in mind or is it merely a stop-gap suggestion? It doesn't seem to me very fortunate and there are many other designs that might be used.

8--Lettering for new forsythia seats.

Accepted as drawn. Use different type for "To Caroline and William". See script E Arbor bookcase.

No drawings of this have been sent me. Has this already been carried out as I imagine, or would you like me to see the drawings?

9- Fence panel near Lilac Circle--

The scheme seems to me quite charming. A caution has gone to Miss Havey to see that the tops roughly sketched in the memorandum sent me are not too much like the attractive baroque column tops in the green trellis. It would seem to me a distinct mistake to repeat or recall that construction. Mr. Davis tells me that it would be entirely impossible to finish this unit by the first of October as Miss Havey intimates is expected. Individually it seems to me as though slight modifications in this drawing are possibly advisable. What do you think?

10-Wall outside Music Room.

Again the sketch sent me seems to me entirely promising. I understand from Miss Havey the masque console has been eliminated and that Coles has the order to proceed from the accepted dummy. The bench on the office side seems to me open to question. In the first place the space is comparatively narrow between the wall and walk, and the design rather complicated in its use of three materials in so small a space. Mr. Davis tells me the bench on the music room side was dummied nearly ten feet along with an elaborate back applied to the wall. The drawing for this has not been sent me, so no comment is possible.

11-Forsythia Gateway.

Execute before October 1st.

Mr. Davis tells me it will be absolutely impossible to finish this gate by the first of October, and that furthermore you have sent him word that you wish actual execution delayed. With your usual perspicacity you have

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probably thoughtfully questioned the use of this particular design, and if I am guessing the trend of your mind accurately, are doubting the wisdom of using a north vista motif of this size and scale in this particular position even though it is to assume a vastly more important function than it now has. Mr. Davis tells me no construction drawings had come to Washington before his departure.

12-Herb Garden--north balcony.

This seems to me as I remember it very much what we spoke of in May. No drawings have been sent to me by Miss Havey for this.

13-Lovers Lane gate posts --(a complete blank)

14-Lead leaders-- no drawings from Miss Havey

15-Legs for the Terrior seat.

Mr. Davis tells me this work is now being done and that you are thinking of trying it on the terrace steps east of D.

16-New Swing seat for Terrior.

You may imagine how my eyes popped out of my head when this typical merry-go-round seat appeared. You will have to help me as to the reason for having one seat face away from the view you had so delicately achieved by the placing of the roof. With only the rough sketch at hand I hear the brazen music of the mechanical calliope, and should expect the whole Terrior to start revolving. No further drawings have been sent to me, nor the photograph and estimates which have doubtless been dispatched to you. No second choice of design has appeared.

17-Sun dial. No sketches or photographs.

18-Top rail for Box terrace bench. No drawings

19-Finalities. Ledd monogram to pediment. As soon as Miss Havey spoke of the monogram it seemed as though the right answer had been found to the decoration of this pediment boss. The whole unit is classical and rather solemn in design and I cannot help thinking that lead is not quite a noble enough material to be used for this particular unit. Miss Havey says she entirely agrees with me and wonders why she did not think of it sooner, but she fears it has already been executed. I am writing Mr. Coles suggesting that he halt any possibly unfinished work until further advice. There is also a question in my mind as to the confusion of line of the monogram design.

20-Base for Stuart watch. This suggestion was known to Mr. Davis, but has received no drawings.

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| 21-Peacock for Beech Terrace wall. | No suggestions |
| 22-Base for St. Michael | " " |
| 23-Forsythia Gateway decorations | " " |
| 24-Melissande Steps | " " |
| 25-Front Door--South front lintel | " " |
| 26-"History" tablet | " " |
| 27- Placing of 2 rats, 2 squirrels, 2 borogroves. | No suggestions |
| 28-Base for boudoir cabinet. | No suggestions. |
| 29-Lantern near Music Room terrace steps. | No suggestions. |

Among the notes over which you and I toiled in May there are two or three that have apparently not been thought as urgent in July as they seemed in May.

30-Unicorn base.

31-Designs for north vista. Consideration of these two units seems to me most urgently needed.

Things to be considered later.

32-Lead tubs at Madame Yew

33-Finals for the south side of D

34-Changes discussed for the lamp brackets on the north facade of the orangery.

35-Changes in entrance road.

36-Treatment of the loggia

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37-Garage weather vane

38-Dipping well

39-Dove cote

40-Urgent. Housing of the stone objects, as Jonah, etc.

41-Urgent. Choice of paint, colors for the various garden units.

42-Street lamp from Williamsburg.

It would be a miracle of help if we could be together for a day or two. Let me know what your California leaving plans are so that if I do not have to return to France (which at present seems to be hardly likely) I could perhaps see a clear way for California if I am needed in Chicago for any urgent University work. The chances of a California visit are not good, but I know you want as much as I do to go over some of these doubtful questions before any unchangeable steps are taken. If you are to be in California as late as the tenth of October it would increase the chances of our meeting there, and I do particularly want to see Casa Dorinda with you.

Lucking tells me you and Robert seem pleased with the Santa Barbara changes. Have you succeeded in disposing of the property? Is there anything you and I should have in our twin minds?

Do forgive so wretchedly long a letter which is miserably dry and "business" in its contents. The best personal news is that dear golden Max has come ancouple of days ago and that makes all the difference in the world. No news of any import from Elisina and equally no news from the New York lawyers. As soon as there is any and as soon as my plans can be made you will know, perhaps even before I do.

Your always fond