

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

June 23, 1948

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

Dearest Garden Twin:

There is no question that the Phytanthoza is a very splendid book and worthy of a place in the Dumbarton Oaks collection. It is one of the key books in illustration. The reason it was not instantly urged was that I was not sure how the prices averaged with those of recent sales. These comparative prices have been sent to Miss Sweeney and a copy is now sent you so that you may see whether you feel it worth while to spend the \$500. if the book is in first-rate condition and proves itself correct after collation.

Perhaps you already have Mrs. Walcott's "North American Wild Flowers", a copy has been offered in five new portfolios for \$100. This was published at \$150. and is an excellent book and also worthy of inclusion at Dumbarton. On account of your friendship with the Walcotts I thought possibly you might already have it and so have not made any move toward its purchase. Let me know if you think Dumbarton would like to have it.

Let me know later how your summer plans turn out and whether you look eastward or westward for the immediate moment. Some time you really should come here to see our little azalea show which begins on the first of April with the lavender magenta pink early Korean sort, and wanders through the early and late pinks, the whites like those in Washington, and then the oranges and scarlets, and ending with the sweet-scented swamp honeysuckles in the end of July. Some day it would be nice if you could see at least a piece of these.

Things go well at Reef Point but of course more slowly than one would like, but they are actually plastering in the blueroom today and it seems as though we might move in within a fortnight or so, and a librarian from Harvard is coming to show us how to catalogue our books.

With devoted love to you and dear Robert, Always yours,

Trix.

*It was heartening to hear your voice & makes me realize with a pang what I am daily missing.*

Phytanthoza iconographia.

Report from Miss Caroline Shillaber of the Robinson Hall  
Library of Harvard University.

"There is no doubt about the intrinsic value of the work not only in the plants included but in the early colored plates, but the price is rather high according to all prices at which it has been listed by British booksellers, even allowing for variable factors such as changing rates of exchange, post-war increases in general, and condition of the volumes. Dulau of London who offered a copy (lacking 27 plates) in 1940 for £30, states, as did the extract from Dunthorne, that the Ratisbon edition had, in addition to the 1025 plates, 3 mezzotints, portraits of Weinmann and Bieler, and allegorical flora. I have enclosed a list of all the copies offered for sale in England since 1930 and many of them have 1025 plates. It certainly would be advisable to inspect it because the number of volumes differs from most of the copies listed, although that could be due to whimsy of the binder".

Chaundy	1930	27 pounds
Salamander	1930	eighteen pounds
Spencer	1930	29 pounds
Spencer	1931	19 pounds
Comins	1932	21 pounds
Quaritch	1937	17 pounds
Wayne	1939	21 pounds
Thorp	1933	18 pounds
Dulau	1940	30 pounds