

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

May 19, 1950

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

Dearest Mildred:

A copy of the letter which is going to Mr. Williams is being sent you and a copy will also be addressed to Mr. Thacher to await his return. This preamble will tell you that the mass of material which will go to Dumbarton Oaks from here carries with it a formidable task in the way of collating, cataloguing and filing, as I expect to send not only all the drawings, sketches, negatives and photographs in our files, but also all the correspondence for as many years as it has been kept. In this way the whole unit will be at Oakdom and will be of more value than if simply the plans were sent without the accompanying letters. It may be a task rather beyond Miss Sweeney's training, although she can undoubtedly start the filing of the correspondence and so on. Therefore, as you will see from the letter to Mr. Williams, he is being asked to whom to turn for help in this regard. Possibly the American Institute of Architects at the Octagon in Washington could give some help.

It is sad to have had to refuse the royally long in advance invitation for the dinner party in memory of the founding of Dumbarton Oaks, but it seems as though I must keep rather a narrow track and this precludes much traveling that I should otherwise enjoy.

Have you any notion of coming our way this year, as I am told you have planned another journey abroad. Let me know as I am to be away in Canada for ten days in June but will fit my time to yours as nearly as may be. With dearest love to both you and Robert, I am,

Your ever affectionate

Trix

*If only you could see the
feathery blooming of the shade-orchid, carpeted
with the pink of Erica carnea!*

I do hope you have liked the books and within a day or two another treasure goes to you, the John Bartram which I think you will like and which belongs with your other "lovelies".

Copy.

Mr. Bradford Williams
American Society of Landscape Architects
9 Park Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Williams:

Again I apologize for my delay in answering your letter of the 5th of May. Thank you for telling me that your understanding is that the designer's drawings belong to the designer and not to the client, but as Dumbarton Oaks is later to try and make itself of use to our profession it would seem sensible to have all the documents relating to the work on the spot. So all the correspondence, the plans, orders, photographs and everything is to be sent to Dumbarton Oaks. Now the question is: who is the person to do this cataloguing, as a mass of material of this sort will be utterly useless unless it can be found readily by the inquiring mind. Have you anyone in mind, or shall we try the Library of Congress, as I fear the librarians at Dumbarton are more skilled in medieval books than they are in plans of landscape work. There are practically no catalogues or files which would be of any use to the skilled cataloguer so it becomes a question of pretty much starting from scratch.

As to the collection of old books, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss the former owners of Dumbarton Oaks have had in mind for some years past making a collection of some of the rarer and more spectacular books for use in connection with the gardens, and a Garden Center if it be possible to form this. Therefore, Mrs. Bliss has collected some really splendid books, such as Lambert's Pines, the folio Redoute Roses, and several more of this character and of the first quality. This collection will of course be open only to those qualified to use it and with proper authorization. The cataloguing of these books is I believe being done at Dumbarton, as Reef Point has no facilities for doing this distant work.

Yours always sincerely,

(sgd) Beatrix Farrand