

BEATRIX FARRAND
~~1650 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point
~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

September 24, 1941
n 27

My very dearest Mildred:

There are certain things one cannot forget even if one would and your telephone message Monday on the very day we remember, and your coming to our last reception at the Director's House are two of your many understanding kindnesses that will never be dropped even though my memory is porous.

In Monday's letter I foolishly forgot to tell you that in spite of the weeks of strain to my utter surprise I find myself considerably better than for year or two past. Perhaps walking up to an operation is not so easy as helping a patient up a safe slope after the big job is over. The work for the future at Reef Point has been absorbingly interesting and this has kept mind and body occupied, and with the hospital hours with Max have meant a quiet and regular life which we shall obviously have to continue for a considerable number of months. We look forward to Santa Barbara, I with eager anticipation on account of your nearness and Max with a tranquil pleasure in being free from the anxieties and cares of the Library and able to work at his own hours and at his own work.

The text of the historic tablet is of course not properly spaced but it will give you the idea of the emphasis Max suggested for your consideration. It may not be at all what you want but he said from the historic point of view and the casual onlooker he felt certain points should be brought out in the inscription. This rough draft has gone to Miss Havey for a possible estimate but of course nothing has been done, nor will be, until there has been time for you to utter a plaint of protest.

I am hoping to tell Coles also to change the stone over the top of the Harvard tablet at his estimated cost of \$20. plus the cost of the carving of Quod Severis in larger letters.

It is impossible as yet to make any fixed date for leaving Max. While physically he is perfectly able to be alone both Dr. Weymouth and I feel it might be even duller for him than when I am here, so we will just see what happens from week to week and how the field work can be modeled to come here where I cannot go to it.

Mrs. Bliss 9/24/41 -2

Mr. Drury evidently means to help Dumbarton as much as he can and when I am next in Washington he has promised to come to Dumbarton Oaks Park with Mr. Root and go over the various details that need adjustment. His bright dark eyes quite glowed with pleasure in speaking of what you have done while he said he hoped to continue your interest in the Park by the way the Park was trying to carry out your ideas. Mr. Root is obviously of the same mind so it now rather looks as though it were up to me to keep the fire burning in both their hearts. When Mr. Drury was here his assistants were largely the official Park ones but he meant to spend the rest of the day with the Rockefeller party.

Incidentally I heard through the Langdon Marvins that Mrs. Rockefeller last spring at the Williamsburg party after Dumbarton Oaks, had seemed in extremely good form and was quite lovely to look at. Mrs. Marvin says she has had her hair cut short, quite Nattier fashion, and that she had had a lovely frock made in Paris quite of the Williamsburg period and that as she sat at the top of the table in the Raleigh Tavern she was as lovely a portrait as one could ever find on a wall. This summer I believe she has been quiet but fairly well. I imagine from what Mr. Rockefeller has said that the social end of their existence has had to be very much reduced but I fancy her quiet days are good ones and her strenuous and anxious days fatigue her as much as they do this old friend of yours.

Bauhinia is indeed a lovely thing and would decline to grow in Washington quite as firmly as tropical Maidenhair or Orchids. Cestrum would equally decline to grow out of doors.

I was sorry to be so discouraging about Vanda coerulea as it is one of the loveliest flowers in the world. I think in fact you have had a sulky one in the orchid house for some years past and that it has declined to flower firmly and obstinately.

Pauline Palmer told me yesterday that her sister-in-law is apparently due for another eye operation which is to be in the comparatively near future. Mrs. Palmer said there was no question that Madame Cantacuzene's sight was better than it had been, and the second operation was needed to improve her vision still more. Pauline Palmer seemed in no way discouraged at the prospect ahead of Madame Cantacuzene and said she knew her husband's brother was going to see her next week in Washington. I wish I could give you a clearer picture of Madame Cantacuzene's exact condition but the news was dribbled out in small sections in between a consultation as to tree cutting and the future of their place!

Mrs.Bliss 9/24/41 -3

In going over the accumulation of some of the things that were moved both from New York and California I came across two really beautiful luminal plates taken in the Orangery some years ago. The Calceolaria picture seemed to me so much more beautiful than any Kodachromes that I have ever seen that they both go to you as they belong with you and your memories of Dumbarton more than they belong here with me.

Your ever own

Trix

1702

THE ROCK OF DUMBARTON
granted by Queen Anne to
COLONEL NINIAN BEALL
Colonel George Beall his
son 191717 added the land
north of the present R Street
now known as

DUMBARTON OAKS

Thomas Beall, son of George
sold the property in 1780
to William Dorsey
William Hammond Dorsey built
this house in 1801 and sold
it in 1805 to Robert Beverley
who named it Acrolophos -
House in the Grove- He bequeathed
it in 1822 to James Bradshaw
Beverley It was sold successively
in 1823 to James Edward Calhoun in
1829 to Brook Mackall in 1846 to
Edward Magruder Linthicum who
enlarged the house and gardens
and changed the name to Monterey
and bequeathed it to Edward Linthicum
Dent in 1869. Henry Fitch Blount
bought it and enlarged it and named
it The Oaks His widow sold it in
1920 to

ROBERT WOODS AND MILDRED BLISS
who remodelled the house added to
the grounds created the gardens
and rechristened the whole

DUMBARTON OAKS

That its service to the community
might remain unbroken they conveyed
it to

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

1940

add date!

8 ←