

El Mirasol Hotel
Santa Barbara, California
July 7th, 1947

Dearest Trix:

Your letters reached me at very congested moments, one of the 17th and one of the 18th, and we left, as you know, on the 22nd, with the luggage being got off two days before. So many responsibilities seemed to have focused themselves into those last three days that we were rather the worse for wear on reaching here after our miserably prolonged trip. Don't, I beg of you, ever get entangled - to mix one's metaphors - with Mississippi floods. When we are together some time I will describe various episodes in a lighter vein, which are funny to look back upon but not enjoyable at the time.

The advantages of this sunlit quietude I won't expatiate upon, as you are so familiar with conditions here. But I don't want another day to pass without sending you one or two brief answers to your queries.

First, many thanks for your suggestion of the Montecito Secretarial Service.

Second, in regard to the purchasing of books for the Dunbarton Oaks garden library:

There is at the moment nobody with any knowledge of the garden books (not under Sweeney's care) as the few bibliophile items have been in the rare book room, and Mrs. Clark, its keeper, will not be back from her vacation until mid-September. What seems to me the only satisfactory method of procedure is that we should have a list of those books which are indispensable and one of desirable but second-firsts. Then one should be able to learn from competent advisors approximately what sum would be involved in the acquiring of both lots. With that information in hand I could tell you how far we could go. This is a personal decision for us to make and does not involve Dunbarton Oaks, which has no fund for this sort of acquisition.

I shall be more than grateful for your help and counsel, but as I myself, alas, am unfamiliar with J. C. Loudon's works and Dyke's "Notes of Tulip Species", I don't know from your note of June 24th on which list these would appear, ***, **, or *. If in the first or second category, go ahead, since I gather from your note that Dyke's and Loudon's are not always obtainable, and that Farrer and Miss Jekyll should be on the shelves, anyway.

While Mrs. Sweeney is with you, if this question of listing and storing could be completed, then we could go forward on the road of purchasing next late Autumn with a will. In making

these indications, please remember that my desire for the garden library at Dunbarton Oaks is of two kinds:

- (a) A thoroughly useful library for consultation by botanists, horticulturists, arboriculturists, etc.
- (b) The old books on garden design with the bibliophile items on materia medica, etc. I long to have Dunbarton Oaks possess those noble calf-bound books containing steel engravings of the great garden designs of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Mrs. Clark will, I know, be glad to send you a list of the few garden books in the rare-book room when she returns in the Autumn, and as I shall not be back from Europe at that time and cannot embark on a correspondence with Mrs. Clark during my few weeks here, I suggest that when you write her in the Autumn you tell her that I felt sure that she would be glad to assist, because I know from conversations with her how sympathetic she is to my plan.

On rereading your letter of June 17th, paragraph two, I feel that your interpretation of my garden library dream proves that once again we see eye to eye.

There is now much that I should like to go over with you in regard to the future of the Arboretum, the American Horticultural Society, and B. Y. Morrison.

Enclosed is a copy of my notes on the mechanics of the Arboretum. The five year plan is Morrison's dream.

The priorities under the caption of "American Horticultural Society" are also Morrison's, agreed to in principle by the Board. Under "Medal Committee" you will see some names, but don't bother your head about that, the whole idea being absurd at the moment.

A Mr. Lee, who is now on the Horticultural Society board, seems to be intelligent, forceful, eager, and able. He has inspected the Arboretum, wants to help Morrison realize his plans, and has the sort of legal mind which is listened to by sub-committees on the hill. I think we are very fortunate to have him, and that he and I, after consultation with Morrison, may be able to produce some results advantageous to both the Arboretum and the Horticultural Society.

On page 3 of my notes you will see a skeleton plan for the making of bequests to the Society. I asked B. Y. Morrison if he liked this idea. He did, but he wishes to mull over it to see if there are potential snags.

Now, specific questions which I should like to put to you are:

- (a) If the present trend toward separating the Arboretum from the Plant Industry Bureau should really take form, do you think I should fight it? (Morrison is invaluable to both Plant Industry

and Arboretum, and during his working years the separation would be a mistake).

(b) In which place do you think he is the more valuable?

(c) Would you toy with the idea of establishing some sort of contact between the Dunbarton Oaks Garden Center of the future and the Horticultural Society? NO

(d) Would it be wise to put Morrison on the Garden Committee of Dunbarton Oaks? You see we now have a Publication Committee and an informal Garden Committee. The former is well established, and operates professionally and well. The latter should, I think, be formalized this year in some such wise as the following: NO

Thacher, as Director of Dunbarton Oaks, Chairman.
Patterson, Morrison, and myself, with you as Honorary Chairman.
And possibly one member of the National Park and Planning, or should I say National City Parks Board?
Capital

I thought that Thacher, Patterson and I would be the Executive Committee, as it were, with you the head of the Advisory Committee composed of the aforementioned members. This would strengthen the Executive Committee, which could at all times have the benefit of your and Morrison's advice.

Just how the Horticultural Society is going to get sufficient funds to implement it enough so as to benefit as it should by Morrison's gifts as editor, I don't know, and I am wondering if there would be any possibility of getting the Garden Club of America to make a substantial contribution to the Horticultural Society for three years, let us say. During that time the workable and eager Mr. Lee could think out some plan.

Now comes another question - Mt. St. Albans. I thought of urging the Garden Club of America to contribute to this, which on every count seems appropriate and desirable.

Please give me your reactions to all these suggestions. I am eager to know what they are.

I thought it might interest you to glance at the report of this year's Henri Focillon Scholar of work accomplished at Dunbarton Oaks. The standard is good. Please return.

The jacaranda is over, and the Autumn flowers are beginning. Yesterday I saw some lovely cleredendum.

And Anne is much better than last year, in good spirits, and getting around more nimbly than I thought possible. In fact, she is able to drive a car, and has a most ingenious and not heavy but thoroughly effective brace for her bad leg. Robert and Greta

Millikin are greatly broken by their son's death, and Jeanette Lassiter is having a very bad time owing to radium treatments for a facial cyst that was removed many months ago.

Now this must go off to you, carrying devoted affection, as always, and the hope of a good summer for you in every way.

hildes.

Mrs. Max Farrand
Reef Point
Bar Harbor, Maine

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