

## PLANTING SOUTH SIDE DUMBARTON OAKS.

September 1942.

The planting on the south side of the house at Dumbarton Oaks is designed in material of small scale foliage in order to give added apparent size and importance to the building. As the first-floor level is high above ground it is necessary to screen the basement by plantations which hide the lower windows without interfering with their light. On each side of the entrance steps large marker plants are needed. If the small-leaved *Buxus* proved impossible to maintain, *Yew*, *Holly* or *Crataegus pyracantha* could be used. But no large-leaved plants like *Magnolias* or *Rhododendrons* should be used as the effect would be too coarse and clumsy.

(If for any reason disease or insect attack in one sort makes it unwise to use, variety may be still maintained by using other sorts selected from the fine-leaved evergreens, such as *Ilex crenata*; *Buxus suffruticosa* or *sempervirens*; *Ilex opaca* or *aquifolium*; *Taxus cuspidata*, or *Torreya nucifera*. Conifers such as *Thuja*, dwarf spruces and *Junipers* and *Chamaecyparis* are not thought desirable as the form and texture of their foliage will not harmonize with the Box, *Yew* and *Crataegus pyracantha*.

Two or three wall-trained *Forsythias* may be used on the south front under-planted with *Ivy*. This underplanting is necessary in order to make a background for the yellow flowers, which without this green background are inharmonious in color against the brick wall. Two plants of *Wisteria* may be used at either end of the main building on their side of the front steps and trained vertically as far as the first floor stringcourse and then horizontally over the front door and its entablature. Not more than three free-standing bushes of *Forsythia* intermediate are advised for this south front planting, and probably one bush of *Pyracantha* will be sufficient. Two wall-trained plants of *Pyracantha* may be used in this south facade. A high-branched tree is needed close to the southwest corner of the Orangery in order to give unimpeded view of the building from the entrance drive and also from the building over the south lawn.

If the American Elm must for some reason be replaced

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the Koelreuteria paniculata (Golden Rain Tree) might  
be used, the habit of which is somewhat like Ulmus  
Americana. It is a neat tree, whereas the walnut  
which would be suited in form is not advised on account  
of the leaf and nut shedding peculiarities.

The main planting on the south Orangery wall should be in the lavender and white Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria chinensis*) underplanted with Ivy for winter effect.

On the west end of the house the screening to the working quarters should be taller and heavier so that the entrance and Library and orangery facades should be more revealed than those at the west end of the building.

The material of the entrance and exit drive was carefully chosen so that its tan-colored river gravel would be a harmonious color.