

December 1, 1943.

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
Valley Club of Montecito  
East Valley Road,  
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I know you will be eager to know what I have been doing since you left for the West. First of all I enclose the Garden Guide's report covering the six weeks from October 15th to November 30th - all in one as it seemed to bring the season to a close as far as garden visitors are concerned, the great mass having vanished until Spring.

I have heard from Mrs. Stover with receipt forms and the name of the Toad and Frog book which I have since acquired for the library shelves. She promised the next time she went to Reef Point to send me the Wyman book on crabapples. I have also acquired by purchase the Grasshopper Book, The Green World and Fruits of the Earth. I have made several trips to the Library of the Department of Agriculture in search of books on the history and evolution of cultivated vegetables. They have Sturtevant's Notes on Edible Plants published in 1919, Henry Phillip's History of Cultivated Vegetables published in London in 1822 and the Origin of Cultivated Plants by Alphonse DeCandolle. These seem difficult to get in Washington. Then there is another on the Origin and History of our Garden Vegetables by Prof. G. Henslow, published in London in 1912.

You probably know all of these by reputation and may be able to advise me which is the best one to go in search of. I believe the London ones are hard to get.

What do you think of The American Land, Its History and Its Uses and Ornamental American Shrubs, both by Van Dersal?

Mrs. Clark is recataloguing the Flowers and Garden Books Bird Books, and kindred subjects, and having them placed in the alcove near Miss Carpenter's room where they are more accessible than in their previous location in the Drawing Room. She has also ordered a bird book with Mrs. Bliss' approval - A Guide to Bird Watching - and I believe has talked with Mrs. Bliss over the possible purchase of Sargent's Silva at some future time.

The Sunday afternoon party on November 7th was really wonderful - such a gorgeous day, warm and sunnyn and such delighted people. I think it was one of the most satisfying garden tours we have ever had, when you consider the number of people who came and went during those four hours. Of course everyone is desolate at the thought of the herbaceous border going to grass.



Mrs. Farrand —2

It is gratifying to report that on two occasions the Garden Guide's services have been helpful in looking up information for the Reasearchers in Byzantine architecture. Miss Harris was anxious to get a picture of the Acanthus, mollis and spinossisimus and through the N/Y. Botanical Garden, I was able to get the information she required, also to look up another reference for her at the Dept. of Agric. Library on Araceae. So maybe we will begin to be useful at last.

The Catalogue House is now shorn of its last Autumn panels and will be empty for the winter months; all material being concentrated in the Orangery. Ralph has repainted the signs and framed the Title to Dumbarton Oaks for use in the Orangery. Leaves have all gone from the trees except some on the purple beech and a few last blood-red leaves on the Japanese maple in the Bosky. The wall work is going on apace but I know nothing of it so Bryce will no doubt be writing you about it.

I am still without the book on Rocks and Minerals - don't seem to be able to locate the publisher but Mr. Cornwall my book dealer ally is on the hunt for it and I hope we shall make good use of all of them this Winter. I am fascinated by the Green World book myself. Only wish I could remember more of it than I do.

I hope California is spreading her warm sunshine over you and that Mr. Farrand continue to gain in strength every day. I send you my very best wishes and will keep in touch with you and heed your advice to bombard you with wants and whats.

Always sincerely,