

January 16, 1946.

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

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I have before me your nice letter of January 2d, as well as your later note of January 10th, the latter enclosing schedule of lectures at the N.Y. Botanic Garden. I wish it were possible to attend some of them but they are all on Saturday afternoons, my busy days, and besides it isn't as easy traveling to New York as it was a few years ago. I know there are many interesting and informative things which would be useful to me, but, alas, it isn't practicable for me to try to squeeze them in at this time.

I had not heard anything from Mr. Thacher about any of the matters discussed or written about, but I am glad to know you have his permission to order 5000 each of the four views you list in your letter, as follows:

1. View of the Front Entrance from Southeast Lawn
2. Rose Terrace
3. Herbaceous Border (with Yew)
4. Lovers' Lane Pool

My only suggestion would be, in addition to the above, the Orangery, as it is the central meeting place for garden visitors, besides I think it would make a nice post card view. What do you think? If you are limited to only four, I would eliminate the Herbaceous Border for the time being as we have an ample supply of the new views of the Border, including the big Irish Yew.

All the negatives for the Dumbarton Oaks pictures are owned by the photographer, Stewart, and were never purchased by Mrs. Bliss. This Bryce told me when we had the post cards made and I borrowed the negatives from Stewart to have prints made. Miss Carpenter also confirms this and says the negatives are the property of the photographer unless they are purchased by the owner from him.

The day after I returned from my Christmas holiday, Mrs. Bliss telephoned asking if I would and could come down to 2750 Que Street to help out Mr. Bliss whose secretary had broken her wrist just before Christmas, and who was then confined to her room with a bronchial cold. Of course, before asking me, Mrs. Bliss had asked Mr. Thacher's permission which, naturally he granted, so I have been substituting for Miss Snow ever since, until yesterday, when Mr. Bliss went to New York, so I have today and tomorrow here at Dumbarton Oaks and have been trying to get caught up on arrears. That is why I have delayed in answering your letter.



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Naturally, our visitors during these winter days of snow and ice are not very numerous, and besides the gardens were closed from December 22d to January 5th and both Wednesdays since then have been rainy, however last Saturday being a rather mild day with sun shining, we had 27 visitors. The few stragglers we have had visiting the garden since I last talked with you have not bought many postcards so there is little change in the amount of stock on hand, but it would be very nice to have some better quality cards as I am sure many people would prefer the better grade.

Nothing has been done as yet to the Orangery; The Government offices are being vacated and Mr. Thacher has more than he can do at present trying to make plans for the evacuation and the work to be done after the departure. He and Mrs. Clark have been cleaning out the large closet in the drawing room where the rare books were kept, and much sorting has been done, with the result that I have received several old Bliss books on gardens, garden design &c to add to the Garden Department's shelves when I finally become established in the Underworld and have the room for them.

My panels are becoming dirty and weather stained and many of them need replacement. I have bought a few prints for which Miss Carpenter has reimbursed me, but I don't think it is any advantage to me to have to write Mrs. Stover for cash for replacements, or refunds. When I buy prints it is necessary to pay cash for them and I think it would be much more workable for me to have the money to draw on here and make the proper accounting to Mrs. Stover or to you for the Agent Account for purchases made. With books, I need not buy any and can let you know of any I may need, but with prints the procedure is entirely different. It is impossible for me to specify any set sum for I never know what I may be able to find or how much the cost will be. I searched several places in New York and found nothing that I could use that was reasonably priced; Macy's had scads of Pelargonium prints from England but nothing I needed and they were all listed at about \$2.00 each. My principal source of supply here is gone out of business but I keep scouting around whenever I get downtown, which isn't very often.

I'm still keeping up my Systematic Botany Class but I doubt if I have acquired much knowledge but I'm going on with the second semester just the same and perhaps by the end of the term some of it will stick to me.

As before mentioned, my time since Christmas has been so taken up that I haven't been able to get around the grounds and besides there has been a lot of snow, but I doubt if much has been done as it was impossible to do that sort of work in the weather we have had. Our friend is quiet and has nothing to say but I think he is apprehensive. He has been suffering a great deal of pain with his knee and has been having the Bantam Siposs massage it.

I was so sorry about poor Lucking but it was a good way to go as I think most of us would wish to go quietly and without a long painful wait.

I have heard from Mrs. Stover who tells me she has been having a bad time with arthritis. I do sympathize with her and I'm sure you do too. I am writing her today.



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Mrs. Bliss (with whom I only talked by telephone) told me that she had been holding a telephonic conversation with you in Santa Barbara and your report about the bronchitis was good and on the whole you sounded much better than when you left for California. She said you would make Dumbarton Oaks your first port of call on your journey Eastward and she was glad, as I am. I do hope we shall have improved a great deal since your last visit and that you will be pleased.

I saw Mr. Russell and Miss Draper while I was in New York and both were well and we had a nice chatty visit; since my return however, Miss Draper has succumbed to the detestable flu germ which is going around, and has been confined to her apartment for nearly two weeks. Mr. Russell writes that he expects to be in Washington on the 23d and 24th and we shall be glad to see him; he always brings such a reassuring air from his world to our little corner.

Please give my greetings to Miss Walter, with thanks for her nice Christmas card; it makes me feel much better that she is with you. If I have skipped anything, intentional or otherwise, perhaps I'll be able to pick it up the next time.

With kindest regards and good wishes,

Very sincerely,