

April 8th, 1947

Mrs. Isabelle M. Stover,
Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Stover:

I have your letters of March 20th and April 7th, as well as your typed copy of letter from Mrs. Farrand in California, to me in Washington, via Maine. I know you must think I'm a very dilatory person not to have responded before this to your lists and letters, but I have purposely refrained from writing to Mrs. Farrand and sending her the copy of the plant list and history of planting at Dumbarton Oaks, until Mrs. Bliss had read it and returned it to me. Mrs. Farrand asked that I let Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Thacher read the pre-final copy and make any suggestions they might recommend, and I've been waiting now for over three weeks to get back the typed copy which I gave to Mrs. Bliss. Finally, yesterday, Mr. Thacher told me that there was no need of sending the copy to Mrs. Farrand in California anyway as she would be on her way to Bar Harbor before it could reach her, so he advised keeping it against Mr. Patterson's arrival here at Dumbarton Oaks next week and go over the matter with him, especially some changes in certain parts of the garden which might be made at this time.

That's a long preamble isn't it, but I hope I have made it reasonably clear.

I am returning your rare book list as I have made a copy of it for Mrs. Bliss and have kept one for my own files, just in case! I am also returning to you a package I received from Mrs. Bland, containing negatives which were loaned to us for something I know nothing about, but as I was writing you anyway, Mrs. Bland asked if I would return the negatives to you for Mrs. Farrand's records.

Our garden tours started last Saturday and Sunday, though it didn't look very promising as to weather on Saturday, Easter Day turned out to be warm and decidedly windy, consequently the warm winds opened up the magnolia buds and brought out a little of the forsythia and some bulbs so that on the whole it was not such a disappointment as we anticipated. We totaled over 1000 visitors for the two days.

Mr. Thacher tells me that Mr. Patterson will arrive here on Monday and is deferring certain matters until then, among which is the new card index for plants, trees etc., which Mrs. Farrand recommended to be made as a permanent part of the Dumbarton Oaks garden records. I hope we can get going on this list immediately as I feel it will take some time to have it in perfect shape for the reference files.

I know you are looking forward to Mrs. Farrand's return to Reef Point with eagerness and I hope the weather and everything else will be most favorable for your summer collaboration.

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I do wish it had been possible for Mrs. Farrand to stop off at Dumbarton Oaks to see us and give us the pleasure of a visit, however brief, as it seems a very long time since we had a little talk together. I hope her winter in California has done much to improve her general health and spirits and I also hope the Arnold Arboretum isn't going to make her forget us here at D.O.

With kindest personal greetings to you and sincere appreciation of your patience with my forgetfulness in responding to your nice notes. I seem to be slipping on all sides - hope the legs and the memory hang together for a few more years as I don't want to go hobbling around on a stick or repeating myself unnecessarily. I shall be most grateful for any criticisms or comments you may have to offer.

Very sincerely,