

January 16, 1946.

Mrs. Arthur Stover,  
Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Stover

Your letter of January 3d has remained unanswered longer than I meant, but since my return to Dumbarton Oaks, January 2d, I have been filling in for Mr. Bliss' secretary, Miss Snow, who fell just before Christmas and broke her right wrist and by the time I came back from my Christmas vacation, she developed bronchitis. Mr. Bliss had so much accumulation of work that he tried out two girls from the agencies but after two days each they departed for more permanent jobs. Therefore, Mrs. Bliss asked Mr. Thatcher if he could spare me to help Mr Bliss out until Miss Snow was able to take dictation and type her own letters. My time has been fully employed even though Miss Snow has now returned to the office as while she can direct operations she is not able to do anything with her right hand. I don't know how much longer I shall be there. I had expected to put in the time of dull winter days and few visitors in getting my stock of mounts in good condition, but I suppose Spring will be upon ~~me~~ before I'm ready.

I was so sorry to hear that you had been the victim of arthritis and can imagine how very difficult it must be for you to do any typing or any writing for that matter. I hope I didn't put too much of a burden on you for I realize fully how you must be suffering. Another good reason for going to a warmer climate; too bad you couldn't have gone to California; I hear Mrs. Farrand has shed her neuritis or arthritis, or whichever it was she had last year. Down this way every third person has the Flu or some sort of cold or grippe; luckily I have escaped and I'm very thankful. We have had pretty sloppy weather ever since the week before Christmas

Yes; Mrs. Farrand wrote me about the \$50.00 which had been added to the Agent Account for the purchase of prints and books, and I have just replied telling her that I think it is a waste of time for me to have to write you each time I want to make a purchase of prints; I always have to pay cash and am never able to tell before hand how much they will cost or what I may be able to get. With books it is another matter; it makes no difference to me how long it takes to get additions, but with prints it is an altogether different procedure and I have asked Mrs. Farrand if a part of the fund can't be turned over to me to be used as needed and accounting made to you of moneys spent. I tried to buy some prints while in New York but they were too expensive so I just have to keep my eye peeled for some bargains.



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The books I mentioned in my previous letter, which had never been received, were ordered by Mrs. Farrand August 4, 1944, as per carbon copies which you sent me.

The Government Agency which has been occupying a large part of the main building and the Dumbarton Oaks museum is vacating on the first of February and plans are being made to get the rooms in condition so that the art treasures may be restored to their proper places and the various departments which have been so crowded may expand a bit. I am supposed to do to the "Underworld" where I shall have no daylight, but will have more shelf space for books and prints and more filing space and besides the room is more convenient to the garden and the Orangery and will obviate bringing all my material to the third floor. It is getting to be too much of a job for me to pack those folders from the Catalogue House up the hill to the house and then drag them up in the elevator to the third floor.

Before we know it Spring will be poking its head around the corner as I see some of the early spring bulbs pushing their green shoots out of the ground already, so it behooves me to get busy.

Thank you for your nice letter though I am sorry to have put you to the bother of answering when you are having such a time with your poor hands; I do hope you have found some benefit by this time and that your whole Winter hasn't been given up to hot water bags and liniments. Let's hope the New Year just begun will be good to you.

Very sincerely,