

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

July 12, 1941

Miss Anne Sweeney
c/o Mr. James Bryce
3203 S Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

You and I both know what a busy pair of Chiefs we are dealing with and it will make you laugh when you hear that Mr. Thacher came over to see me here with regard to Dumbarton Oaks affairs and looked at me in utter astonishment because he had received no answer to a long letter full of questions addressed to either Mr. or Mrs. Bliss. He seemed so perturbed and so agitated that I told him, with as nearly a straight face as possible, that he need in no way worry himself as to whether or not he had hurt their feelings by some thoughtless expression because over the many years of happy relationship with them I had sometimes had to wait months for an important answer, or go ahead and do the thing and take the responsibility for it. This seemed to relieve his mind somewhat since I told him that equally important letters which I had sent to Mrs. Bliss regarding various Dumbarton Oaks matters, including your own nice self, had remained unanswered.

I wrote Mrs. Bliss telling her that Harvard was keen to have you stay on as guide and curator of the Catalogue House and its belongings, but that this year with the alterations in the house they didn't see how they could arrange to add a salary to a budget already squeezed rather dry. When I told Mr. Thacher that I thought I saw in my own limited perspective a certain four, and probable five, months salary for you he beamed and seemed greatly relieved. This whole matter was put before Mrs. Bliss with the request that she consider the possibility of either advising me as to the future, but making no direct or indirect request to her for a continuation of the salary. I am taking the personal responsibility of telling Mr. Russell that you should have your salary for this whole month and your salary for August which should be your month's holiday. If you take your holiday in August as we spoke of your doing in early June, I think you said you would be willing to come here to Reef Point for a day or two so that you and I might rehearse the talks which you would give to the school teachers and school children when the autumn season opened. This would mean that we could have one or two days to go over this work together, map out a talk or two and that you could start in September on your first trial trips, as Mr. Thacher said the other

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day he realized that the preliminary steps with the Board of Education, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, etc. must come from him.

It is hard to tell you with sufficient emphasis how invaluable you seem to me as a part of the Dumbarton Oaks set-up entirely apart from our personal liking for each other. I think also Harvard without much question realizes that a guide to the grounds and a curator for the Catalogue House material will have to become a part of Harvard. Neither you nor they nor I know how it is going to work out, but they are eager to have you if you are willing to undertake the work on trial, so to speak.

As I have told you earlier in the letter I am sure of four months salary and fairly confident that we can assemble the salary for the rest of the year. Don't please turn us down before you have thought the matter over very carefully and before we have again had an opportunity to discuss things. Mr. Thabher told me the other day he would gladly be responsible for your railway fare down to this part of the world, and we shall be glad to put you up and save your expenses while here.

You must have been nearly melted in the last four or five weeks as Bryce, who is usually fairly oblivious of temperatures, wrote it had been dripping. Do let me have a word from you and don't reject my suggestion at least until we have had time to thrash it out together, as both Mr. Thacher and I see no one half as competent for the job as you.

Yours ever sincerely,

Beamy Farnell
