

January 30, 1940

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Dumbarton Oaks
3101 R Street
Georgetown
Washington, D. C.

Dearest One:

Your long and full letter of the 23rd was only acknowledged in a scrawl a couple of days ago, and now will be properly answered.

First, thank you for your delightful but exaggerated gratitude for my having come to Dumbarton. I am sorry it seemed an effort, as the cold was nearly thrown off by the time I reached you, and my only fear was lest I should have deposited the remaining seeds with you. Your letter however, seems to imply that you had thrown off the cold with which I left you housed, and that your tempo has resumed its usual prestissimo.

As the ~~pretty~~ Giralton Wax Flower Chamaelaucium Ciliatum is just prettily in flower in the garden, a small box of yours has gone to you and Dumbarton Oaks. It lasts nearly a fortnight in water and should survive even the airplane battering. *flowers*

Now to answer the planting questions.

1. It is easy to understand that Bryce does not quite like to put a Willow on the Northwest side of the ^{new}walk. The planting of this tree is not recommended because it is likely to make an immediate effect, but for the reason that eventually and in time to come, a smallish Willow (which should be comparatively easy to plant and accustom to its surroundings) would be of as real value in the composition as the old willow was when originally at its best. I should decidedly hope that a smallish tree could be placed, as the note of a weeping upright at that point was effective, as you can see by looking at the old photographs when the original tree was in place.

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2. With regard to the two smallish oak trees on the West side of the East entrance drive. Of course, if Bryce feels that two Oaks would affect the lawn adversely, I have nothing to say, as he knows conditions better than I. I should however, think that it might be possible to set out trees of such reasonable size that they would not ruin the lawn and again I feel for the ultimate future, a couple of deciduous trees at this position, are really more desired than a Magnolia. The Magnolia would, I think, be a little dead in texture and would make too heavy a group of large foliaged trees all in one close neighborhood. It is true the Magnolia would screen the brick house in winter, but I do feel instinctively that this screening is not worth achieving at the cost of the mass of Magnolia coarse foliage. Individually, I think I should plant a single Oak rather than a twin for this place, although our minds do seem to run in twins!

3. Very glad the replacement^s in the Yew hedge are ordered, and Bryce and I are in entire accord as to using smaller plants and setting them more widely apart. They will of course, look rather fuzzy in the hedge for some time to come.

4. On the whole, you and I see the North Vista exactly twinly. I do feel eventually masonry will have to replace this unit, much as we dislike it.

5. Replacement in the Elipse^e ordered - Oh joy.

Mr. Kennerly^e has written with regard to the tree cutting at Casa Dorinda, and says he encloses a form of agreement from the California State Relief Administration, (which he did not do). I am writing him again, telling him of the omission, and assuring him that when the State Relief Agreement comes, it will be signed either by you or by me, or possibly your secretary. It seems that before the trees can be cut under this arrangement, each one will have to be marked, and this can easily be done the next time I am in Santa Barbara. And as it is likely that Lucking, Weeks and I will mark the trees, perhaps you will be willing to let me sign the paper. Mr. Kennerly seems most grateful and says he understands of course, that no trees are to be cut except the Eucalyptus. This seems to push this tree cutting forward in the way he wishes, and to which you have already agreed.

It seems as though I were head over ears with letters and work to do, therefore, the Dumbarton notes have not been attended to in detail.

Counsels have gone to Mr. Coles, together with an order for the mother of pearl from San Francisco. Bryce has been written to and I am hoping to tackle the notes within a day or two.

It was nice to see the Facillon D.O. lecture in the recent Magazine of Art, together with some of your museum possessions. How

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glorius^o they look in the reproductions. The Figula^B is indeed a majestic ornament.

Max is pushing on with his annual report, and seems to be even more than holding his own in spite of heavy work. My cold is a memory and I really think it has done me a lot of good, since as he says it has "got it out of my system".

Do take care of yourself as for many other reasons, you are much loved by your devoted,

BF:GAT

Please forgive corrections &
unaccustomed secretary!