

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

May 21, 1948

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street
Washington, D. C.

Darling Milrob:

Your telegram has just been given me and warms my affectionate old heart. Give me an idea if you can when you are going to try to telephone me on the week-end of the 28th so that I shall not be climbing trees in Northeast Harbor or away from Reef Point at the wrong moment. It will be good again to hear your voice.

Very few people have been told of the good fortune that has come to Reef Point. The story is rather a long one but will be abbreviated for you. Some short time ago a list of duplicate books of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society was sent me and my eye was caught by the modest item:-

"275. JEKYLL, GERTRUDE A collection of plans, working drawings and accompanying letters on gardens designed by the English landscape architect, Gertrude Jekyll.

At once the Society was written to asking them to reserve this lot until I saw it. To cut a long story short the papers which have been bought for Reef Point seem to be the entire output of Gertrude Jekyll's long and distinguished career, together with her own manuscript plans, many letters from and to her clients. Her nephew has explained that he gave the material to the Royal Horticultural Society as his contribution toward their Red Cross sale fund and that it constituted practically the entire inventory of her work. It seems too good to be true but provision will be made for housing, indexing and caring for it as one of the treasures of Reef Point.

We are going bravely on buying books for Dumbarton and if you want to call a halt do so, but it seems almost essential to snatch the rare books when they appear in the sales, and as you have already told me that you want to make the collection I am going ahead but won't do anything that seems to me extravagant.

Some time ago I warned you that you would be asked to become a patron among the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum. The moment has now arrived and the implication is a \$100. subscription with the hope of continuing this subscription for four or five years. Like every other institution the Arboretum is a little short of ready cash and they do desperately want to begin their azalea plantation, but they say wistfully, "We don't hope to be able to grow them as well as you do at Reef Point," which naturally makes Reef Pointers preen their feathers with excitement. Bless you my dear, this is all for today.

P.S. The letter from the
Arboretum will follow shortly.

Ever devoted & constant
Trix