

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR
MAINE

October 12, 1949
" 15/ "

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Hotel Ritz
Place Vendome
Paris, 1. France

Mildred dear:

A bolt will be shot into the air on the chance that it will reach you at the Ritz before you leave on the 15th. If you have already departed perhaps it will trail after you and therefore must be grief, but I hope full of good meat. Thank you for two letters, one of the 14th of September and the other of the 5th of October from Rome, together with a cable. You are probably hearing from Mr. Russell of the Delafield-Russell visit here and ^{when} you are not hurriedly rushing from pillar to post the long letter regarding their visit and the Reef Point-Dumbarton Oaks possibilities will await you in Mr. Russell's hands when you return in the Queen Elizabeth of November 16th from London.

Just a few words to say that it was very interesting to see Mr. Delafield's trained mind working over the problem here. He got the complete idea of the place, its social function, regional importance and physical set-up. Mr. Russell and I were a little disappointed that Mr. Delafield decided against staying the second day, but Mr. Russell thought his Chief had absorbed as much as he could digest and we both agreed it would be unwise to tease him to stay longer. They saw the need of the herbarium here and immediately got the idea that one would not be needed at Dumbarton any more than a collection of herbals which would duplicate the Surgeon General's Library, or an institution for genetics or scientific plant research which would duplicate the Government one at Beltsville. We are not attempting a research institution here, as the University of Maine is better quipped and has more room for such an enterprise. I rather think that Mr. Delafield might be persuaded to make another visit here during which he could see the scholarly resources we have to offer such as the collection of monographs, the Jekyll material, and such like. These will attract students and should produce results which are essential to the continuation of any institution such as Dumbarton Oaks or Reef Point. Of course ^{plant} records are needed in both places, but as both Dumbarton and RP are within range of institutions of learning it would be unwise to saddle either one of them with too much in the way of records which can be seen in the comparatively near neighbourhood. Both Mr. Delafield and Mr. Russell said that they had got what they needed as a starter. They seemed interested and to feel that the scheme was started favorably and commented several times on its importance to the locality and to the humanities as a part of the art of living.

Mrs. Bliss Oct.12,1949

Mr. Patterson is now at Dumbarton and as neither he nor I have seen blueprints or plans no comment can be made at present. The question of writing for your Dumbarton bulletin has not yet been raised by Mr. Thacher but oh my dear and darling friend do please believe that I did not offer to write but you engagingly teased me into asking how much was needed in the way of words, space, etc.

The Canadian holiday was a joy and now before long I go to the Arboretum to work on rehabilitation of part of it and then to come back here and to prepare for California at the end of next month.

You ask me whether I had ever been at Beloeil. Unluckily I never have and there is a description of it which I have sought but havenot succeeded in getting and would greatly appreciate finding out where prints or the description written by an old ~~Prince de Ligne~~ ^{Prize} ~~who wrote~~ under the name of Coup d'Oeil sur Beloeil.

One or two new books have been added to Dumbarton Oaks, one particularly nice one on Nymphenbourg, but I rejected the Royal Fêtes at Versailles as it seemed to me that the garden part of it was not worth the over \$100. price.

Somewhat to my dismay the temperamental Miss Havey has never replied to Mr. Patterson's courteous letter to her. One never can tell what she will do as her mental discipline has not had the hard knocks yours and mine have had. My dearest love to you both and devoted affection,

Trix