

September 28, 1937

Dearest dear,

A night letter went off to you yesterday with regard to the possibility of doing the necessary thinning and transplanting of the green garden vinca, and Gray will be relieved to have your answer, whatever it may be.

We accomplished a good deal, although more or less subter-  
raneously. The place was enchanting and I reviewed all of the  
summer work with both Davis and Gray who, incidentally, is extra-  
ordinarily well but mercifully has had two warnings that he can-  
not resume his former gait, as he made a foolishly long excursion  
one day and overexerted himself another day, so that he had warn-  
ing pain and now realizes that he really must go slow. This is  
all to the good.

He and I had a long talk as to our respective connection and  
part time work on the place, and this subject is one of the many  
you and I must speak of during the crowded Sunday next. Purposely,  
Miss Havey was not sent for, as it seemed to me unlikely that we  
could accomplish much during the short time we had together and  
that your visa was needed before we could really go forward ahead  
at full speed. There are several suggestions for

- (1) Finalities
- (2) The green garden lantern
- (3) The music room wall
- (4) The lamp for the garage
- (5) The forsythia arch
- (6) The front door tablets with Mrs. Sessions. Will you and  
Robert cogitate as to approximately the number of words  
and what you want to say for these tablets, as this  
must control their design and size.
- (7) And millions of other things

The Corona and Chaucer inscriptions are first rate. The con-  
stellations are tentatively placed but await your return as to the  
exact placing of the lettering.

The air conditioning of the basement is ordered and the firm promises to have it installed before you get home. This will be a real step forward.

The bases for the terra cotta urns outside the orangerie are ordered and are to cost about \$50 each.

The paint samples are to be on the glass on the music room lanterns for your inspection when you get home.

The blue water lilies were blooming in the swimming pool and enchanting, and pink and white fuchsias bolstered up the north arcade of the loggia. Gray was given instructions as to taking out the poor dogwoods on the crab hill, and I have a lot of other slight planting changes to discuss with you.

Now as to the affairs at the Pavillon Colombe. Elisina has been left the residuary legatee both in France and here, and the furniture of the Pavillon has all been sold to the new purchaser, who is Mr. Arthur Sachs, the brother of your Paul Sachs of the Fogg Museum. He is said to be extremely nice and to have a very nice French second wife. As Elisina had disposed of several objects in which I was interested from the point of view of sentiment, I am writing him directly to see whether or not they are impossible. I shall try to buy from Elisina some of the objects that we, Edith's American friends, would care to have as keepsakes, and I have an offer from her to buy two Odilon Redons flower pictures which used to hang in the library at the Pavillon and which are lovely.

She offers them to me for sixteen thousand francs each. This amounts to between \$460 and \$475. I think I shall probably take both of them, and perhaps if you want one of them we can arrange, if you think you would like one and you feel it a correct procedure under the circumstances. Think this over and we can speak about it later. Otherwise, I am afraid all it will be possible to get will be something in the nature of a paper cutter or some trifle which perhaps I can buy from St. Clair.

Please forgive a somewhat brief and choppy letter, but days are so full of all sorts of different things that there seems no time for circumlocution. I look forward to seeing you next Sunday before lunch time at the Casa.

Your ever and fonder than ever,

Mrs. Farrand has asked me to sign this letter for her.