

Sunday, August 19th

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My dear Mrs. Bliss,

Indeed, Luree "come back soon,"
 for every visit to Dumbarton Oaks
 reveals new beauties - and I have
 already spent many happy, contemplative
 hours in your gardens. Yet Margaret
 Paulie (who comes over today to
 advise me on mine), tells me I have
 missed the outdoor theater, so that
 must be seen on my next visit.
 To a gardener, particularly, it is
 always fascinating to know the
 person behind the garden, the one
 whose personality it inevitably
 reflects. On that account, I was

most grateful to have an opportunity to
go over your garden with you.

As to the list of English Gardens,
it is a treasure. I used it for
bedtime reading a few nights but it
proved much too exciting, so I
have returned to Henry James.

Memories of Dumbarton keep returning
so I have decided to "own" some of the
gate ornaments, the row of willows beside
the pool, the great gray-green species
plum, and all of the White garden I
always "own" museum paintings and
sculpture in this way, a few, once, a
few, from each place. Beautiful things
belong to all of us who love them,
don't you agree?

Yours most gratefully,
Helen Van der Wesson