

23rd February 1959

Dear Mrs Bliss,

I am enclosing a draft of the article which I hope is satisfactory. Please feel free to add, delete and change as you see fit and if there are any points which I have not covered these can be written in. I have tried to bring out the various aspects of the garden which impressed me as well as the ideas which you conveyed on the very happy day which we spent together. I have particularly enjoyed the preparation of this article and I hope that it will do justice to the garden.

On the day following our talk I saw Mr. Thatcher and suggested that it would be advisable to have a good photographer take some black and white photographs of the garden. I went through your files carefully and found that many of the photographs were inadequate as they have dated badly as the garden has evolved and grown up. It seems to me that they are not representative and it is important that a photographic record be kept of the garden in all its changes. I enclose a list of the views and subjects which I would like to have and will also send a list to Mr. Thatcher.

(see over)

There is an excellent photographer at Williamsburg and it might be possible for Mr. Hopkins to arrange for him to do the photographs for you. There is also an excellent garden photographer at Longwood and in all probability there may be a good man in Washington as well.

When the article is published the R.H.S. will bind up for you in heavy grey paper, reprints of the article with the photographs, and it might be useful to add this to your publications at the entrance desk in the Museum. This has been done for various owners in the past and they have all reported a very large sale for them. Will you please discuss the matter with Mr. Thatcher and later on if you should like reprints we could get estimates for any quantity which you suggest.

Thank you again for all your help.

With my kind regards to you and Mr. Bliss.

Yours sincerely,

Lanning Roper

Please show Kearney this draft - Also it would help enormously to have a plan.

Suggested black and white photographs of Dumbarton Oaks:

1. Well flowered wisteria.
2. The forsythia bank
3. View of the wall fountain at the of swimming pool with
either the azaleas or the weeping cherry in flower.
4. View of the baroque shell fountain to west of loggia.
5. The Pool Garden in tulip time or any other suitable season.
6. The Urn Terrace showing the baroque pebble design.
7. The Pot Garden.
8. Details of any garden ornaments, seats or fountains
which Mrs Bliss feels of particular interest, and
9. A view of the North Terrace showing the two cedars.
(This may be difficult to photograph as there is no
foreground.)