

April 17, 1947

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I am so glad you are back home again at Reef Point as you seem to be nearer than when you are way off in Santa Barbara. I hope the winter there has added much in the way of health and that you have left your neuritis behind you.

You will have heard from Mr. Patterson of his visit to Dumbarton Oaks and the various matters gone into during his stay here. It was very pleasant to talk with him but sad to know you are forsaking us. It just won't be the same without you - for me anyway.

Mr. Patterson brought up the question of whether or not I would like to make the trip to Reef Point to talk things over with you in regard to the garden's future plans and I said it would give me pleasure to see you anywhere and I'd love to visit Reef Point again if you think it desirable to go over the Planting List &c. In any case I'd love it for any or no reason. As I told Mr. Patterson, I would be free any time after July 1st.

I am returning to you the copy of the notes you sent to be typed and given to Mrs. Bliss to read and comment upon, and she has asked me to say that she thinks it is a splendid piece of work and the only reason she has made any suggestions of change was, having in mind the people who will come after us who know nothing at all about the beginnings of Dumbarton Oaks. She is looking forward to the rest of the material when it is ready.

Also enclosed in the envelope with the planting history is a copy of the Book List which I gave to Mrs. Bliss, comprising the Reef Point List, the Harvard Landscape Library's list (omitting from it those books we already have at D.O.) and a shorter list from the Massachusetts Horticulture Society and some I made notes of at the Department of Agriculture Library. Inasmuch as I made an extra copy for my files, Mr. Patterson thought that you might like to have this to check over, as Mrs. Bliss intends to confer with you as to your ideas on what books are considered most useful for the future Garden Library at Dumbarton Oaks.

I am going ahead and ordering the cards without any more consultations with Mr. Thacher or Miss Carpenter and when ready will send you a sample.

You would love it here now, the cherry blossoms are still hanging on, though getting a bit faded, but the crabapples are just breaking and the apple trees are showing signs of color. Since we opened the gardens on April 5th we have had over 3000 visitors. We shall be closed next week end because of the D.O. Symposium which concluded with luncheon and music in the Orangery on Saturday afternoon.

I received two extra Arnoldia leaflets which I presume came to me through you and thank you very much. I read with much interest the notes on the additions to the Arboretum and throughout the whole leaflet I could see your hand guiding the development and creating a new picture of beauty and interest. I hope to see that place too some day. Mr. Wyman was very nice to show me around the time I stopped there on the way back from Bar Harbor and I enjoyed the Library though I didn't know as much then as I have learned since about the books.

Just at this moment Mr. Thacher has called me on the phone to ask if Mr. Patterson discussed the question of my going to Reef Point and I told him Yes, and that I was just writing you about it and other matters, and he said he just wanted to let me know that he thought well of it and that I should feel free to go whenever it best suited your schedule. He also sent you his kind greetings.

Miss Draper is due at Dumbarton Oaks with a friend today or tomorrow. She wrote from New York that she was on her way to Charleston by motor and hoped to be able to get here in time to see the wisteria, but I'm afraid it isn't going to open for a few days. but there will be plenty of other things to admire.

Please have Mrs. Stover write me of anything that occurs to you that I may do at this end to help and be assured it will be my pleasure to do it. With all good wishes to you and to my friends at Reef Point, I am, as always

Yours very sincerely,