

December 5, 1946

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
Valley Club of Montecito,  
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your letter dictated while you were in Boston en route to California reached me some time ago but as you asked me to write you what I had to suggest after talking with Mr. Thacher, I was obliged to wait until I had the opportunity to learn from him something of what was planned for the Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, for the Garden Guide's future work &c. Only yesterday was I able to get Mr. Thacher to come to my office and talk over the whole garden matter. He has been extremely busy, as you know, trying to get things in shape for the opening of the Museum, but I am glad that now we have had this talk we can go ahead with our winter work.

Not too much was said about my work except that it is proposed to make up a new planting list of the Dumbarton Oaks materials, on cards such as Mr. Patterson submitted to me some time ago, with all obtainable information on the cards for reference by interested people who come to see the gardens. I am ready to go ahead immediately and will welcome suggestions from you or Mr. Patterson as to what methods to pursue to get this matter in shape as quickly as possible.

We barely touched on the matter of reorganizing the Orangery, i.e. for a Garden Office of Information; at the moment it seems to be quite an undertaking to tear out and change the existing office, so for the time being that is 'resting'.

I am enclosing for your information the report I gave to Mr. Thacher at the close of the Fall season - our last garden day was Sunday, December first. A great many people have been appreciative of having so many books and magazines at hand to read and study and the exhibit of material on the tables has been of much interest. Cards have not sold so well as they did so we have still a large stock on hand.

As the numbers of things talked about with Mr. Thacher is so extensive, I am appending hereto a list, for your convenience, listing on a separate sheet the things we discussed and on which I would like to have your suggestions and advice.

My petty cash fund is getting down to bed rock, so it would be a help if you would replenish it for future purchases. I have in mind only small inexpensive books and cards at the present time.

When you feel like it I should love to hear from you and I do hope you are feeling ever so much better in that lovely place on the hillside.

Sincerely yours,



December 5, 1946

For Mrs. Farrand -

(Copy to Mr. Patterson)

Subjects discussed by Mr. Thacher with Miss Sweeney relative to the future use of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens by visitors:

ORANGERY: - It is admitted the space is limited for any display material in the Orangery and the question of making some changes is under consideration; i.e. making the Garden Guide's Information Office more accessible. Mrs. Bliss has made some suggestions to Mr. Thacher about having a different entrance and some preliminary figuring has been done by Mr. Bryce and the contractor on the paving of the gravelled surface with the red tile now in the center passageway.

FURNITURE: - The present garden furniture now in the Orangery is impractical and unsightly and it is proposed to replace it with some more durable seats, possibly of teakwood, but of a lighter structure than the outdoor garden furniture, and with no cross cut or turned pieces that would give way. It is advisable that simple chairs or benches be made that will withstand the necessary watering of the Orangery vines and plants.

#### OutDoor

Garden Seats The question of replacing some of the garden seats is also important as too many of them are falling apart; especially the bench and chair in the Wisteria Arbor.

#### PLANTING

LIST at D.O. It is proposed to make a complete planting list of the shrubs, trees and flowers at Dumbarton Oaks for the use of interested garden visitors, giving such information on cards as will be most useful. This can be started by Miss Sweeney as soon as cards are made available.

Mr. Thacher suggests that material which can be grown in the vicinity of Washington, with all available information thereon, be made part of the plantings at Dumbarton Oaks.

#### BUDGET FOR THE

PURCHASE OF BOOKS -----  
PLATES, CARDS &c

It seems more feasible to place at Miss Sweeney's disposal at Dumbarton Oaks a petty cash fund for the purchase of inexpensive books, cards &c., without correspondence with Reef Point or Mrs. Farrand. This to be accounted for to Mrs. Farrand.



For Mrs. Farrand -  
Copy to Mr. Patterson.

GARDEN BOOKLET:

The matter of a suitable garden booklet is one which should have immediate attention. Mr. Thacher says he will be glad to start it off with a brief description of the aims and purposes of Dumbarton Oaks, of the Collection, Library and perhaps one or two views of the Music Room, Library &c. He hopes Mrs. Farrand will contribute her description of the gardens, with special reference to the existing tablets, with translations and perhaps a few words for their being where they are.

MAP OF D.O.

So many people have wanted a copy of the map which is in the Garden Catalogue House that if possible, it seems to Mr. Thacher that it might be made available, with some necessary revisions, and brought down into a more convenient size. Could Mrs. Farrand suggest someone to make such a map?

Some sort of small map, or direction finder, should be provided for the guidance of those who visit the gardens, as simple as possible, to be given to visitors, marking it as special items of interest appear, or to locate certain plantings they wish to examine .

Such material for the proposed booklet should be ready by February first in order to get to press as soon as possible so that the booklet may be ready for distribution when the Spring Garden Tours start.