

March 21st, 1942.

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
P.O. Box 1140  
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I am enclosing a copy of my today's report to Mr. Thacher on activities for March in the Garden Guide Service, so you will know what is going on.

Your two letters of February 27th and March 10th are both unanswered and I am sure you must have given me up as a hopeless correspondent, but I just haven't been able to give you any satisfactory news concerning this thread of your skein of wool. I know it needs pulling in.

The toilet has been installed in the place where the houseman kept his cleaning apparatus. There is also a wash-basin and water for drinking. It is on the landing between the Orangery and the Music Room.

Bryce is firmly of the opinion that the flip-flap would not be right in the Orangery, so I'm going on filling up the panels as before with Spring flowers. I have found that a few panels laid on the tables in the Orangery were useful, so perhaps it will serve as well as a blackboard. At present the azaleas from the greenhouse are in the Orangery.

About the books, I really don't know of any more as I don't seem to get much from those I have. I got a dollar book showing prints of leaves which Mrs. Clark ordered on Mrs. Bliss' account and Mrs. Bliss asked Mrs. Clark to order another Audubon bird book but I find it much inferior in type and color plates from the first editions. However, it is added to our 'library'.

I have been reading a lot and only wish I could remember more of what I read; however I think some of it has stuck.

Mr. Thacher tells me you are coming to stay at the house and I'm sure it will be nice to have you so near and we can have some talks together about the future of the work. I find myself so short of material for the top horizontal panels - so few pictures adapt themselves to that height. There were so few things to put in for March that I have waited to put up the first display today - the ground has been wet and so few garden visitors want to walk on the wet ground, consequently we have allowed the winter material to remain until this week. I wish it were possible to get some more material but must content myself with what we have acquired and do the best I can with it.



Mrs. Farrand:

The gardens are beginning to bloom and I am looking forward to much personal enjoyment in my tours as well as the pleasure of showing it to people who are interested.

As to your query about talking to the botany teachers, I don't know what to say. I spoke to Mr. Thacher about it and he seemed to think that the teaching or instruction end was something for the teachers themselves to handle and that our part was only guiding them around and showing them what was here to be seen and studied. As for my own part, I am not favorably inclined towards any teaching here, except it be found helpful to allow the classes to hold their talks here in the Orangery after the walk is finished. If I haven't had any response from the teachers by the first of April I shall send out another notice.

I'm mailing you a copy of Horticulture in case you haven't yet seen the cover picture and the notice inside about Dumbarton Oaks.

It is so nice to have direct news of the Blisses and to know how much Mr. Bliss has gained, but in a pencilled note from Mrs. Bliss she tells me she has been ill and I'm sorry to hear it - of course I know she has been doing too much.

I hope Mr. Farrand has gained much from his winter in Santa Barbara and that you too are feeling the benefits of your rest(?). It will be so nice to see you here on April 13th and I'll try to think up a lot of things to pester you with.

Bryce returned from the Flower Show not very enthusiastic, but he had a talk with Mr. Russell and said that he would try to be down some day during your visit. I also had a letter from Mr. Russell telling me his news of the family.

Thanks to your good advice I have given up listening to the lurid radio war talk I know it didn't help a bit to hear all that raving but it made me terribly anxious.

With kindest greetings and looking forward with real pleasure and anticipation to your visit next month,

Sincerely yours,