

March 27th, 1941

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,  
1650 Orlando Road,  
San Marino, California.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your ever so nice letter of March 19th was a god-send in helping me to get several matters straightened out, especially in regard to the listing. Doubtless you can picture what a state I am in trying to get everyshing ship-shape and while I am greatly relieved to know that Mrs. Bliss is willing for me to stay and finish up the work of the Catalog House to a point where it will be acceptable to Harvard, I still feel like a man who was granted a stay of execution.

I am glad you wrote me as you did, for as you surmised I have heard not a word from Mrs. Bliss, which is not to be wondered at. I realize how many things she has on her mind besides me. Mr. Thacher was in yesterday and told me he was leaving for California the end of the week to discuss some matters with Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, so it looks as if they were not coming East very soon. I am distressed about Mr. Bliss as we all are. Mr. Russell came down on Tuesday and told me he had heard from you and he had also had a long letter from Mr. Bliss regarding several matters. Mr. Russell said we would probably have to rely on you for first-hand information regarding things in California.

I have duly noted all your suggestions which will be most helpful and Miss Horneman has made notes re families nomenclature &c. She has not been with me so much as she is busy working for Miss Greeley and also trying to get in with the Government Defense program, so I hope she will not get too tied up to come in and help out occasionally. The matter you mentioned of Miss Horneman perhaps supervising the set-up for Catalog House displays we just touched upon but made no decisions as she is not sure what time she can promise to give to Dumbarton Oaks.

I really am not answering your letter as it deserves, but am taking the liberty of sending you a set-up for a card which I want to have made. There is such a lot of typing to be done I want to save as much time and labor as possible. I am not pleased with the word 'Aspect' but can't think of a suitable synonym. I'm sure you have the right word for what we want to express. Also what do you think of having cards printed in two colors, one for the existing material and the other for what material we hope to be able to add in future. Do you think this is a practical idea?

I am looking forward to seeing you in Washington and hope to have several set-ups ready for your inspection. Would you be good enough to o.k. or discard the enclosed card suggestions, and return to me by air mail. If you approve I want to get them printed as quickly as possible. I'm still going strong and much encouraged by your pat on the back.

Very sincerely,