

March 3, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

How nice of you to write me such a friendly sympathetic letter, so understanding of the problems confronting me in this winding up of my Catalog House tenure. I really meant to answer before this to thank you for your letter and your offer to help me get straightened out at the end of the term, but I wanted to get some material in shape to send you to see if it was what you had in mind about the final set-up of lists &c. I have been working hard on listing the flowers in Blooming Season and am sending under separate cover a complete list of the prints we have on hand, under the months in which they may be found to bloom here. Also I am sending you a list which was prepared for me by Miss Horneman, of the plant families in botanical sequence intended for insertion in the 'book', and a list of the material here under their proper family headings.

Miss Horneman, Mrs. Bliss may have told you, has been assisting me in getting the lists prepared and in numbering the panels. Mrs. Bliss agreed that I might take advantage of a temporary lull in Miss Greeley's office which left Miss Horneman idle for a while, so we have been hard at it against the time when she is called away. We are sending these samples for your inspection and criticism and will be very glad of any suggestions you may have in regard to the summing up of the information to be used for reference in the Catalog House. I also enclose sample of some labels which I intend pasting on the backs of the panels to give as much condensed information as we can. I think when we have completed the file it will be easy to find the proper display panels but sometimes I'm fearful I won't get finished in time; however I am working hard at it and trying to make up for all the lost time.

As far as I can see now I shall be here until the end of April. Mrs. Bliss told me she would like me to finish by that time so that she might turn everything over to Harvard, and Mr. Russell assures me that Mrs. Bliss wants him to pay my salary until the end of April, so, D.V. I expect to be here when you arrive to give us a pat on the shoulder and hope you will be pleased with our efforts.

We are all so happy that you are to continue directing the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens but it doesn't seem the same any more; I feel as I were treading on forbidden ground every time I go near the place. I haven't been in the house but once since Mrs. Bliss left and then only to do something for her.

Mrs. Bliss wrote me such a nice letter telling me of several things she wanted to know about the work on the Catalog House and also sent me a little clipping from the Santa Barbara paper containing the item about her gift of the Casa Dorinda organ to the Art Museum. I am so glad the organ will be where it can give pleasure to many people and I think it was a lovely thought on Mrs. Bliss part but so characteristic of her generous heart to save nothing for herself.



I agree with you that it is a good thing I didn't go to California this time. It would have been almost unbearable on many counts. However, I do hope I may some day return if only to say a goodbye to the old place of fond memories. Mrs. Bliss writes that Mr. Bliss is far from well and I know she is worried about him. I hoped the S.B. air would do its work but evidently the rain has drowned even the good air into the soggy earth and lack of sunshine isn't very heartening to one who went West in search of a little warmth and sunshine.

Mr. Russell was here last Tuesday and said he would be writing you and could ease your mind in regard to the fact that I might not be here when you arrived in April.

We had quite a cold windy week for the last of February, ending up in a heavy blizzard but the temperature changed rapidly on Saturday and melted the snow until this morning there are but a few traces in spots under trees and in corners where the sun can't get at it. Today is mild and the air balmy and the cornus looks as if it were ready to burst its bonds, also the red maple buds and the willows are looking quite golden. I must walk over the swimming pool to see what the willows look like there.

Bryce returned from his Florida holiday a week ago today looking quite happy and sunburned and at peace with the world. He seems busy as ever and all over the place. Ralph is still here and Mr. Cowles and Mr. Young are working in the shop but all the others have departed. Mr. Davis came back from his vacation but isn't around here very much now.

I shall be pleased if you care to send me your comments on the material I am sending under separate cover and any suggestions for its improvement. With very kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,