

BEATRIX FARRAND  
THE VALLEY CLUB OF MONTECITO  
P. O. BOX 1140  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

January 1, 1947

Miss Anne Sweeney  
Dumbarton Oaks  
3101 R Street  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

Please try and forgive me for being so long in arrears in answering your delightful, full and clear letter and notes of December 5th. Thank you for your card, your friendship, and may I say, your affection for my dear Miss Walter and me, it is deeply appreciated tho' perhaps my silences are misleading.

Now to answer your letter and notes. Has Mr. Thacher spoken to you on the basis of there being no uncertainty as to your continuous appointment at D.O., because he and I spoke of it very definitely and I want you to tell me quite frankly if things are more to your liking. Tell me also what your salary is and if you are able to set aside anything.

P The planting list of D. O. material seems to me most important. I will take one of our Reef Point Gardens cards and make out a tentative one for you to improve on, and send it to you from California direct. It should be under Latin Botanical name with common name also, and cross reference by common name. It should have the normal habitat (synonym name if well known) where the best specimen is planted at D.O., whether it seems thriving, what the annual growth is, etc. etc. The specimen card will show you. All the flowers should be listed. Tulips - and those not in use marked tried and discarded in favor of - colour - height-etc. Annuals - Perennials - Trees- Shrubs. Broad leaved and coniferous evergreens - in fact a complete record of Dumbarton plant material. This is essential for the future.

P Asto "reorganizing the Orangery". Do you mean to say that the tile pieces of floor to cover some of the gravel has never been laid, as it was authorized some months ago. Tell me about it. Personally I feel the Garden Centre should be the orangery and later the Catalogue House turned into a summer house. I think the garden books ought to be available to students. This should be spoken of with Mrs. Bliss - at least all the current books should be in your care and available.

Mrs. Stover will send you \$15. or \$20. in petty cash and if you want more let her know and ask what she still has in hand as if we are getting low we'll fatten up.

P Have any coloured pictures been taken of the gardens, as I asked Mr. Thacher to authorize you to have some made.

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P The new postcards should be in your hands by spring at latest. Do you want to add any? Please refer to last decisions made of which we were to have had 5000 each. We can get better prices on these big quantities.

P I hope to hear the old garden furniture is moved out of the orangery. Even though it means moving in temporarily some of the lighter garden benches and teak seats it would be well to have the change made and as soon as possible. I am writing to the makers of teak seats in England and have received an answer but they have not replied as to whether they can supply the folding chairs which would be very useful. I am asking Mrs. Stover to poke them up as to this and also to find out if we can get some of the reed or other furniture which would be good at least for some years.

P The bench and chair in the wisteria arbor should of course be repaired and also all the other teak garden seats. Steinbraker should be able to do this. Who is the person to give this order?

P The garden booklet I don't quite understand, as I have just received one from Mr. Thacher as to the house, etc. and to my way of thinking the garden booklet ought to be quite separate with no interior views of the house, and a fair number of the best garden views, perhaps one or two in colour.

P As to the Dumbarton Oaks map. Mr. Patterson is very good at this, and when he is soon in Washington please go over the maps with him and show him the changes and what you want. A small size could be sold for \$.05 or given away, and a larger size ought to go in to the Garden Guide book! It is a question in my mind whether it is best to try and scramble a guide book into print quickly or to go on with the longer lists and planting descriptions for which Mrs. Bliss or Mr. Thacher have been asking. It would seem to me the booklet was the less important of the two. I am working on the plant list, etc, but make no promises as to when it will be ready.

P These are answers to at least some of the queries. The paragraphs marked P. will be given to Mr. Patterson and he will discuss them with you or Mr. Thacher as I understand he is soon to be at Dumbarton.

Let me know when I can again help.

Yours ever,

*Beatrix Farnand*