

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
124, EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK

The Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California

December 15, 1941

John S. Thacher, Esq.
Executive Officer
Dumbarton Oaks Library
3101 R. Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

You doubtless remember when you kindly gave me tea at your house we spoke of my mother's book, "Lantern Slides," and you said you would like to have a copy. This now goes to you with Christmas wishes, but not as a Christmas "present." It is only a card carrying you thoughts and friendly remembrances from the other side of this continent.

Frankly, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden building and its concerns is one of the best things that ever happened to our two friends at Casa Dorinda. They are both deeply interested in it, realize the work to be worthwhile, and, as there were a considerable number of details that have to be decided, they are putting their minds on this and consequently crowding out other anxieties.

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Frankly, I haven't yet decided in my own mind what is wisest for the green house question. It would seem to me rather a pity to waste the plants already bought for growing in the upper houses and possibly to lose the valuable azalias and so on, and the other greeneries stored in the big storage house. Unless I am entirely mistaken, there is no necessity for deciding this question within three or four days, and I am therefore taking the liberty of writing directly to Bryce asking him how we could conserve the rather unreplaceable plants with least heat. It would seem to me as though the use of the storage under the green houses would be a wise use of this underground vault, but I think, as I said in my Sunday note, that there would have to be heat in order to preserve any articles stored there without serious damp deterioration.

There is at least one satisfaction in the present situation, and that is that we can see our job clearly ahead of us without having to wait for developments, as we now know who is with us and who is against us.

Will you, when you have a free moment (which is not likely to be the case!) let me know whether the deposit has been made toward Miss Sweeney's salary from our friends close by, as otherwise I will remind them of this so cheerfully assumed obligation.

John S. Thacher, Esq.
December 15, 1941

It is a great comfort both to Mrs. Bliss and me to be under the same skies and to be able to talk to each other, even if we don't see each other; and from where we are, perched above the shores of the Pacific, we feel as though we had been given good seats in the arena.

The copy of the "D.O." report is sent you purely as a matter of record. It has been submitted again to Mrs. Bliss, and while she suggested a small alteration in one of the wordings, it was so unimportant that we agreed to let the report stand as it is written.

Yours ever,

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Enc.

