

BEATRIX FARRAND
1650 ORLANDO ROAD
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA

February 18, 1941

Rec'd 2/24/41

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

Dear Mr. Thacher:

A carbon copy of a letter to Mr. Sachs, going by the same post, is enclosed to you in order to save time for you both.

As you will see, Mr. Bryce has already been written to regarding the "Bride" and the Green Garden ground cover, and Mr. Russell as to Mr. Coles' time and Miss Sweeney's salary. Mrs. Bliss said she intended to write Miss Sweeney herself, but as she may not have time in her so filled days, I have written Miss Sweeney myself. It may be a useless duplication, but it seemed more sensible to duplicate than to leave the matter possibly uncertain.

Perhaps you can tell me whether the chairs originally designed for the Museum court have been finished and delivered, as Mrs. Bliss suggested a use for the iron work in another position.

Perhaps you could also enlighten me as to whether Mrs. Bliss said anything definite to you about finishing the finials for the south wall of the flower garden; she discussed this with me, but I am not clear whether she intends to finish these herself or not.

She said she had never been convinced that the little flower bed on the south side of the Orangery was needed, and as I quite agreed it was not necessary, it was suggested that the lawn be continued to the base of the creepers on the wall. To my way of thinking, this simplification would be a decided improvement.

We both agreed that the vegetables could quite well be planted in the upper level as well as in the lower near the herbaceous border. It remains to be seen whether it will be cheaper to grow vegetables to can or put up for the Winter or to buy them from the markets. My own impression is that the second method is likely to prove the more economical.

Can you tell me whether the inscriptions have yet been carved on the Forsythia gate - Dumbarton Oaks on one side and Dumbarton Oaks Park on the other, and if you know where the lantern is intended to be placed in a spot near the service entrance; Mrs. Bliss seems to think you know about this and could have it attended to.

Mrs. Bliss seemed quite willing to agree to abolishing the beds in the central grass plat of the ~~herbaceous~~ garden (E. terrace). Perhaps it might be wise to speak to Mr. Bryce with regard to having this change made before the Spring. I have not done so.

It now looks as though I should be leaving here about the 16th or 19th of April. Would it be likely to suit your engagements to have me come for work at Dumbarton on Thursday, April 24th or thereabouts, and have you any notion how long you and Harvard will want me, as it would seem as though I had a full days work for Mrs. Bliss over and above what Harvard may want? Please don't think me troublesome for trying to plan for so far in advance, but it seems necessary to allot the different days on my eastbound journey to my different "victims" fairly long ahead in order to dovetail into their plans as conveniently as possible.

Pray forgive so long a letter and be patient
with

Yours sincerely,

Beauvoir Fernald
