

BEATRIX FARRAND
~~1650 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point
~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

November 3, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Thacher:

It certainly was nice to get your telegram yesterday telling me that the days suggested for Dumbarton seem to work in reasonably well with your plans. I hope, therefore, to arrive on the afternoon of Friday the 21st of November, and as I shall have had a pretty stiff few days in New Haven and New York, perhaps we had better not make any engagements for that evening. Saturday seems to be free and I thought probably that day would be occupied mainly in catching up with the work of Miss Sweeney and Bryce, with perhaps a few snatches of your time. On Sunday afternoon I fear I may have to go to Alexandria to see some land belonging to Mrs. Leonard Elmhirst's son, but as Sunday is usually a busy time for you, you will not even notice my absence!

Monday I have suggested, as you will see by the enclosed two carbon copies of letters both to Mr. Drury and Mr. Root, that we meet at Dumbarton Oaks in order to settle the question of the path across Clifton Hill. There is not really very much at stake but I should report to the Two in Santa Barbara as fully as possible in as many different directions.

If these suggestions do not fall in with your time, will you ask your secretary to make such cancellations as you think advisable. On Tuesday afternoon the 25th I should be heading westward in the 5:45 train, but I think the days in Washington will do such work as we have in hand without too much of a rush.

It was nice to hear from Bryce that Dumbarton Oaks is going full swing, and from you that its first birthday was a happy one. Thank you for your nice message to me.

I have written to Bryce to suggest that if the big oak in the green garden is taken out that we do either one of two things, replant the oak with a reasonably small tree (which is going to look like a match for years) as this is really the only safe size, or to leave the space empty, which is ✓ the plan to which I feel most inclined.

I am writing to Mr. Coles who seems to have been dawdling on the inscription for the outer wall of the exhibition room, the inscription of the 32nd street wall, and several odds and ends that should be tied up before I go west for the winter.

Mr. Thacher 11/3/41 -2

Thank you for all you have done for Miss Sweeney. Naturally I am trying to keep in touch with her as closely as possible, partly in order to take the major part of the responsibilities off your shoulders; and partly so as to have as complete a series of documents for the family in California as possible. The more we can limit her journeys to at most one a day the better it will be, and we ought to keep the time down to an hour or an hour and five minutes.

My Chief continues to improve but it goes to my heart to leave him next Monday as we have been so much and so closely together this summer, but you can easily see that I realize he is better, otherwise I should not be leaving.

Your chrysanthemums at Dumbarton Oaks are lovely no doubt, but I wish you could see our blue sea and spruce trees!

With ever so many thanks for your nice and friendly letter and your ever cordial messages, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Beatrice Farrand
By Storer

You are very understanding about my having to delay the lecture to Harvard. It is a comfort to speak to so true a friend.

3-10-1941
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Reef Point
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Bar Harbor, Maine

Nov. 3, 1941

Mr. Newton B. Drury
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The enclosed letter is going to Mr. Irving C. Root with regard to a possible meeting at Dumbarton Oaks Park, which as you doubtless remember was given to the district by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss. You will see that I have suggested to Mr. Root that he speak with Mr. Thacher, or possibly Mr. Bryce (the superintendent) as to what they think might be advisable for this autumn's construction.

If we can take a look at the path line it might be well for me to report regarding this construction to Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, whom I shall hope to see in Santa Barbara early in December. This may still allow some time for winter work if we all agree it to be advisable.

The few brief minutes we had at Reef Point often come to our memory. We wish you had been back here as our autumn has been magnificent and the Island and sea nearly as beautiful as California!

With best regards from Mr. Farrand and me, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

You may be interested to know that meadow sod is still being steadily planted on some of the road berms in this Park where it really doesn't belong!

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Reef Point
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

November 3, 1941

Mr. Irving C. Root
Supt. National Capital Parks
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Root:

At last after a long summer here in Maine my return to Washington seems fairly well set for two or three days at the end of November. I am writing by this same post to Mr. Drury who said he would immensely like to meet us at Dumbarton Oaks Park and hoped to be in town. May I suggest that we meet, perhaps the informal committee -- Mr. Thacher, yourself, and myself (as a double personality, myself and a representative of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss). Will you let me know whether it seems likely that on Monday afternoon the 24th, or on Tuesday afternoon the 25th, we could meet at Dumbarton, perhaps at half past two? On Tuesday I must start westward for Chicago and so perhaps it would be better if we could make our meeting for Monday in order not to be hurried.

I am asking Mr. Bryce to stake out a tentative line of walk over Clifton Hill so that we may have a look at this and see whether its construction seems advisable this autumn; also perhaps you and Mr. Thacher or Mr. Bryce would have an opportunity to look over the place and see what planting or other arrangements you feel you would like to discuss at our forthcoming meeting.

You don't know with what eagerness I am looking forward to returning to Dumbarton and to seeing the establishment in full swing, and going on with whatever may be thought advisable in Dumbarton Oaks Park.

Yours very sincerely,

cc to Thacher, Bryce and Drury