

February 5, 1937

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Dumbarton Oaks
Washington, D.C.

Mildred my very dearest:

The catalogue house has been wickedly long delayed in its carrying out because it takes an absurd amount of time to verify and review the different names. It sounds easy to turn the list over to someone to look up but it needs a fairly experienced person to dig out among the acknowledged synonyms those usually in correct use, and also to pick out the common name in best usage. We are also adding the habitat and the accenting of the name, and as horticulturists are proverbially careless in the use of names it sometimes means ferreting until one excavates the right one in the horticultural muddle.

I have already written to Miss Sweeney telling her which books we are using as standards references, and will dribble on to her at Dumbarton further corrected lists as they are verified. I think she will have ample material to keep her going as some of the trees and shrubs are already in her hands. The accompanying list is mainly of flowers. Miss Sweeney and I have gone over the whole question fairly carefully at Casa ^Dorinda and I think she means to type the work list which she can take around with her to the various possible sources of picture supplies.

Am I right in thinking that you had definitely decided on carrying out the finials which were dummied on either side of the Quod Severis without further drawings?

Forgive a rush note written in the gaps of my three professions and signed for me by Miss Fulkerson as I have to dash off before it can possibly be typed.

Your ever devoted