

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

July 23, 1948

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
El Mirasol Hotel
Santa Barbara, California

Dearest Mildred:

The Wilton Gardens by Isaac de Caus has come and has been carefully looked through not only by me but by Miss Caroline Shillaber who is one of the librarians of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, and assistant in charge of the gardening books. It is fortunate that she is here cataloguing the Reef Point garden books as she was able to review my unskilled but instinctive opinion regarding the book. The price seems to me high as Rosenbach's own collation shows that there has been a good deal of "tipping in" and a duplicate impression of a plate, and what it does not say is that some of the plates are not good impressions, that some look as though they had been washed and that all the plates after the fifth have been remounted, and some of the pages are rather ragged. It is of course one of the most sought after books on gardening and if the copy were either less expensive or in better condition I should say at once that it was a worthwhile purchase for Dumbarton. Even as it is it is a book of which you would not be ashamed in the library, although of course it is not in really first-class condition. These opinions are not merely mine but they are reinforced by Miss Shillaber who has carefully gone over the book with our reprint here in the library and she has collated it as carefully as only a trained librarian can do.

From my own point of view it would be a more effective purchase to try and get a really good Redouté - either Rose or Lilies. While of course the deCaus is more or less a first folio it would seem to me important enough to wait for what may be a first-rate copy, as evidently the Lord Jersey copy from Osterley has gone through a good many hands, among others Quaritch. A list of good booksellers is being sent me from Harvard and if you say the word let us go on a Redouté hunt.

Miss Sweeney has spent ten days here and I think has really profited by the longer visit as I think she is a little clearer as to what is needed in the way of the record cards and certainly her eyes have been opened as to what really good cataloguing should be. A fuller letter with regard to Miss Sweeney and her work at Dumbarton and some things she may need in the way of supplies will be sent you before very long.

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Miss Sweeney reports your energy is marvelous and that you have seemed well and full of busyness this winter and spring.

Yours with deep and constant affection,

Trix