

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

May 21, 1941

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
Casa Dorinda  
Santa Barbara, California

Beloved Garden Twin:

You of course know deep in your heart how I stretch out to you across all these thousands of miles and think of you and Robert and hope the days get better with him.

When I reached here I sank in the bog of fatigue nearly up to my shoulders, but thanks to ten days of constant resting the bog has dropped away until now it is hardly higher than my knees! This means that I am hoping to go back to Oakdom in the early days of June for three or four days and want to report to you that Mr. Thacher was not quite "quick on the trigger" about notifying me of Mr. Root's official opinion about the Dumbarton Oaks Committee. Mr. Thacher had not gathered that you and I wanted this Committee in order to be able to carry out the changes in design which the Park will need as a result of being used by the public. Mr. Thacher wrote me a note which came yesterday saying that Mr. Root had called him up to say that:-

"his colleagues would be delighted to have a Dumbarton Oaks Park Committee to consist of: 1 Bliss, 1 Harvard, 1 Farrand, and himself. He suggested that we wait until the four of us are able to have a meeting before deciding on the fifth member, which sounds to me very sensible. He said that he would be delighted to have the services of the three old men to work in the park under the supervision of their foreman. I can quite understand that they would have to be responsible to the park foreman, but in actuality, they would be working under Bryce's guidance, as apparently the park foreman turns to Bryce constantly for guidance and advice."

I have tried to explain to Mr. Thacher that the real reason for carrying on the old men, entirely aside from your charity to them, was that our park walks could be designed the way you and I thought they should go. I think both he and Mr. Root now understand this and I have therefore written to Bryce to stake out the walk widening and the path across Clifton so that when I am next in Washington these can be decided upon, together with the possible fifth member of the Committee.

Perhaps you will let me do double duty when the Committee meets and represent you and Robert as well as B.F. and so make the four members!

