

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

May 28, 1942.

h 30 4

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Dumbarton Oaks
3101 R Street
Washington, D. C.

My very dearest:

You will have to be patient with your Trix next week as I am pretty tired and the doctor is rather grumbling about my going at all and insists that I keep rigid hours which are of course the most inconvenient in the world. He prescribes 10:30 to noon and 2:30 to five, and the rest of the time "purdah." It is too tiresome but I think with this strict attention to the medico's orders that I can do what is needed for D.O. and still not go flooey!

The agenda is all ready and some of the bits have gone to the various people and here is your lot to glance through in case you have time.

Yours ever and always devotedly

Trix

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss and Bryce. D.O. agenda June 1942.

✓ The Magnolia kobus west of the Cedar terrace may be left as it is for the moment as it does not crowd the cedar.

✓ The dove cote is still available.

✓ The Bride Magnolia was in excellent condition, better than for several years past.

is done?
Box bush for Mrs. Robert Gordon MacKay ~~1872~~ 1071 Thomas Jefferson St. (tel. Adams 1852) to be supplied by Bryce with Mr. Thacher's consent.

✓ The Borogroves are in the east terrace fountain where they were placed by Mrs. Bliss herself. They look rather enchanting.

✓ The lead squirrels are also in use at D.O. but could be taken by Mrs. Bliss at any moment.

of future
Bryce drew to Mrs. Farrand's attention the overgrown condition of the hedge surrounding the east lawn. He suggested a possibility of using this to replace the Box walk in time to come.

✓ Bryce was delighted to be proposed for Fellowship in the R.H. S. and Mrs. Farrand soon hopes to notify him of his election.

✓ The Iris garden was much curtailed on account of the infected soil which had destroyed many of the Iris. The cherry trees show infinitely better above the plain green lawn but one misses the beauty of the Iris.

✓ The Box in the beech terrace had been moved and the rose garden box had been replanted to its great advantage.

✓ The white oak stump had been taken out of the Green Garden and the Green Garden looked strangely widowed.

planting

Mrs. Bliss and Bryce, page 2. D.O. Agenda June 1942.

✓ The carpet of Fragaria and Honeysuckle at the Lilac perspective had been planted and promises well.

✓ The placing of the new oak trees must not be forgotten.

✓ The steps leading from the herbaceous garden to Melissande should later have some nigger head stones put on the other side of them to prevent them washing out which now makes the stones look over-prominent.

✓ ~~ix~~ The paving south of Mr. Thacher's house is done and planted.

✓ Has any progress been made in installing the nursery?

✓ The hemlocks near the Lovers Lane pool have been replaced with bamboo.

X The condition of the North vista box is about as last year.

much worse -

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss and
Park Dept. and Bryce. D.O. Agenda June 1942.

The "lightning struck" ~~xxxx~~ house at the stream is in only fair condition. Mr. Kline's attention should be drawn to this and also to the channel leading the water from the spring over the old millwheel.

✓ The Park landscape architect has approved Clifton Hill paths, path widening and will discuss with Bryce the position of the stone benches.

✓ Brooms not to be cut.

✓ Oak trees to be "stolen" by D.O.

Suggested position for benches, one near the Unicorn Lady, one near Quadrangle grave; one near the little Hickory on Clifton Hill, one at the top of the Ravine; one near the bridge looking north.

Mr. Kline wished to see the White Haven Street gate drawings.

Mr. Kline to be reminded to prune the Forsythia to correspond with the D.O. trimming.

Request to transfer D.O. Parks sign to the east side of Lovers Lane.

Naval observatory wash and silt catch basin.

The walk on Clifton Hill should be laid out more permanently than we staked it.

Has the walk at the stream been widened by any of the Park workers? Foot widening?

If you have a plan on which you could roughly dot in the Clifton Hill walk, it would seem to me wise to do this as Mr. Kline, the Landscape architect of the National Capital Parks will probably visit Dumbarton Oaks while I am there and would like some sort of record of the path which we shall then view.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Coles.

D.O. Agenda June 1942.

✓ Finalities mechanism satisfactory

✓ Swinging seat terrior price approved \$150. now or later -

— Lilac perspective colors excellent.

— North vista measures, Miss Havey to send

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss, Mr. Thacher and Bryce.

D.O. Agenda, June 1942.

✓ The full record of Harvard as to drains, water supply, electric supply, etc. has been turned over to Harvard.

✓ More Hollies, Yews and Ilex crenata are needed in the border south of the house. These should be all fine-leaved evergreen material.

✓ Eventually this south border is to encroach fairly considerably over the south lawn.

✓ Mr. Kline reported that District Commissioners have charge of Dumbarton Oaks Parks. It might be worth while to see the Commissioner in September as to the budget to be prepared for 1944 as the 1943 budget will have been made last September.

✓ Mrs. Bliss has decided that she does not wish the Mosaics at present stored in the work yard to be sold.

✓ The same color of green may be used on the greenhouses as on the Dumbarton Oaks house. The general impression seemed to be that brown would be the best color to try for on the Fountain terrace, blue on the Rose garden, and that possibly the North vista Green and the Green garden might be of the same green as the house, instead of the Ivy brown originally spoken of.

✓ Tree lights are apparently not needed near the new wing. Mr. Thacher is later to be asked why they are not of use.

X In the rose garden the only really large Box should be kept in the center of the largest motifs of the design, as for example the center of the garden, and on the north side in the larger beds and on the south sides in the octagonal spaces enclosed by the beds. Eventually the tall Box in the rest of the garden should be removed as the small scale of the new borders is a decided improvement, both from the point of view of the condition of the roses and the general appearance of the place.

much too

Mrs. Bliss, Mr. Thatcher and Bryce. Page 2.
D.O. Agenda June 1942.

✓ The highest Box hedges in the rose garden should be alongside of the flagged walks. The next size around the big squares and the lowest size around the middle design.

About twelve more Box should be moved out of the rose garden within the next few years. The two at either side of the steps leading to the Fountain terrace, ✓ two at either side of the North and south ends and the four at the intersection to the walks in the North section.

✓ When possible the Box terrace should be replanted. Bryce thought it might take another three or four years before his small plants would be ready.

✓ A stucco wall eventually to replace the Yew hedges at the vegetable garden was staked and roughly approved. The upper section by Mr. Yew and the lower section by Mrs. Yew probably should be stone of approximately the same color, texture and manner of laying as the west wall of the Fountain terrace supporting the steps leading down from the rose garden. This is the best model to follow for stone walls wherever built.

✓ A letter has gone to Hughes-Bolckow at Mrs. Bliss's request as to whether or not they could furnish 6 Britannia seats (3 five and 3 six foot lengths). When the answer comes as to whether these seats can be supplied Mr. Thacher is to be notified as to their cost as he may wish to add to the order.

✓ The Crab Hill was reviewed and it was agreed with Bryce that many of the deformed trees which have been long over-crowded should be cut out as soon as their flowering season was over, leaving such few big trees remaining as were in good condition. After the cutting out is done it can be seen how many small trees will be required to re-fill the Crab Hill to a reasonable extent, and while it may appear somewhat over-empty for a few seasons a considerable planting of single Hollyhocks all over the hillside will make mid-summer gay and the lessening of the shade in the spring will make daffodil planting more satisfactory under the trees.

✓ The track paving was agreed upon and is to be done "as and when" Bryce can get cement and gravel so that the center part which used to be sodded can eventually be gravel cemented. On the curves where the truck wheels slipped off the narrow track possibly Belgian blocks could be added to widen the space, or cobbles laid in cement.

X At Mrs. Bliss's suggestion the cast iron pots were moved down to the Lilac Circle and while not perfect seemed rather to go in with the whole amusing little scheme. *and*

✓ The trial was made of a "twin path" of brick at the Melissende Avenue. It was carefully staked out by Bryce, and Mr. Thacher, Miss Havey, Bryce, and B.F. all voted emphatically against it and thought it spoiled the scale and attractiveness of the long allee.

✓ More record movies were asked for at the different seasons, requested, bulbs, summer annuals, chrysanthemums, roses and possibly a forsythia.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Thacher.

D.O. Agenda, June 1942.

✓ The Corinthian Antioch capital has been slightly reduced in whiteness of its color and it still stands north of the loggia of the Museum wing.

✓ Mrs. Bliss reminded B.F. that the duplicate of the entrance door fan light is in the D.O. cellar if needed.

✓ The lead chairs are now in use in the Orangery.

✓ Full historic story in the entrance vestibule in Grisaille colored coats of arms with mantling. *hope yes - in future*

but dress up obsolete exterior one
Bryce "guesses" a possible expenditure of \$5000 yearly should keep up D.O. park for normal times without any considerable improvements or changes of planting. If planting, feeding, spraying, etc. included possibly the sum should be \$2,000. more.

Mrs. Farrand is asked to find out from Mrs. Bliss whether any decision has been made on an inscription for finalities. *NO*

— The top of the Forsythia gate in its monogram seemed a trifle too coarse in scale. *much too coarse -*

— Mrs. Bliss still felt that some of the naturalistic flowers on the trefoil gate on the south side of the Fountain terrace should be removed. *→ Bush Seal.*

✓ A lantern may some day be needed for the "Star".

— The quotation from Gerarde was submitted for using on the teak benches around Mr. Yew, and Mrs. Bliss thought some day Mrs. Clark would be able to find a more apposite quotation.

← Some day the yellow marble table top in the "Star" might be simplified, perhaps with a teak top but for the moment the table is to be left as it is.

- ✓ Mr. Thacher said he had in mind something as to the swimming pool loggia paintings in due course of time.
- ✓ The garden cushions had been renewed with the material left by Mrs. Bliss.
- ✓ Suggest to Mrs. Bliss a possibility of Miss Havey being the replacer of B.F. when B.F. retires.
- X The good aluminum chair was moved over into the Cortile so that Mrs. Bliss may look at this as to its appropriateness and scale. *Had!*

X There was a question as to whether Ralph could paint the lettering of the historic statements in the vestibule if this should be decided upon. *NO*

Mr. Thacher and Mrs. Farrand were both to think over the question of what ornament should be placed at the end of the loggia inscription at the west end of the Museum cortile.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss, Miss Sweeney & Brycel.

D.O. Agenda June 1942.

✓ The progress of plant labelling should be pursued.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss and Miss Sweeney.

D.O. Agenday June 1942.

✓ Miss Sweeney will help in preparing the plant record book.

✓ Reports to be submitted to Mr. Thacher ~~weekly~~ or half-monthly and put on his desk. Carbon to Mrs. Farrand.

✓ Fund allotted by Mrs. Bliss of \$20. Mr. Russell reminded of. Mr. Thacher has also allowed a fund of \$15. making \$35. in all.

✓ Books ordered for Miss Sweeney are : "Hurtus Second" "Old Roses " "Annuals" and "Perennials".

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss, Miss Sweeney, Mr. Thacher and Bryce.

✓ Plant Record Book.

Type of planting surrounding south lawn

Type of planting surrounding east lawn

Type of planting surrounding house, fine-leaved foliage predominating.

Heights of box in the rose garden

Green Garden azaleas

Type of planting around swimming pool

Pots and permanent planting

Crab hill planting.

Box Walk

North Vista

Forsythia Dell and pruning

Bosquet and its fairly frequent thinning

Fountain Garden

Herbaceous border

Quarters shrubs.

✓ It was agreed that Miss Sweeney should be on duty during the summer and make her usual visitors trips. *wish have a team -*

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss.

D.O. Agenda June 1942.

The placing of the capital with the cross on one end is still to be decided upon.

The inscription is still lacking for the Caroline and William Phillips seat in the Forsythia dell.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss, Mr. Coles and Mr. Bryce

June Agenda D.O. 1942.

— Historic tablet (also on Mr. Thacher's memo)

✓ Teak wood unobtainable for "the duration". Repair slats to screen on inside of gates.

— North vista ideas to be ~~re~~-staked out as to heights and walls.

— The walls at the vegetable gardens are also to be staked out as to heights.

— Paint colors are to be ready for the house, the swimming pool, the north vista, the rose garden and the Fountain terrace.

— A "dirty" stucco wall at the end of Melissande Ave. was spoken of and is to be discussed again later. The photographs asked for of the place where the wall is to go at the north end of Melissande Avenue have not been sent by Mr. Coles.

Mrs. Bliss

Mrs. Bliss, Mr. Thacher and Mr. Coles.

June 1942, Agenda D.O.

- ✓ Small tablet on the outer wall west side of entrance gate possible inscription. *only if 2-Tablet omitted*
- ✓ Recutting, deepening and enlarging of letters of Museum tablet on the west end of the new Museum wing, will amount to not more than \$150.
- ✓ Quod severis inscription altered and vastly improved.

The inscription suggested for the outer tablet at the west side of the entrance gates is

*only if
2-Tablet omitted*
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library
and Collection and Gardens

conveyed by

by Robert Woods and Mildred Bliss
to Harvard University
1940

✓ The finials on the south wall of the Fountain terrace have been removed for the present and until some one has an inspiration the garden wall is to remain empty.