

October 11, 1938.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Dumbarton Oaks
Georgetown
District of Columbia

My dearest Dear:

The tablet photograph has come and is quite beautiful. As you say, one needs no reminder of that golden creature, Gray, but the carving and lettering are so good and the words so right that I am glad to have it and will keep it always.

It was interesting to find that Bryce feels very decidedly that he and the Gardeners' Association would like the inscription on their tablet to Gray as brief as possible, as he feels that the main beauty of inscription is yours, on the greenhouse wall. A very much simplified inscription therefore for the gardeners' tablet will be submitted to you for your approval.

It now looks as though I should reach Washington from Princeton sometime on Tuesday afternoon, October 25, and Bryce and I will dig into the routine work of the garden.

I shall probably be going Chicagowards on either Saturday or Sunday, October 29-30, as I am due there for two or three days university work on the westward trek. You and I both know that these Washington days may be almost impossible for you and I am covered with confusion in not having been able to send you plan-word sooner, but have been delaying from day to day in the hope of getting an answer from the poor badgered Elmhirsts, who are expecting to send the gardener over to this country this autumn to see me. If none of these dates are likely to give me even a minute or two with you, I shall be back again in middlish November as Mrs. Elmhirst's gardener will turn up about that time, if not at the end of this month.

What a confused world this is!

Yours ever,

P. S.-

Since dictating this screed to you, word has come in from the Elmhirsts saying the gardener man will not arrive until November, so this mails the Washington engagement definitely to the dates spoken of. How impatient I am to see and hug you, and to be at Dumbarton again!