

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

September 17, 1942.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Casa Dorinda
Hot Springs Road
Santa Barbara, California

Dearest and best of all true friends:

This will be a shop letter asking for counsel and direction from you.

Miss Havey is here and she and I both feel that the museum tablet is better than it has been before and we are ready to present it to Mr. Thacher at the end of this month hoping he will like it well enough to allow us to give Coles the "all clear" signal. This will be equally true of the historic tablet so that I hope these will both be at least started by the time you and Robert reach Washington.

The Haveylet and I also expect to take to Washington (where I arrive on Monday September 28th and she follows me on Tuesday) the drawings of the north vista and the herbaceous border which Mr. Thacher says he would be glad to see pushed forward to a fairly definite conclusion. I need your help as I am by no means clear whether the north vista and herbaceous border drawings are definitely and entirely a Harvard enterprise or whether you are in any way concerned with the cost of making up these drawings. We all know that this is going to be the last year in which any extravagances will be possible and so you are asked whether you and Robert had expected to take any part in the cost of preparing these projects. My own impression is that they are definitely and entirely ~~a Harvard enterprise~~ and in writing Mr. Thacher the enclosed letter no mention has been made of your aid.

A letter from Bryce says that Robert is arriving on Saturday morning October 3rd and re-departing the same day. To my great regret we shall just miss each other as a Trustees Committee meeting at Princeton forces me to be there on the Saturday morning, so we shall just play our usual game of Box and Cox. Do give him my fondest love and tell him how sorry I am not to see him during my visit to Oakdom.

Have you yet decided on which Washington peg you are going to hang yourselves for the winter? I can't bear to think of you at the Shoreham with its impossible noise and food. Perhaps before this reaches you you will already have decided where you are to be and when you expect to arrive. How glad I shall be to know that you are back where you so particularly belong, in the Washington that belongs to you as much as you belong to it. A nice long letter from Maunsell Van Rensselaer speaks with deep regret of your leaving Santa Barbara and says with heartfelt gratitude

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how much you have helped the Garden, not only in what you have given it but in the way you understand its problems and have dealt with them wisely, tactfully and generously.

The season has passed quickly here and we dislike seeing the autumn tints in the maple tree outside the morning room window as it means the summer is drawing to an end and we must leave Reef Point for the cold months. As you know we expect to be back at the Valley Club, but oh! how different it will be without our two beloved friends at Casa Dorinda. Please forgive this very jerky letter which rushes off to you asking for your usual guiding hand in Dumbarton Oaks matters.

Yours with ever so much affection

Trix

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Reef Point
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Bar Harbor, Maine.

September 17, 1942.

John S. Thacher, Esq.,
Executive Officer
Dumbarton Oaks
3101 R Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thacher:

Miss Havey and I hope to have the museum and the historic tablets ready for you on Tuesday morning September 29th. We have made distinct progress in the last few days and trust you will feel like giving us the "all clear" as Mrs. Bliss has generously left the decision to us.

As you say you rather definitely would like to push forward with our drawings for both the north vista and the herbaceous border walls, Miss Havey and I have gone over the possible cost and we feel that the finished design for the north vista, after being approximately approved on our next visit, should not exceed \$125. to \$150. We would make the design so that it could be used for construction and unless drastic revisions were later required we feel that there would be no further cost in preparation. If a simple design for an iron bar gate were made a part of the north vista plan the design for this gate should not exceed \$25.00.

If the herbaceous border design is also approved by you in Washington when we next meet, this also can be finished and made ready for construction for an amount not to exceed \$100.

Miss Havey and I are reviewing the north vista and herbaceous designs here but are doing no further work on them until we hear whether or not the preparation of the drawings seems to you at the moment advisable.

We are both looking forward eagerly to our visit to Dumbarton as we hope the two big tablet designs can finally be put into Mr. Coles's hands for execution.

With best messages from both Farrands and with real regret that it has not been possible to see you here this summer, I am,

Yours ever sincerely,