

John

January 13, 1941

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Cosmopolitan Club,
122 East 66th Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of January 10th. I hope that I shall have my lesson learned for you also, so that you will not be hindered by my lack of familiarity with the situation.

I think that in your letter you have answered the question which you raised as to how you can be useful to the new order at Dumbarton Oaks. We all feel that the general design and character of the gardens must be preserved as long as possible, and particular care given to the trees and the box. As none of us, excepting Mr. Merrill of the Arnold Arboretum, are anything but the meekest amateurs in gardening, we shall, I know, need your advice as to what changes can be made in the gardens in order to cut down the overhead expenses and yet change the general character of the gardens as little as possible.

I think that you are quite right that much should be re-considered now that the primary purpose of Dumbarton Oaks is to be a Research Center for the study of Byzantine and Mediaeval Humanities, and it certainly would be a great help if one could map out a permanent plan for the future.

I cannot think of anything specific to ask you to think over before we meet, other than this general problem which I have just mentioned.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday in the late afternoon.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John S. Thacher.