

July 30, 1945

Mrs. Beatrice Farrand
Reef Point
Bar Harbor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Thank you for your two very nice letters. It was nice to hear from you and to know that you are well.

I understand from Mrs. Bliss that she spoke to you on the telephone, so that you have direct news from her. I am delighted that Mr. Bliss is able to get away and is going to California. Even though the trip which Mrs. Bliss is going to take will be a hard one and an emotional strain for her, on the other hand I know it will give her great pleasure and satisfaction in a great many ways.

In regard to your coming here in autumn, as far as I can tell now it would not seem necessary for you to make the trip what with the travel restrictions and difficulties. Naturally we should be delighted to have you come and would enjoy seeing you, but at the moment there does not seem to be anything vital enough to warrant your making the trip. As for Mr. Bryce going to Reef Point, I would rather not have him leave here, for I expect to be put on inactive duty in the Navy in the near future and plan to be away for a four or five weeks' vacation. In that case it would seem wiser for both of us not to be away at the same time. If anything important comes up later on, we can make plans at that time, and in the meantime we can always correspond about any other matters.

Mr. Bryce tells me he will write to you himself about the little oak trees, so you will get your answer to that question directly from him. I agree with you about the postcards, for I am no more pleased with them than you are. However, I believe it is largely due to the poor quality of paper, for we have been having the same struggle with postcards of some of the collection objects that we are having made. It is evidently hard to really reproduce photographs well on the type of paper that one is allowed to use at present. Nevertheless, they have been very popular and are selling like hot-cakes.

It does not seem to me that it is necessary to do anything about paving the Green Garden for this year. There really has not been any need for doing it, and I think it would be better to wait for the present.

Mr. Bryce has done a splendid job filling in the middle walk with crushed agate between the greenhouse and the pool on Crab Hill. The steps at the end by the pool have been eliminated, making a gradual grade, thus making it easier to get wheelbarrows, lawnmowers, etc. over the path. Mrs. Bliss is happy about it, as I am and feel sure you will be. We are planning to remove one or two large apple trees in order to give the smaller ones a chance, for they are getting

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quite choked in that area.

Unfortunately it is not possible for us to hold back funds from any single account after the fiscal year is over. It all goes into a general reserve together. However, should we need funds for further garden work, it might be possible to secure some of the reserve for it.

In regard to the North Vista, the side walls are looking very much better now that the vines are making themselves felt, and I am feeling better about it. Mr. and Mrs. Bliss and I are looking forward to the day when two iron gates can replace the wicket gates on the east and west sides. I still have certain reservations in regard to the north end of the Vista, which I should prefer to discuss with you viva voce.

In the meantime, I do hope the incessant rains we have been having will cease, for everything will be completely mildewed before long including myself. I trust that your part of the world has not been subjected to them as well.

Miss Sweeney is leaving the end of the week on her vacation and will be back on the 4th of September. She has done a splendid job this year with the garden tours, and from her reports you can see what that means with the large numbers of people she has had to take care of.

All of us at Dumbarton Oaks have been thinking a great deal about you, and are always pleased to have news from you. I will certainly keep you informed of any news here, and will write you about any garden matters that need attention as they occur.

With all good wishes,

Ever yours sincerely,

P.S. I am discussing the bulb order situation with Bryce and will let you know the results.