

March 27, 1947

Mrs. Beatrice Farrand
Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Mrs. Farrand,

Your letter of March 21st reached me this morning. As Mrs. Bliss had read me parts of your letter to her, the contents of your letter to me did not come as a complete surprise, and I was given an opportunity to consider the question very seriously. You have written me what I feared you would be obliged to tell me one of these days, but it makes me sad to think that that day has now come. I shall not attempt to tell you how Dumbarton Oaks feels about your retirement.

I understand perfectly all of the reasons why you feel that you cannot physically continue to serve as Consulting Landscape Gardener with a clear conscience. Fortunately, however, owing to your foresight and generosity, as well as Mr. Patterson's own ability, no real change in the garden picture is necessary. This makes me very happy for innumerable reasons.

You asked me whether it would be agreeable to all concerned if you became "emeritus or honorary", or whether a perfectly clean break with the past should be made. The latter suggestion is simply out of the question! Therefore, with many expressions of deep gratitude and affection, I shall accept your resignation as Consulting Landscape Gardener of Dumbarton Oaks to take effect as of July 1, 1947, and at the same time appoint you as of July 1, 1947, Consulting Landscape Gardener, Emerita, which position I trust you will occupy for many, many years to come. Any other arrangement would seem to me to be unwise for the good of Dumbarton Oaks and for the mutual happiness of those of us who are so interwoven in the garden picture.

It is my definite hope that Mr. Patterson will accept the position of Consulting Landscape Gardener, and if he should show any hesitancy I should be grateful to you if you would urge him to accept. Personally, I think that he is already sufficiently intrigued and interested in Dumbarton Oaks to wish to continue to assist us indefinitely. This arrangement, which I have said, is largely due to your foresight, seems to me excellent and the best possible arrangement, and it means that no break with the past has to be made. It is important, and I say this without any sentiment, that you continue as senior advisor so that Mr. Patterson and the rest of us may turn to you when we need the type of advice and direction that can only come from long years of experience. In this way the idiom which has been established for our gardens can be perpetuated.

I agree fully with what you have said in regard to a Miss Sweeney. The actual Miss Sweeney seems well, interested and is due for a raise in salary on the first of July!

I fear that Mrs. Bliss's friendly interest in my welfare has lead her to exaggerate my physical condition. It is true that at the end of December I had very severe pains in my sciatic nerve. Fortunately, after a month's rest and examinations by various doctors, this has cleared up and I do not anticipate any reoccurrence of

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my former trouble. Thank you for your kind words.

I plan to leave Washington on May 1st and to sail from New York on the 6th. From the 22nd through the 26th of April I shall be either away or up to my ears here in work in connection with the Byzantine Conferences which have been organized by Princeton University, the Walters Gallery in Baltimore, and ourselves.

I have sent Mr. Patterson my itinerary and told him that I hoped he could come here for his last visit of the year sometime between the fourteenth and the twenty-first of April. It would be wonderful if your plans could also bring you here at that time. As I told you in our last conversation in Boston, I consider it essential that you pay us a visit as soon as health and timetables permit. On the other hand I should be bitterly disappointed if you came to Dumbarton Oaks when I was not here. So, if our spring schedules do not coincide, maybe your visit could be put off until the chrysanthemum season at the very latest.

This letter has been a very difficult one for me to write. However, I do take considerable satisfaction in looking forward to many years of happy association, which I believe will be profitable both for Dumbarton Oaks and for ourselves personally, inspite of the slight change in nomenclature.

With many affectionate greetings,

Yours very sincerely,