

El Mirasol Hotel  
Santa Barbara  
California  
July 26th, 1948

Dearest Trix:

Your letter of the twenty-third arrived last night, and that of the twenty-first the day before yesterday. Many thanks for both, and above all for the trouble and characteristic thoroughness with which you have had "The Wilton Gardens" collated.

On general bibliophile principles, in my judgment, it is always a mistake to get a poor copy of a great book. In this case I don't know how many opportunities I am likely to have, before I die, to acquire any copy of the de Caus. From what you and Miss Schillebar write, this particular copy is not a good buy, and at such a price only a good buy should be considered. Therefore I am reluctantly writing Mr. Percy Lawler my disappointment. Frankly, I should prefer to pay a good price and have the book on our D. O. shelves than await a better bargain, but I don't like the tipped-in pages.

As for the Redouté, I should like nothing better than to raid the Morgan Library! Plainly, I shall go to my grave unsatisfied, as I should like the entire collection in the original bindings, and as it is most unlikely that such a scoop as that or your Wiltoniana will ever befall me, I shall have console myself with half measures and second bests.

In building up the garden book library at D.O., the consideration that we still have a bank account and in a few years may have none, weighs in the decision. If the world were normal I would never favor paying too much for any book, but in present conditions, knowing that one may not have another opportunity to acquire a copy, good or bad, unless the whole offer is preposterous, I shall give serious consideration to every important item that presents itself, expensive though it may be.

Do by all means try for the Redouté! I hope the first copy may be the Rose, as more appropriate to D. O. Again, my very appreciative thanks to you and Miss Schillebar. I shall hope to bother you soon again, and often!

Your account of Miss Sweeney's visit is eagerly awaited. All that you have so far written seems very much to the good, and I am pleased.



Tomorrow I have my first visit to the Botanic Garden. A talk by Reid Moran on his visit to Baja California, with excellent color slides, interested us; and certainly the collaboration arrived at by the Garden and the University of California is a very valuable one. Mr. Bullard and Stuart Wing were manna sent from on high. Mr. Van Rensselaer is looking better than I have seen him for several years, and the atmosphere is charged with energy, eagerness, congeniality and ambition.

Congratulations on having recouped the blue room from the debris! I do wish you would write what your plans for the house are - what you have done and are planning to do - and in just what part of the house the library is to be.

With love from Santa Barbara to Reef Point, and very especially from Robert and me to you,

Ever devotedly,

P.S. Please remember me to Miss Stovell, Clementine, and your nice chauffeur - is his name Grant?

Mrs. Max Farrand  
Reef Point  
Bar Harbor, Maine