

1537 TWENTY-EIGHTH STREET  
GEORGETOWN, WASHINGTON 7, D. C.

June 12, 1947

Dearest Trix:

Would that I could run up to Bar Harbor to see you; but that, alas, is not within the realm of possibilities this year. We had to attend the Conference of the Association of Museums in Canada but forego that part of the trip which would have taken us down the St. Lawrence, as we could not afford the two or three extra days. A trunk leaves for Santa Barbara on the 20th, the motor leaves this afternoon and we go noon of the 22nd to the Mirasol as last year.

The plan is to come back for three days packing and set sail on the Mauretania August 22nd, returning to Georgetown by air October 22nd to scrub and shampoo and catch our breaths before President Conant and the Corporation meet at Dumbarton Oaks Saturday and Sunday, the 25th and 26th. Holding the meeting there is, I believe, a major Harvard earthquake as they have not left the banks of the Charles for near three hundred years; so there is nothing for it but for us to be back here in time.

As Constantinople and Cairo cannot be visited before October we do these last, which is the reason for going this year, and fly back - an abhorrent prospect for me! September will be spent flying from London to Stockholm - Stockholm to Hanover - Hanover to Paris (with a day in Brussels and another in Geneva), then flying to Italy - Rome, Florence, Ravenna - thence flying to Constantinople. In Turkey we shall see naught but that great city, ~~xx~~ Basra, and only fly to Ankara if the Wilsons cannot be in Constantinople. Then we fly to Cairo and if still alive 28th and Que will be the next and last port of call.

I will send you an occasional postcard but I don't pretend I shall write you long letters dear, much as I should like to. But next year I hope to see you, Reef Point and the Azaleas. This has been a most beautiful Spring but the first heat-wave is now upon us and letters must be short.

Enclosed is the little card I had written when ordering a copy of the "Ten Centuries of Flowers" for you. Belle Greene counters that you ordered it for yourself and that on May 26th a complimentary copy was sent you. Hence only the message of affection but not the second catalogue.

Your letter of May 26th regarding the Garden Center is no surprise because Thacher had already dropper similar seeds into my mind. I agree with the general principle and hope the details can and will be wisely worked out within the coming year so that 1949 could see the construction.

Your May 26th note regarding the Botanic Garden is very pleasant reading as are the letters from Mr. Bullard and Van Rensselaer.



Mrs. Farrand - 2

The purchase of the new Director's house seems both wise and a bargain and all to the good.

Surely I don't have to tell you again how glad I am through and through that the House and Senate at Augusta have assured the permanency of Reef Point Gardens. Perhaps better than anyone else I can sense what it means to you and how relieved Max would be. I can also realize how much alleviation the removal of the weight of uncertainty will bring you physically.

Do tell me more about publishers and dates of Max's "Franklin" for with that you will have indeed completed your splendidly constructive life's cycle.

In this envelope go four lists of garden books: - the one received from Reef Point, the one from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard, the little one from Sweeney and a sheet of titles recommended by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. If you will study the Catalogue of the Exhibit at the Morgan Library you will see perfectly realized the sort of specialized small library I should like to leave at Dumbarton Oaks; but instead of its being on botany I should like it on landscape gardening and design. Will you please go over these lists and mark the items you think should be at Dumbarton Oaks, importantly - with three stars. Mark with two stars those you wish we could have and with one star the least important and delightful, but desirable ones, if possible to realize the plan as well as I should like.

I don't hesitate to ask this of you, feeling it is the sort of labor of love you still feel ready to do for Dumbarton Oaks.

If there is anything I can do for you in California - anything at the Valley Club or little remarks to be made here and there to the Huntington Library people, etc. let me know.

I have wished for you so much this lovely Spring when the panorama of cherries, wistaris, dog-wood, magnolias, were at their best. The forsythia alone was inadequate. Now the rose garden is giving an abundance of bloom such as I have never seen there.

Jack returns in July. The Faculty is breaking up; - Vasiliev, Grabar and der Nercessian have already departed and Kraeling leaves Saturday and the young ones finish next week. Bryce keeps the even tenor of his good, solid, Scotch way and things on the whole are moving well except for the big copper beech. To the early death of that tree I am completely unreconciled. Bryce assures me that even if its apron were now uncovered and the terrace dug down, that it is too late; that the grade was made too high and the tree had irrevocably suffered. It is such a glorious tree and so all important to the composition that I simply cannot imagine the terrace without it. What on earth shall we do?

Mrs. Farrand - 3

Elizabeth is improving, and admits it; but she has been through hell, literally. She asked me to send you her love. The fact that she is not yet accustomed to using her left hand makes writing difficult for her.

I am sure you are as absorbed in and admiring of the British performance in India as we are. What a great race it is! Here, if the Congress will only back General Marshall with his group of sensible assistants ( Bob Lovett, Norman Armour and Kennan, being particularly competent to see clearly) we would feel a little more easy in our minds.

And now, Trix dear, good bye and my dearest love with Robert's and a greeting to Clementine. Take in a whiff of that wonderful Mt. Desert air and throw a kiss to the azaleas for your devoted -

*Killed -*

*Two electrical storms — one of which was a twister — did much damage — The lovely Japanese maple & arbutus in the orangery lost a big branch!!*

*Bryce has read me Mr. Patterson's letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> & his reply of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Do say Mr. P. to keep up the blue & white in Helianthus Allie — Arab Hill needs bulbs, too.*



June 12, 1947

Dearest Trix:

Would that I could run up to Bar Harbor to see you; but that, alas, is not within the realm of possibilities this year. We had to attend the Conference of the Association of Museums in Canada but forego that part of the trip which would have taken us down the St. Lawrence, as we could not afford the two or three extra days. A trunk leaves for Santa Barbara on the 20th, the motor leaves this afternoon and we go noon of the 22nd to the Mirasol as last year.

The plan is to come back for three days packing and set sail on the Mauretania August 22nd, returning to Georgetown by air October 22nd to scrub and shampoo and catch our breaths before President Conant and the Corporation meet at Dumbarton Oaks Saturday and Sunday, the 25th and 26th. Holding the meeting there is, I believe, a major Harvard earthquake as they have not left the banks of the Charles for near three hundred years; so there is nothing for it but for us to be back here in time.

As Constantinople and Cairo cannot be visited before October we do these last, which is the reason for going this year, and fly back - an abhorrent prospect for me! September will be spent flying from London to Stockholm - Stockholm to Hanover - Hanover to Paris (with a day in Brussels and another in Geneva), then flying to Italy - Rome, Florence, Ravenna - thence flying to Constantinople. In Turkey we shall see naught but that great city, ~~at~~ Basra, and only fly to Ankara if the Wilsons cannot be in Constantinople. Then we fly to Cairo and if still alive 28th and Que will be the next and last port of call.

I will send you an occasional postcard but I don't pretend I shall write you long letters dear, much as I should like to. But next year I hope to see you, Reef Point and the Azaleas. This has been a most beautiful Spring but the first heat-wave is now upon us and letters must be short.

Enclosed is the little card I had written when ordering a copy of the "Ten Centuries of Flowers" for you. Belle Greene counters that you ordered it for yourself and that on May 26th a complimentary copy was sent you. Hence only the message of affection but not the second catalogue.

Your letter of May 26th regarding the Garden Center is no surprise because Thatcher had already dropped similar seeds into my mind. I agree with the general principle and hope the details can and will be wisely worked out within the coming year so that 1949 could see the construction.

Your May 26th note regarding the Botanic Garden is very pleasant reading as are the letters from Mr. Bullard and Van Rensselaer.



Mrs. Farrand - 2

The purchase of the new Director's house seems both wise and a bargain and all to the good.

Surely I don't have to tell you again how glad I am through and through that the House and Senate at Augusta have assured the permanency of Reef Point Gardens. Perhaps better than anyone else I can sense what it means to you and how relieved Max would be. I can also realize how much alleviation the removal of the weight of uncertainty will bring you physically.

Do tell me more about publishers and dates of Max's "Franklin" for with that you will have indeed completed your splendidly constructive life's cycle.

In this envelope go four lists of garden books: - the one received from Reef Point, the one from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard, the little one from Sweeney and a sheet of titles recommended by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. If you will study the Catalogue of the Exhibit at the Morgan Library you will see perfectly realized the sort of specialized small library I should like to leave at Dumbarton Oaks; but instead of its being on botany I should like it on landscape gardening and design. Will you please go over these lists and mark the items you think should be at Dumbarton Oaks, importantly - with three stars. Mark with two stars those you wish we could have and with one star the least important and delightful, but desirable ones, if possible to realize the plan as well as I should like.

I don't hesitate to ask this of you, feeling it is the sort of labor of love you still feel ready to do for Dumbarton Oaks.

If there is anything I can do for you in California - anything at the Valley Club or little remarks to be made here and there to the Huntington Library people, etc. let me know.

I have wished for you so much this lovely Spring when the panorama of cherries, wistaris, dog-wood, magnolias, were at their best. The forsythia alone was inadequate. Now the rose garden is giving an abundance of bloom such as I have never seen there.

Jack returns in July. The Faculty is breaking up; - Vasiliev, Grabar and der Mercessionian have already departed and Kraeling leaves Saturday and the young ones finish next week. Bryce keeps the even tenor of his good, solid, Scotch way and things on the whole are moving well except for the big copper beech. To the early death of that tree I am completely unreconciled. Bryce assures me that even if its apron were now uncovered and the terrace dug down, that it is too late; that the grade was made too high and the tree had irrevocably suffered. It is such a glorious tree and so all important to the composition that I simply cannot imagine the terrace without it. What on earth shall we do?



Mrs. Farrand - 3

Elizabeth is improving, and admits it; but she has been through hell literally. She asked me to send you her love. The fact that she is not yet accustomed to using her left hand makes writing difficult for her.

I am sure you are as absorbed in and admiring of the British performance in India as we are. What a great race it is! Here, if the Congress will only back General Marshall with his group of sensible assistants ( Bob Lovett, Norman Armour and Kennan, being particularly competent to see clearly) we would feel a little more easy in our minds.

And now, Trix dear good bye and my dearest love with Robert's and a greeting to Clementine. Take in a whiff of that wonderful Mt. Desert air and throw a kiss to the azaleas for your devoted -

P.S. Two electrical storms - one of which was a twister - did much damage. The lovely Japanese maple east of the Orangery lost a big branch!!

Bryce has read me Mr. Patterson's letter of the 4th and his reply of the 9th. Do beg Mr. P. to keep up the blue and white in Melisande's Allée. Crab Hill needs bulbs, too.