

Hotel Ritz
15 Place Vendôme
Paris (1er) France

August 16, 1949

Mr. Robert Patterson
Landscape Architect
Barr Harbor, Maine

Dear Mr. Patterson:

Many thanks for your letter of July 28, which I only received on August 5 at sea; having been travelling about with no mail following me your letter was delivered on board the night of the 4th, hence this delay in answering you.

Between my return from ~~Reef~~ Point and departure from Washington on the 29, I worked relentlessly in straightening out the various projects I have at heart for the Dumbarton Oaks gardens which I shall now take up seriatim:

1. North vista platform. Kearney had arranged this so that it was more easy to visualise. Frankly I am not too happy about it, the proportions seem to me a little awkward, as a solution to that particular problem of grading, and the opening in the north wall itself does still seem narrow! However, it is not too late to change that and the best that can be done is to get just the right finials and arrange a very clever planting. It seems to me that the finials for the north end, especially for the centre piers, are about right and that the type of finial projected for the inner piers at the iron gates is good. Miss Havey ought to be able to draw up a really good design for these and I hope when the gardens open next spring that they will already be looking weathered and mellow! The local iron workers who made the finials between the fountains and arbor terraces years ago did quite well and they know the sort of thing we like, perhaps they will be the best ones to do this work. Who is going to make the chains, and have you in mind chains similar to those or heavier than those of the Lovers' Lane pool? The chains of the bowling

