

Hotel Ritz
15 Place Vendôme
Paris (1er) France

August 12, 1949

Miss Ruth Havey
25 5th Avenue
New York City
New York

Dear Miss Havey:

The big envelope full of alluring sketches was well studied at sea when I finally awakened. That last week in America was fearsome: six one-night stands in seven days, and in that heat and humidity! The morning packing and the evenings unpacking were no pleasure! I have thought well over your agenda and now recapitulate discussions:

1. a) Estimate on Terrior accepted, but No.5 on your sketch should await an autumn decision as I should like Mr. Patterson to decide where he wishes the hemlocks replanted and I would not care to go into this type of replanting independently.
- b) Steinbraker's estimate for stone cutting on the Finalities tablet seems high but we must get that item finished, and after all I perhaps cannot judge the present rates for stone cutters. I am writing Steinbraker that the Finalities tablet will be taken up with him direct by you. If you think we cannot get a better estimate then order the inscription cut. As for the stone, I quite definitely *reject* ~~regret~~ that granite. Steinbraker assures me that selected limestone for the tablet would last indefinitely. Certainly I would like it better than anything else, except possibly Caen stone, so please see that proper selection is made.

c) Will you please use lead or stone for I and II, whichever looks best. Personally, I like the scroll but the insetting of lead letters might be costly and difficult to keep up, so that cutting the letters in the frieze might be better. The three oak leaves should be cut in the tablet, in any case. The ~~creased~~ oak leaves must be either cut or in lead, whichever will best balance Nos. I and II. Go ahead and finish this unit and make it as pretty as you know how! *Crossed*

2. The cool house conversion to the uses of a *G*arden Centre, and all such problems, must be submitted to, and approved by, the Director, as also the terrace and the arbor garden. Personally we think the cool house will make a satisfactory start for a garden centre, that it should be in action next year on the 10th anniversary, and that the sooner we get to it the better. We are still hoping that a way will be found for us to have a day somehow with Mr. Thacher who is having a most complicated summer with illnesses and personal problems, and sailing back a little sooner than expected. However, see him we must if it can possibly be done so that the work, if it is to be done on the cool house, can be begun in good time and the Centre finished and installed when the gardens open in the spring. If Steinbraker's estimate starts at \$12,500, by the time we would have the centre installed with fixtures, *Book Cases* ~~base surfaces~~, desks, tables chairs, reading lamps, telephone, ventilation, and the inevitable surprises, it would cost a good deal more and just how the money is going to be found ~~that~~ I don't just know. I can't be very persuasive about the arbor treatment until I have an estimate, so perhaps you could get a tentative one and send it to me c/o this hotel by air mail as soon as ever you can. We leave here the *31st* ~~24th~~ and if successful in arranging a rendez-vous with Mr. Thacher it will be for the early days of September. We think the treatment charming. If and when the plan is approved, drainage must be provided. If the floor of the terrace is to be of pebbled concrete should it not have a slight slant toward the centre with a sub drain under the sun dial, or should it drain eastwards from the terrace into the pipes which carry off water from the hill beyond the pear trees to the alley. I eagerly await the estimate of this unit.

3. Mélisande steps. Steinbraker forgot to submit an estimate using Doria for the ramps, seats, snails, etc. I am writing him to send it immediately. Using limestone would be thoroughly inappropriate; cement castings, like those of the Lovers' Lane pool is too expensive. If the Doria can't be used (and I think it would be the prettiest of all) perhaps the use of exposed aggregate concrete ~~like~~ the east steps, adding wood ~~planks~~ *blocks* with a bit for the platforms in front of the two seats, and heavily stuccoed brick for the ramps might be pretty, less expensive and appropriate. Just as soon as the right specification and estimate are accepted you must go ahead and execute this unit, but I would not think of spending any such sum as Steinbraker's present estimate on this particular unit. Even if not obliged to count my pennies I would think it an inappropriate use of money for that unit, placed where it is, but it is so pretty that I am very much hoping a way can be found to have it built, *9* looking already passé by next summer!
4. The two panels in the arbor are greatly improved, to our minds, by the elimination of the lead lotus and bullrushes. If Mr. Tacher approves, we should have this done.
5. Many thanks for the designs for the fabric. One of them is excellent and will be very useful in dealing with the Italian manufacturer.
6. Yes, as per your letter of August 4, please deal directly with Mr. Patterson regarding the north vista finials as well as the two by the gates.

G. MORRIS STEINBRAKER & SON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

3207 GRACE STREET, N. W.,

WASHINGTON 7, D. C. (GEORGETOWN)

MICHIGAN 8855

August 1, 1949

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Re: Additional Estimate of July 28

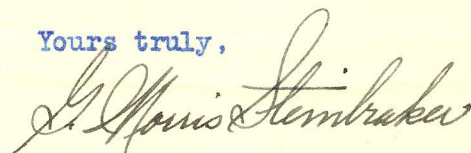
Dear Mrs. Bliss:

To construct steps, etc. of Indiana Limestone on concrete foundation, will cost approximately \$3,500.00. (Carving, etc. from F. S. details)

To construct steps, coping, etc. of exposed aggregate concrete, will cost \$3,000.00.

To install oak wood treads, cast in top of each step, add the sum of \$200.00.

Yours truly,



G. Morris Steinbraker

GMS: jr

G. MORRIS STEINBRAKER & SON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

3207 GRACE STREET, N. W.,

WASHINGTON 7, D. C. (GEORGETOWN)

MICHIGAN 8855

July 28, 1949

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss:

Miss Havey has asked me to submit the following approximate costs of the several items of construction, etc., in connection with the garden work in The Dumbarton Oaks.

GARDEN CENTER:

To make necessary alterations and repairs to Cool House as per plans, will cost the approximate sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$12,500.00)

MELISANDE STEPS:

To furnish labor and material to install foundations, fabricate and install the cast concrete steps, cheek walls etc., as indicated on drawing, will cost the sum of FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$4,500.00) This estimate includes the cost of all models, etc., for the preparation of moulds.

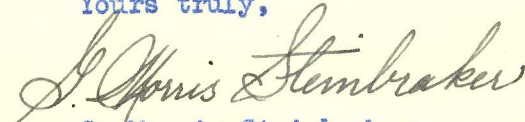
TERRIER SEAT:

To furnish a new cast stone support and teak wood seat, as per model, will cost the approximate sum of THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS. (\$375.00)

FINALITIES:

To furnish a new stone of Tennessee Marble, including carving of letters, ornaments on same, coat of arms and lead letters above stone, will cost the approximate sum of SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$600.00)

Yours truly,


G. Morris Steinbraker

GMS: jr
(Copy to Miss Havey)

July 28, 1949

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss:

Miss Hovey has asked me to submit the following approximate costs of the several items of construction, etc., in connection with the garden work in The Rumbarton Oaks.

GARDEN CENTER:

To make necessary alterations and repairs to Cool House as per plans, will cost the approximate sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$12,500.00) *est. abt. 10% high - L*

MELISANDR STEPS:

To furnish labor and material to install foundations, fabricate and install the cast concrete steps, cheek walls etc., as indicated on drawing, will cost the sum of FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$4,500.00) This estimate includes the cost of all molds, etc., for the preparation of molds.

TERRIER SEAT:

To furnish a new cast stone support and teak wood seat, as per model, will cost the approximate sum of THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS. (\$375.00)

FINALITIES:

To furnish a new stone of Tennessee Marble, including carving of letters, ornaments on same, coat of arms and lead letters above stone, will cost the approximate sum of SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS. (\$600.00)

Yours truly,

G. Morris Steinbraker

GMS: jr
(Copy to Miss Hovey)