

June 30, 1953

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twenty-eighth Street
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss,

I am enclosing a 3" scale sketch for the top of the gate and a full size drawing for the M cypher---and unfinished studies for the R and B cyphers. These last two I have studied only far enough to determine whether, by adjusting the spacing we could approximate the same sort of spot that the M makes. I think it is far enough to carry them until we see which firm is awarded the contract. I had better give Jorss or Finelli complete and definite drawings. Freund is more expert in this type of metal work than the other two and his first step would be to full size the entire gate in his shop---and by laying the iron on the drawing we can tell at a glance whether any adjustments are needed in the sizes or spacing. By going to Astoria (Heaven help me---it is something like Brooklyn, only worse to get to by subway)---many hours of work in the office could be saved---and of course the expense of Washington trips.

For the bronze parts---the wheat and the ribbons---the drawings specify these as cast bronze. For the contractor this means having these modeled in clay, a cast made and the bronze poured and finished. In writing the contract I shall specify of course that the model be submitted and worked over until it is acceptable. I should expect Freund to turn out something better than the other two. Then too, he is capable of working directly in the bronze---which means we could have wrought bronze rather than cast bronze if that turns out to be the best way to do it.

We have asked for three proposals from three different kinds of firms. For quality of work I should rank them:

- 1---Lothar A. Freund Ironworks *2000-*
23-08 Broadway, Astoria, L.I., N.Y.
- 2---District Ornamental Ironworks---Philip Finelli *9350-*
415 K Street NW, Washington, D.C.
- 3---A.F.Jorss Ironworks Co. Inc.
300 Tenth Street South, Arlington, Va.

For cost---I should expect them to run---*least* 2---3---1 *most*
Jorss and Finelli can not have their proposals ready until Thursday and I will check up on them again Wednesday afternoon.

TIME REQUIRED---all three say it is impossible for them to erect
the gates by Labor Day.

Jorss---no definite answer yet.

Finelli---April, May or June

Freund---ideally early spring---March

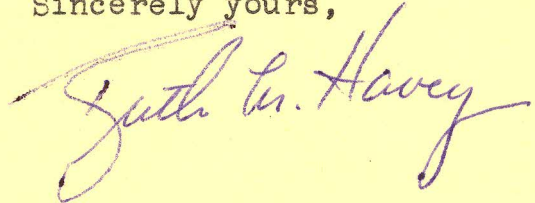
If earlier date must be met---will erect the gate
in the late fall if the weather permits.

It requires a week of dry weather to set the gates
in lead.

The Freund proposal is in. I will give it a separate page.
The Finelli proposal has just this minute come in by telephone.
On the surface it seems smaller, but does not include the bronze
ornament which is apparently a very large item in the cost of the
gate. He needs full size drawings before he can get a figure and
as this would take some time I am now on my way to try to get a
rough figure here from the small sketch and will send you these later.

Very busy days---but the weather is being not too brutal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Ruth L. Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "R" and "H".

Proposal for building and erecting two pairs of gates in the
R Street wall at Dumbarton Oaks:

LOTHAR A. FREUND IRONWORKS---23-08 Broadway, Astoria, L.I., N.Y.

<u>Cost---</u>	First pair of gates---	\$11,800.
	Second " " "	<u>8,200.</u>

Total	\$20,000.
-------	-----------

The weight of a single gate is two tons. The cost includes removing the pier capping and inserting a steel core in the pier if necessary to hold the weight.

Mr. Freund and his engineer think it would be best to omit the tracks and castors at the center---use bronze neck hinges and ball-bearing sockets at the lower outside corners. The hinges and the socket would be designed to carry the load with no play---so that even a small obstruction on a track would have to be removed before the gate could open---so eliminate the track and hang the weight on the pier. (This firm is experienced in building fine gates.)

Time required (as stated on previous page)