

28 October 1955

Dr. George A. Pettitt  
Assistant to the President  
225 Administration Building  
Berkeley Campus

Dear Dr. Pettitt:

As you know, Miss Beatrix Farrand's recent gift to the University of California included her Reef Point Gardens herbarium. Our delay in writing to you regarding this valuable gift was occasioned by the fact that on arrival of the collection here, living herbarium beetles were found on the specimens and it was necessary to fumigate all of the material to avoid the possibility of infecting our own herbarium collections. Therefore, we have just now been able to evaluate the gift. Fortunately, the damage done by the infestation of herbarium beetles was slight.

The collection consists of nearly 2000 excellently prepared and mounted herbarium specimens which served as vouchers of the plantings at Reef Point Gardens. Such a collection, representative of the horticultural plants which could be grown successfully in that part of Maine, is of value to us in helping with public service work originating in our montane communities where comparable conditions prevail. Thus in addition to it being a beautifully prepared collection it is an exceedingly useful one.

We are pleased that the gift included the steel herbarium cases for housing the specimens. Otherwise, the receipt of such a sizeable collection of horticultural material would have posed a housing problem. We will also make good use of the record filing cases.

We are grateful to Miss Farrand for thinking of us in disposing of this valuable collection.

Sincerely,

Herbert L. Mason  
Director of Herbarium

HLM:sk