

Teachers College - Columbia University, New York, N. Y. 10027

May 27, 1965

Claire Baldwin, Tom Van Sant and Mary McDonald
Board of Education
180 Livingston Street
Brooklyn 1, New York

My Dear Friends:

What a thoughtful and warmhearted gesture of a friendship I prize dearly! The lovely Rhodia Script is mounted on my bookcase in my "home-studio," where through the years ahead, I can draw meaning and inspiration from it to try to live up to the tribute.

The Seminar in which Mary presented it to me was a delightful surprise itself. I had gone into it with my mind playing tricks between the agenda for the final session and the pleasant nostalgia of reminiscence of the Seminar over the past 18 years. To me, as a teacher, these Seminars on adult education have been the most exciting experiences of the exchange of ideas. When I walked into the room and found my students with cake and champagne cocktails and toasts and tributes to me and Pearl (who has served tea and coffee and snacks 560 times) I almost forgot the agenda for the day.

But the added touch of Mary's presentation of the Script was even more of a surprise. For once in my life I was speechless. But old Ralph "pence, who doesn't say much until something needs to be said, made the speech that I wish I could have made." He said: "If I had known retirement was so much fun, we should have asked you to retire several times over the years."

Thank you all - and please include Mr. Rhodia in my appreciation. It is a lovely picture as well as an expression of great hearts. And when you put the two together, you can't come any closer to the goal of our persistent search for the adult learning experience of understanding of truth and beauty.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Esert