

PERRY, SHAW, HEPBURN AND DEAN

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Mr. John W. Rhoden  
Sculptor  
285 Eighth Avenue  
New York 1, New York

Dear John:

I did receive cards from you from all the interesting places in the world that you visited and I appreciated them very much.

Under your inspiration I have tried some welded sculpture and have come up with three pieces; one a girl and a goose, another a jubilee singer and a third an old war horse retired to pasture. Some people are quite pleased with them, others don't think they are realistic enough, still others think they are not modern enough. I would like to send you some photographs of them for your criticism. I have been using <sup>one</sup> eight inch thick sheet steel heating and beating it, sometimes hot and sometimes cold over the end grain of a wooden block and forming segments of the surface. These are welded together over a skeleton of steel bars. The only trouble with doing this kind of work is that I get so steamed up over it that I can't relax when I go to bed and was only saved from what might have been complete exhaustion, by breaking my leg skiing. It cost me the use of my hands and anything so vigorous as repousse work. After I have finished the figures in steel, I bronze them over the surface and polish them with a wire brush. I recovered the use of my legs and as a dividend my hands, so that I could now start the piece I have now projected, which is a heron three feet, six inches high. However, the hot weather and a house full of grandchildren, my daughter having just come back from Hawaii, keeps me from starting anything so fascinating to them and to me as a lot of sparks flying around the studio.

I hope all goes well with you and your wife, and that she is getting some satisfaction from her painting. Architecture for me gets worse and worse and there is always a perfect solution lurking somewhere in the background but I never seem to be able to bring it forth, so at times suffer from complete frustration.

All send their regards.

Sincerely,

Robert Dean