Dear Althea

My heavens, congratulations on the professorship, and as Frank Lloyd Wright said about four years ago when the A.I.A. gave him a gold medal, it's about time.

My Williamsburg sources are shakey at best -- guess I've heard from Sue about twice this year, and very early in the year at that. As a matter of fact all I know is what seeps into the papers, and a comment in TIME recently. (Which, by the way, reminds me of what people were always saying; that is, that they were dying to leave W&M -- but, of course, they never did. I never wanted to, there was never any doubt from the first time I got there and fell down on the slick brick walk in front of the president's house, that I loved Williamsburg more than anyplace I'd ever been.)

I haven't even heard about the theatre, except that it was going to be very good. That you were able to work out of a theatre is no small matter, too. So many theatres are so tired, so very tired, because they always do everything just the same way. The biggest thing I've learned about directing is to be inventive in finding ways to vary the approach to rehearsals, the virtue of rehearsing out of the theatre, and such. I envy all those who were there for the fire (which many of us prayed for regularly) and then the time you have had to experiment and find out new things. As a matter of fact I'm frightened to death of ending up in a place like this one -- a theatre like this one, I mean. Nobody cares the way we cared about
the plays — the directors, students, technicians, designer, or anybody. And it goes on and on: they choose fine plays, and then just do them and nobody much cares, and you certainly can't tell this one from that one. So you can see what you have done at W&M is maybe not even apparent to you. I certainly never knew things weren't as interesting elsewhere, for devoted, and concerned.

As for Inkle, well, of course, I'm delighted that you like it. Ben Johnston's wife is copying the music for me so it can be black-lined (like blue-prints, you know) and I'll send you a score-book as soon as they're ready. Maybe a recording of some of the stuff, too, if I can get it. The music is the best of all.

Again, my love to all, and congratulations to you and the good sense of the Board of Visitors.

As ever,

[signature]

1102 West Oregon
Urbana, Ill.
31 May, 1955