

AS BETTY (& REUBEN) INTENDED: A CAS COLLECTORS CLASSIC

From our archives, we're pleased to bring you this special edition of "As Betty Intended." It originally appeared in the February, 2006 issue of "CAS Collectors Quarterly," and focuses on the unique working relationship between Betty Harrington and Reuben Sand.

Remember "I Dream of Jeannie?" Who doesn't? But long before Barbara Eden crossed her arms, bobbed her head, and made things magical for Larry Hagman, another "Genie" and "Aladdin" were working their special brand of ceramic magic in Madison, Wisconsin.

Without this particular "Genie," Betty Harrington, and this particular "Aladdin," Reuben Sand, Ceramic Arts Studio would not have existed. Betty, the artist, and Reuben, the entrepreneur, each brought to the enterprise unique talents and abilities that have led to the enduring appeal of CAS.

Theirs was a mutual admiration society, with each fully aware and appreciative of what the other had to offer. For Betty, working at the Studio was a previously unknown artistic dream come true. Reuben gave her the opportunity and facility to let her imagination run free rein. Betty was always grateful for his confidence, stating, "outside of my family, working at the Ceramic Arts Studio was the most exciting and fulfilling time of my life."

Reuben was equally grateful, remembering, "Betty Harrington was a wonderful person. She was game for work if she liked the work, and hours did not mean anything to her. Basically, you couldn't find a nicer or more dedicated individual. We got along wonderfully, and she never lied to me, and I never lied to her. The Ceramic Arts Studio style was distinctly Betty's; she did not copy anyone else's. Betty had a style all her own."

For both, Ceramic Arts Studio was not only a labor of love, but also a financially rewarding venture. Betty once noted "I'm proud to say that one year I made more than the Governor of Wisconsin!," while Reuben said of Betty's efforts, "look how many people she made happy and well off -- including yours truly!"

Capturing the unique working relationship of these two is a sketch Betty prepared especially for Reuben, which he shared with us for *Ceramic Arts Studio: The Legacy of Betty Harrington*. Sitting on a comfy cushion, a Reuben-like figure (dressed a lot like the *Sultan on Pillow*) gazes at an "Aladdin's Lamp" (a lot like the *CAS Server*), from which a Genie has emerged in a puff of smoke, ready to get to work. Betty's hand-written logo clearly identifies this always-on-call personage as "Betty H."

Reuben said he always got a chuckle out of this drawing, probably knowing how clearly it reflected their working relationship. When Reuben's masterful production savvy and marketing skills combined with Betty's boundless imagination and design talent, the world was theirs. For a decade and a half, the "Madison Aladdin and Genie" worked magic that continues to enchant all who encounter it. It was, said Betty, "a beautiful friendship which lasted through all the years." . . . just as Betty (and Reuben) intended.