

[December 29, 2010]

Dmitri—You possibly are aware of how deeply appreciative I am of the cup—mug—which so brilliantly reflects the artistry of Sherri Cavan. Please convey how moved I was when I unwrapped the gift. I know that Fran was similarly touched. Ms. Cavan captured that something in Erving's eyes which almost literally followed me as I walked past the place the cup was resting. She captured some of the intensity I recall and in all that strength there was even—as I read it—a little of his humor and sensitivity and awareness. My thanks to Sherri Cavan are unlimited and my thanks to you for sharing in this are limited by the inadequacy of some words.

I am attempting to be careful not to become so effusive that the essence is lost; but there are many additional thanks to be conveyed first, to you, for your work, your dedication, your seemingly untiring efforts to undertake and continue to add to, the Goffman archives. I understand there are others who are contributors and participants in this vast project, and to each of them, on behalf of the many Averbachs who enjoy vicarious pride in Erving's work, and, more significantly, are appreciative of all you have done as well as the others involved, we emphasize our gratitude. If individual names are not readily accessible, please share the family's unlimited thanks for what you have all accomplished.

Again, thanks, echo'd by applause, for the superb Goffman cup (so proud to have one) and for all you and the others are doing to make Erving's work and the countless articles you keep adding, available to the population at large and to students of the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dmitri".

[March 6, 2011]

Dmitri, My apologies re the inaccessible phone call, particularly because I had planned to call you to convey the thanks Fran had earlier told you she wanted to write in appreciation of the cup. Alice Goffman visited Fran last week and last Saturday she and Fran drove to Manhattan Beach to spend the afternoon with me. During our conversation I mentioned the thank you note and what follows is, for the most part, what was approved.

.....Please express my deeply felt appreciation to Sheri Cavan for her professionalism and sensitivity embodied in the Erving Goffman cup,---- which I shall treasure. Please also convey my gratitude and thanks to the Erving Goffman scholars. We are most appreciative of their dedication and efforts.----Frances Bay

-----Dmitri, I hope all is well with you and yours, and that phone lines are less cluttered in subsequent calls. Esther