

OFFICE OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE	
RL	✓
PB	
DATE	5/8/33

JOHN HERMAN RANDALL, JR.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

May Fifth
Nineteen Thirty-three

Dr. Robert D. Leigh, President,
Bennington College,
Bennington, Vermont.

Dear Robert Leigh,

Thank you for sending me the statement of Mr. Irving Fineman on the symposium on modernism in the arts. I think it gives me some idea of what your group is interested in, and some suggestions as to how to fit science into your program. I take it that it is the meaning and significance of contemporary science for the other elements of our culture, especially the arts, that is relevant to your symposium. But that is a large subject, and I cannot promise to do more than make a few suggestions.

PB * I have to be back in New York by nine o'clock Wednesday morning, so I am assuming that it will be possible to catch a late train after the discussion. Perhaps you can advise me as to the best way to get to Bennington on Tuesday. Although I have been through Bennington several times in the summer, I have never tried to penetrate to it by train.

Sincerely yours,

John Herman Randall Jr.

April 25, 1933

Mr. John H. Randall
Department of Philosophy
Columbia University
New York City

Dear Jack Randall,

I am enclosing a statement Mr. Irving Fineman has made regarding the symposium on modernism which is to occupy twelve or more evenings during the latter part of our College semester.

The meetings will be held two or three times a week and will be for the students--all college freshmen--and members of the faculty, in fact, members of the faculty will conduct most of the meetings. The time for the speaker is more or less forty-five minutes after which there will be an equal period or longer for general questioning and discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh
President

716

INTEROFFICE MEMO

Bennington College

Date _____

To Mr. Leigh
From Mr. Fineman

Re: Memo for Mr. Randall

The symposium on modernism in the arts is planned as a series of meetings at each of which the most modern developments and tendencies in some one of the arts (architecture, painting, music, drama, dance poetry, prose, etc.) will be discovered and considered. There is no preconceived idea of the ultimate conclusions; but it is expected that certain analogous tendencies among the several arts (as well as perhaps antithetical intentions) will reveal themselves - much as mathematical analogies have been revealed in the theories of different fields of science independently arrived at. In this connection it was thought that a consideration of the modern tendencies in science would prove interesting and stimulating. In order to make it pertinent we would like some exposition of those theories which are representative of the more radical speculative thought as well as some indication of the most modern advances in science. The speaker need not concern himself at all with our preoccupation with the arts in this symposium, except if he happens to be interested philosophically in the matter - in which case we would of course be happy to have the benefit of his vision of the search of the modern spirit.