

STEFAN HIRSCH

May 19, 1955

Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, President
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Fred:

Elsa and I want to thank you most cordially for inviting us to your Symposium and for your hospitality during those three days. You certainly picked the time, the weather, and the outburst of lilacs with mathematical precision, or shall we say with poetic acumen. We always love to come up, especially when you have devised such sprightly affairs as this last Symposium. As you must have noticed, I, at least, enjoyed myself hugely in the question and answer games and I was very happy that Tom gave me the wonderful opportunity to get Hans Hofmann the big hand he more than earned and I know greatly appreciated. We are sorry not to have seen much of you, especially during the last evening because of the geographical awkwardness of the dining arrangements. The concert we both thought was magnificent although it was also a bit saddening that Carl Ruggles' piece which I believe I had heard once privately many many years ago should only now have come to public attention which it certainly deserved. Lionel's idea of repeating it as well as the Varese opus was very wise and a good old Bennington tradition. Ives' piece was, of course, a marvelous beginning.

Our post-mortems the next morning at breakfast at the Overlea Inn with Bouchard and Voltaire (the sound technician) was a rather stimulating letdown and I just managed to make my afternoon class at Bard.

If by any chance you are mimeographing the speeches we would be most delighted to get two copies of them, one for ourselves and one for the Bard Library.

I am sure your efforts in bringing about this occasion will have their reverberations favorable to the prosperity of the college even though there will undoubtedly be a few disapproving voices considering the heterodoxy of some of the art and some of the opinions expressed. With many thanks again, and best wishes from Elsa and myself,

BARD COLLEGE

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

STEFAN HIRSCH

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Stefan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P.S. I introduced myself to Dr. Dorner after his speech and said a few appreciative words to him which was a bit difficult because he seemed so deeply upset by his own expressed thoughts.

SH:mr