

M E M O

Date: May 12, 1944

To: Mr. Drucker - Evenings Meetings Committee

From: Martha Hill

May we suggest that the Evening Meetings Committee consider for next semester a visit of one or two days by George Amberg, Curator of the Department of Dance and Theater Design of the Museum of Modern Art? I would suggest one evening meeting with slides from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art and a short discussion by Mr. Amberg and several meetings with students who are particularly interested in the Performing Arts. I am enclosing a list of possible subjects which he has given me. I think perhaps something that deals with a combination of the first three titles illustrated with slides would be interesting for the Community and subjects 4 and 5 would be interesting for the major students in the Performing Arts.

INTEROFFICE MEMO

Bennington College

To Mr. Drucker, Evening Meetings Committee

Date July 24, 1944

From Martha Hill

Re: George Amberg

If the Evening Meetings Committee decides to invite George Amberg of the Museum of Modern Art for several days next year, we think one of his meetings should be put at a time when members of the community could come. It should not be announced as a large evening meeting of wide interest. The plan of this meeting would be to show slides of dance of various periods and styles with very brief talk and explanation. Since the Museum of Modern Art has an excellent collection of slides, this meeting may be of interest to people other than students in the Performing Arts. We shall want to schedule him for several small meetings also. Herta Moselsio talked to George Amberg in New York and said she was very much impressed with him.

August 29, 1944

W,
Mr. George Amberg, Curator
Department of Dance and Theater Design
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53rd Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Amberg,

The performing arts faculty at Bennington College would like very much to have you visit the College sometime in October to give an evening lecture illustrated with slides to which the community would be invited, and also to meet informally the next day with two or three smaller groups of students with a specialized interest in the performing arts. We would suggest Thursday and Friday, October 26th and 27th, with October 12th and 13th as second choice.

The evening lectures usually last from forty to forty-five minutes followed by a question period of half an hour. The audience would consist of the student body and faculty numbering about three hundred and fifty.

Our budget for evening meetings is rather limited and we can offer an honorarium of only \$25 plus your traveling expenses but we should be happy to entertain you while you are here.

We hope very much that you can accept our invitation.

Sincerely yours,

MB
Marjorie Beebe
Secretary, Meetings Committee

Marshall Hill
Subject:

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND THEATER DESIGN
GEORGE AMBERG, CURATOR

September 11, 1944
OFFICE OF
BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Miss Marjorie Beebe
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont

9-13-44
(DATE) *MB* ✓

Dear Miss Beebe:

On my return from my vacations I found your letter of August 29; hence the delayed answer. I wish to thank you very much for your kind invitation which I gladly accept. October 26th and 27th would be convenient dates for me.

Although I had no time yet to consider a definite subject I should like to suggest 'Function and Design in modern stage setting' as a tentative subject and title. However if you have any specific wishes please do not hesitate to write me.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. George Amberg
Dr. George Amberg
Curator

September 16, 1944

Martha Hill

Marjorie Beebe

Dr. George Amberg

Dr. Amberg has accepted for Thursday and Friday, Oct. 26 & 27. He suggests "Function and Design in Modern Stage Setting" as a title for his evening talk. Do you approve of this? Also do you want to write to him about a topic for his two special meetings on Friday? (I think you suggested one at 11 a.m. and one at 5 p.m.) I'll be glad to write the letter if you tell me what to say. We will put him up in the guest room for the two nights.

Also will you please let me know where the two special meetings will be held and let me have something for a notice in College Week when the time comes?

BENNINGTON COLLEGE
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

September 29, 1944

Mr. George Amberg, Curator
Department of Dance and Theater Design
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53rd Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Amberg:

After our conversation the other day, I am sending the following plan to Miss Marjorie Beebe for Evening Meetings approval of your visit to Bennington College.

Thursday, October 26th, 7:35 p.m., Theatre. Talk, illustrated with slides, on "Function and Design in Modern Stage Setting". As I told you, this will be a general audience but will include students in dance and drama. According to the Bennington College plan for Evening Meetings, talks are usually about 45 minutes in length followed by an intermission and then a discussion period.

Friday, October 27th, 11:00-12:30, Student Lounge. Meeting with class in Structure and Style in Dance and with interested students of Mr. Czaja in architecture and theatre design and the Moselsio's students in photography and the Fergusson's students in drama. This meeting will be an outgrowth of the Thursday evening meeting and discussion, or could take any definite line that you felt good after you see lines of interest in the Thursday discussion.

Friday, October 27th, 5:00-6:15, Student Lounge. Talk on the collections, library and work being done in the department of theatre design and dance at the Museum of Modern Art with references to archives in various centers in Europe.

If you have alternate suggestions to make, would you phone me at New York University or at home the first part of the week, or write me at Bennington College.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Hill

MH/mlh

For COLLEGE WEEK (October 24th issue)

*Lounge
Oct. 27
slides*

Mr. George Amberg, Curator in the Department of Dance and Theatre Design of the Museum of Modern Art in New York will give talks

Thursday, 7:35 p.m. Theatre

Talk on "Function and Design in Modern Stage Setting"

Illustrated with slides from the collection of the
Museum of Modern Art

Friday, 11:00 a.m., Student Lounge

Continued discussion following Mr. Amberg's Thursday night talk.

Friday, 5:00 p.m., Student Lounge

Talk on the theatre and dance archives and museums with particular reference to the work being done at the Museum of Modern Art.

Guest List:

✓Amberg
✓Czajas
✓Hill
✓Bales
W Fergussons
ok Ortiz
ok d'Estournelles
ok Smiths
Holts
Knaths
Hasenclever
~~Hirsh~~
Moselsios
Tuckers

Supplies ordered:

1 doz. cokes
2 doz. beer
sandwiches for 21

Bennington College
October 23, 1944

From: Entertainment Committee

You are cordially invited to a party at the Czajas on Thursday evening, October 26th, after the lecture, to meet Dr. George Amberg. Will you please let Miss Beebe know whether or not you are able to come?

Bennington College
October 26, 1944

GENERAL MEETINGS NOTICE

Friday 11:00 a.m. Student Lounge

Informal discussion group with Dr. Amberg

Friday 5:00 p.m. Student Lounge

Dr. Amberg will talk on the theatre and
dance archives and museums with particular
reference to the work being done at the
Museum of Modern Art

October 31, 1944


Dr. George Amberg
Department of Dance and Theater Design
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53rd Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Dr. Amberg,

I am asking the Comptroller's Office to send you a check for your honorarium and if you will send me a statement showing the amount of your traveling expenses in connection with your recent visit to Bennington, I shall be glad to see that you receive a check to cover them.

The entire community enjoyed your talks tremendously and we hope that you can visit us again sometime.

Sincerely yours,


Marjorie Beebe
Secretary, Meetings Committee

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

DANCE ARCHIVES

GEORGE AMBERG, CURATOR

9 November 1944

Dear Miss Beebe:

I wish to thank you for the check covering the honorarium for the lecture, in addition to which I spent \$10. for transportation.

I was very happy to have had the opportunity of talking to so appreciative and interesting an audience, and I enjoyed the hospitality of the College during these few days very much indeed.

Sincerely yours,



George Amberg
Curator

Miss Marjorie Beebe,
Secretary, Meetings Committee,
Bennington College,
Bennington, Vermont.

GA:vh