

# INTEROFFICE MEMO

Bennington College

Date ~~xxx~~ Oct. 29, 1943

To Mr. Knaths, Mr. Smith ✓

From Gertrude Grimwood

Re: George L. K. Morris

The Meetings Committee discussed George L.K. Morris yesterday at their meeting and decided that they would be interested in having him as a speaker on modern art. We are now going to try to get some information about him as a speaker. There seems to be only one date open in November and the literature group are anxious to have a speaker then who would tie in with the reading they are doing in their course Forms of Literature, so I think it unlikely that we can schedule Mr. Morris until next semester.

Charles - when next you are in the Barn could you stop by and give me some idea of when the Housing show the students have requested might best fit into your exhibitions schedule, and whether you want me to discuss it with Nettra or not.

} done -  
go ahead

INTEROFFICE MEMO

per Part. Rev. Jan - Feb 43

Bennington College

Date

article c

To Gertrude Greenwood

Relay, P. J. B. c.

From Karl Knaths

Re: Geo. L. K. Morris

Mr. Smith passed your note in regard to an Art speaker over to me. Geo. L. K. Morris is considered one of the leading American Abstract painters. This critical ability is exhibited in his appreciation of the artist of the gallery of being Art you can find in the catalog in the Library here, also articles in Partisan Review of which he is one of the editors. A comprehension of the modern movement means an understanding of past traditions. He is well versed in all these matters. He has not been contacted so am not sure if he would be available. Perhaps this should be accomplished before presenting the matter to the committee.

# INTEROFFICE MEMO

Bennington College

Date Apr. 12, 1944

To Marjorie Beebe

From Agnes Marr

Re: General Meetings

There is an artist called George L. K. Morris who gives talks on abstract painting. Mr. Smith asked me to have you inquire whether or not Mr. Morris would come up to Bennington College and give such a talk -- open to the whole community. Mr. Knaths knows Morris and it would be wise to get further details from him. Mr. Smith thinks Morris lives in Lenox, Mass. Also, he thinks that Morris does not charge any fee for his lectures. I have no further details, but Mr. Knaths can tell you more about it, and Mr. Knaths has already spoken to Morris about coming up here some time.

*Mr. Smith  
Particulars Re:  
Have written  
re address*

April 22, 1944

Mr. George L. K. Morris  
340 East 72nd Street  
New York, New York


Dear Mr. Morris,

The Meetings Committee of Bennington College would like very much to have you visit the College sometime between now and the end of June to give a talk to the College community on abstract painting. As you may know, our lectures are given in the evening and usually last from forty to forty-five minutes, followed by a question period of half an hour. The audience consists of the student body and faculty numbering about four hundred.

I am sorry to say that our budget for speakers is rather limited and we can only offer an honorarium of \$25 plus traveling expenses, but we should be glad to offer you the hospitality of the College while you are here.

We hope very much that you will be able to accept our invitation and that if you can, you will perhaps suggest two or three dates when it might be possible for you to come to Bennington. Our lectures are usually given on Monday or Thursday, but a Friday date would also be possible.

Sincerely yours,

  
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary  
Meetings and Exhibitions Committee

*Patience Beard*

*June 25*

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

*April 25*

*4-27-44*  
(DATE)

*nb*

340 EAST 72<sup>ND</sup> STREET

Dear Miss Beard, —

Thank you for your letter of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and your invitation to lecture at Bennington. I will gladly accept, — but my condition is a curious one. My summer home is in Lenox, Mass., which is, I believe about 50 miles from Bennington, — an easy motor drive, but highly irksome if one must rely on bus and train connections. Do you think, therefore, that you could get me some gasoline for the trip? — it would take about six gallons for the round trip. I talked with Karl Knecht about it, and he seemed to think it would be possible for you to get them <sup>for me</sup> on an educational plea, — (2 coupons instead of travelling expenses.) My chief reason is that my work is going to be very pressing in June, therefore I must get home

the same night.

If the coupons sound feasible any date after June 5 would be best for me. How about June 8 or 15<sup>th</sup> for instance?

Also, - do you have a slide ~~projector~~ <sup>projector</sup>? I have in the past been able to borrow slides from N.Y.U., and might be able to again. I have found it helps my lectures considerably.

I hope we can get together

sincerely yours

George L. K. Morris

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May 1, 1944


Mr. George L. K. Morris  
340 East 72nd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Morris,

We are all delighted that you may be able to visit Bennington to give a talk to our students if you can get some gasoline, and I am putting you down tentatively for Thursday, June 15th. We do have a slide projector.

I called the Ration Board this morning and find that since you will be in Lenox in June you would not come under the jurisdiction of the Bennington office. They suggest that you get in touch with your ration board in Lenox or Pittsfield. I am fairly certain, however, that you would be allowed enough gas to make the trip since there are no buses available for a return trip to Lenox after the lecture, and the lecture would be in connection with your professional duties. If a letter from President Jones confirming the lecture engagement would be of any help, I should be glad to arrange to have one sent.

Sincerely yours,

  
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary  
Meetings Committee

June 5, 1944

Mr. George L. K. Morris  
Lenox, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Morris,

We are all looking forward to your talk here on June 15th and hope very much that Mrs. Morris can come with you. We would be delighted to put you up in our College guest suite if you could possibly stay overnight. Will you let me know about this?

Mr. Smith of our art faculty has asked me to find out if it would be possible for us to borrow some of your paintings for an exhibition here at the College beginning June 22nd for about three weeks. He would also be pleased if we could show some of Mrs. Morris' paintings at the same time, and have a joint exhibition. We could use about twelve. Will you let me know whether this is at all possible?

Sincerely yours,

*MB*  
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary  
Meetings Committee

*P.S. I wonder if you could also give me  
the title of your lecture.*

June 8

6-10-44

(DATE)

MB

340 EAST 72<sup>ND</sup> STREET

Dear Miss Bule, -

Thank you for your kind invitation to spend the night at Bennington. Unhappily next week I shall be engaged in some pesco-work in Lenox that I have to start at eight every morning, so I am afraid I shall have to go home the same night.

A good title for my lecture I think would be "The Mechanics of Abstract Art." I want to be sure your slide-~~mechanism~~<sup>projector</sup> is the right size for my slides. (I think there is more than one size) My slides are 4" x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which I think is the usual one. Could I also have a blackboard and chalk?

Mrs. Morris and I will be glad to send you a dozen paintings toward the end

of June. Will Mr. Smith let us know how  
and to whom to send them? (Shipping  
things is so slow these days they might  
not arrive as early as the 22<sup>nd</sup>.)

Could you also let me know where  
and ~~at~~ what time I had better get  
to Bennington on Thursday?

I shall be in New<sup>York</sup> until Wednesday,  
at the above address,

sincerely yours

George L. H. Morris

P.S. Mrs. Morris is very sorry she  
won't be able to make the trip next  
week.

June 12, 1944

Mr. George L. K. Morris  
340 East 72nd Street  
New York, New York


Dear Mr. Morris,

Thank you for your letter of the 8th. Lectures at the College are scheduled for 7:35 p.m. in the Theatre and usually last from 40 to 45 minutes followed by a half-hour question period. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are planning to entertain you at dinner in the faculty dining room at 6:30 and hope that you can arrive in time for cocktails before dinner. Mr. Knaths has suggested that you might like to see the College buildings and campus, in which case it would be nice if you could arrive about three o'clock in the afternoon. In other words, we would like to suit your convenience and at the same time have you here for as long as you can spare, but hope that you can plan to be here between five and five-thirty in any case. If you will report at the Store in the Commons Building (the red brick building) upon arrival, the telephone operator at the switchboard will get in touch with Mr. Knaths or Mr. Smith.

We have two slide projectors and one of them will take a 4" x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " slide. I have also arranged for someone to run the projector and will see that a blackboard and chalk are provided.

We are delighted that you are willing to loan us some paintings for a showing here toward the end of June. I would suggest that they be sent express collect, addressed to Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont. The College carries insurance on such paintings against each and every risk in transit and while they are on exhibition here. I hope that it will be possible for us to have them by June 22nd.

Sincerely yours,

  
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary  
Meetings Committee

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June 20, 1944

Mr. George L. K. Morris  
Lenox  
Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Morris,

The entire community enjoyed very much your lecture here the other evening and we hope that you can come up again sometime. I have asked the Comptroller's Office to send you a check for your honorarium and the College would also like to pay any expenses in connection with your visit here. If you will send me a statement showing the amount, I shall be glad to have a check sent to you to cover them.

Sincerely yours,

*MB*  
Marjorie Beebe, Secretary  
Meetings Committee

July 19, 1944

Mr. George L. K. Morris  
Lenox, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Morris,

The paintings which you and Mrs. Morris so kindly loaned the College for a showing here have been packed and returned to Budworth, and I should like to take this opportunity to tell you how much the students and faculty appreciated being able to have the exhibition here. It was extremely helpful especially to the art students and we are very grateful.

Sincerely yours,



Marjorie Beebe  
Secretary, Meetings Committee