

INTERVIEWS: CBF

JM		JM
CG	NOV 20 50	CG
CBF		CBF
EO		EO

0200R  
For discussion Connecticut College  
Dance  
Miss Rosemary Park, President  
Connecticut College for Women

Miss Martha Hill  
Professor of Dancing  
New York University  
Bennington

November 13, 1950

P and H called to ask assistance for the Summer School of the Dance, which was founded at Bennington College in 1934, continued there until 1942, and since that date has been held at Connecticut College under joint sponsorship with New York University. The Summer School is combined with the Festival of the American Dance, and according to P and H is the one central meeting place for those all over the country interested in modern dance. They point out that there is no center otherwise for the dance, in the same sense that the major music schools like The Juilliard School serve for music. Martha Graham, Jose Limon, and many others have cooperated in the School and Festival, which is also well known to John Martin, dance critic of the "New York Times," and Walter Terry of the "New York Herald Tribune."

P and H explained that the Summer School and Festival have operated under a deficit for the last three years, despite small salaries for staff and careful management. They doubt whether the trustees of New York University will be willing to continue on this basis but believe that some small assistance to increase the international scope of the program would result in sufficient increase in enrollments to enable the budget to be balanced. They fear, however, that if this is not done this year the program will have to be abandoned. Specifically, they suggest \$3,000 to enable the German dancer, Mary Wigman, and a companion to come to the program in the summer of 1951 for six weeks. Fred Burdhardt, who is now with HICOG on leave from Bennington College, would be interested in the German aspects of this. P and H point out that the USSR has for some time been trying to attract Miss Wigman to East Germany. This she has resisted but if she does not have word of definite possibilities in the United States she will no doubt return to Switzerland this summer. Other possibilities would be a similar grant for Harold Kreuzberg, some assistance for work on the teaching of dance to children by Delia Hussey, and assistance to enable Jose Limon to produce here a new dance which he is preparing this spring in Mexico.

P and H say that college students show a more immediate reaction to the dance than to any other art form and that this seems to be representative of present cultural trends in the United States. For this reason they argue that the teaching of younger children in the dance may be particularly important. For a workshop on such instruction under Miss Hussey with fellowships, about \$6,000 would be needed.

CBF asked what reports had been made on the present state of the dance in the United States. H and P said that there should be a report in the RF

INTERVIEWS: CBF


Miss Rosemary ParkMiss Martha Hill

November 13, 1950

- 2 -

files of such a survey made about 1937. More recently a graduate student under Miss Hill did a survey of the dance in high schools as a thesis about 1948. She believes also that a Ph.D. thesis on the teaching of the dance was prepared in '49.

CBF pointed out that on the whole the dance was still out of program, but promised to consider with his colleagues these requests.

*CPD*

CBF:AM