

A SYMPOSIUM ON LABAN AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MOVEMENT; Dance Notation Bureau, New York City, April 6, 1974.

-from the Symposium Program

This symposium was a joint endeavor of The Center for Integrative Education and The Dance Notation Bureau Center for Movement Research and Analysis. Introductory remarks were made by Bonnie Bird*, Director of Educational Services, the Dance Notation Bureau. Papers were presented as follows: "Dimensions of Labananalysis," Marion North, University of London, Goldsmiths' College; "Movement as Patterns of Process," Martha Davis, Roosevelt Hospital, New York City; "Laban's Dimensions of Movement as the New Basis for The Scale of Organisms," Patrick Milburn, Center for Integrative Education; "Laban's Ideas Concerning Harmonics in Space," Sylvia Bodmer, Laban Art of Movement Guild; "Laban Insights into The Biological Substrates of Movement," Irmgard Bartenieff, Dance Notation Bureau; "Configurations of Bodily Tensions and World Spaces of Action," Robert Hall, New School for Social Research; "The Movement of Bodies and The Space of Movement," Algis Mickunas, University of Ohio, Athens; "Toward an Understanding of Space-Time Concepts as World Dimensions," Elizabeth Behnke, University of Ohio, Athens.

The following program note set the tone of the symposium:

Awareness of the critical significance of body motion has greatly increased in the last decade among behavioral scientists. In this general awakening there is a growing recognition of the work of Rudolf Laban, who in his lifetime (1879-1958) made seminal contributions to the understanding and description of human and animal motion. While he is known for his influences on modern dance and invention of the most widely used dance notation, the implications of his work for behavioral studies are only now being appreciated. Those presenting papers at this Symposium share an interest in the rich possibilities of Laban's approach to movement analysis. Not only may this analysis provide innovations in methodology, but Laban's framework gives promise for new perspectives for biology, the social sciences and phenomenology.

Bonnie Bird has resigned her position at the Dance Notation Bureau, Center for Movement Research and Analysis to become Principal Lecturer, Goldsmith's College, University of London, England. Her specific position there will involve the establishment of a Dance Theatre Department at the Laban Art of Movement Center which is now a part of Goldsmith's College.