

# LANGUAGE OF GESTURE

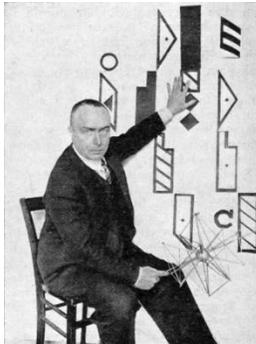
A DuVersity event May 10-13, Claymont Court, West Virginia



**Mr Bennett teaching The Great Prayer,  
Sherborne 1973**

This is an ambitious and pioneering attempt to encompass multiple aspects of the meaning of dance and, specifically, the 'language of gesture'. Our compass will include the Movements of Gurdjieff as prime case study material, but also many other kinds of dance and work with the body. There will be an overview of dance ancient and modern, east and west from, for example, the Odissi tradition of India to the hip-hop of America. Special attention will be paid to developments in twentieth century Europe, including various attempts to find spirituality through dance.

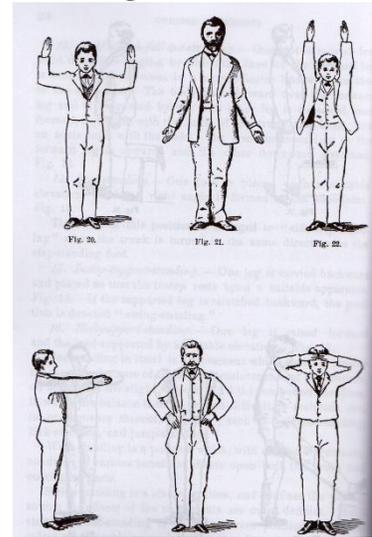
Our world or 'monad' of gesture will include the sources of gesture in work practices and the behaviour of animals, its expressive functions in theatre and its ritual meanings in ceremonies. We will look at the phenomenology of body image and awareness and various physical therapies, as well as the nature of eastern *mudras* and yoga. A special session will look at the history of gestures of prayer. This will lead us into the form of rituals, such as the Mass; and the general function of preserving cultural memories.



**Rudolf van Laban  
with his notation**

There will be sessions focussed on the role of music, especially with regard to rhythm and its relation to time. Particular Movements of Gurdjieff will be practised and analysed. The mathematical patterns of dance will be looked at, from the Baroque to Gurdjieff. This will be related to the notation of dance, leading us into how we learn a Movement, for example, and the burning question of *what is its content?* Gurdjieff expressed the idea that dances were at one time like books. At another time, he implied that specific gestures corresponded to or evoked specific inner states. We will see how far we can test such ideas. A third aspect, is how each of us has a unique *signature of gesture* and there is a special work of blending intentional practices into our everyday life and activities.

Behind the various expositions and explorations we will be bearing in mind the bold statement by John Bennett that *gesture is the language of will*.



**Swedish Gymnastics, once  
practised by Gurdjieff**



**Gudea of Lagash**

The event will be facilitated by Deborah Rose Longo, well known teacher of Gurdjieff Movements, Elan Sicroff pianist and interpreter of the music of Thomas de Hartmann, Anthony Blake, Director of Research of the DuVersity, and Molly Knight on piano. We have a number of advisors including Wim van Dullemen, Joseph Azize, Margit Martinu and Toddy Smyth, well known exponents of the Gurdjieff Movements.

*For more information and to register: please contact Matt Zenkovich – zenkm1428@gmail.com*



**Anthony**



**Deborah**



**Elan**



**Molly**

*he Language of Gesture* is the latest in a series of seminars supported by the DuVersity that began in 2000 with *Systematics and Globalization*. The last three seminars were *The Real Present Moment*, *Music* and *The Dramatic Universe and Beyond*. The series is dedicated to developing and applying the method of *systematics*, emphasising progression in depth and *unity in diversity and diversity in unity*