

35 Park Avenue  
Caldwell, New Jersey

Mr. W.R. Wunsch

2005 Yearby Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina  
29 May 1944

Mr. W.R. Wunsch  
Black Mountain College  
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Bear Mr. Wunsch;

Thank you for your kind letter of 23 May. I'm very eager to start at Black Mountain, but meanwhile I intend to put this summer to good use.

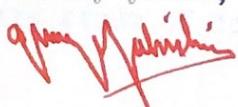
I shall send you a list of books for the library shortly. Doubtless you will have some of them already: I gathered from my very brief glimpse of the library that it is a well planned collection.

Your suggestion of a classroom library is excellent. As soon as my course is under way I shall start it. Since the students will not be required to buy any textbooks, they should be able to build a very serviceable collection.

We have a room full of furniture, including a bed, which we would like to bring with us unless our doing so would inconvenience the College. We also have two cats, of which we are very fond, and we'd like to bring them too. However, when I expressed delight at the number of cats I saw on the campus, Molly Gregory told me that they have become something of a problem, so I am aware that you may not share our enthusiasm for Icky and Stench. (They began as Zucchini and Stanislaus, whose name passed through the intermediary stage of Stinky) I might add that the names are not descriptive of condition and odor, lest you have more doubt about these members of our domestic establishment than you would have normally.

We both send you our best.

Sincerely yours,



George Zabriskie

65 Park Avenue  
Caldwell, New Jersey  
28 June 1944

Mr. W.R. Wunsch  
Black Mountain College  
Black Mountain, North Carolina  
Dear Mr. Wunsch,

I find myself in New Jersey for a short time: we expect to be back in North Carolina by the second week in July. If you write to me before that time, please use the above address. Our Barham address will remain unchanged until we come to the College.

I am enclosing the list of books for my course. Compiling it has taken me longer than I had expected. After making three or four lists, I finally settled on the present one as being the most useful, although less comprehensive than the others. I have been guided by pedagogical rather than personal considerations, so I have tried to make the list as catholic as possible within the limitations of its size. I expect that you will have some of these books already, so this list should not use up the entire appropriation.

These books should form a good, functional nucleus to our collection, and others may be added later according to the needs of the students. I have purposely omitted anthologies, because they fail to give an adequate amount of material for the study of formal devices in poetry.

Joyce is not part of the main list because the "Wake" was not written as a poem, but the book is as important as any other.

I'm writing you on a borrowed typewriter in a newspaper office - hence any possible incoherence in this letter. Newspaper men generally must have excellent powers of adapting themselves to a rather noisy environment - it now seems strange to me.

We were genuinely delighted to know that we can bring both our cats and furniture ~~withous~~. As for the cats, although we are very fond of them, we do not feel that other people are morally or otherwise obliged to share that attachment. I, in fact, can understand very well how you feel toward animals. When I was a very small child, I was badly frightened by a dog, and I still have a vague sense of uneasiness when they are near me.

Both of us are looking forward to being at the College. Incidentally, we do not know when we are to take up residence there, except for the general notion of some time in September. If the definite date is yet decided, we would appreciate knowing it.

Thank you very much for sending me the copies of the weekly newsletter. We found them both interesting and informative.

Mrs. Zabriskie joins me in sending our best wishes.

Sincerely  
  
GEORGE Zabriskie

August 12, 1944

July 1, 1944

Mr George Zabriskie  
2004 Yearly Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina

Mr George Zabriskie  
65 Park Avenue  
Caldwell, N J

Dear Mr Zabriskie:

I have turned over to Mrs Rice, the librarian, the list of books you will need for your verse writing and modern poetry courses. She will submit them to the Library Committee when it meets the third week in July or when Eric Bentley, the chairman of the Library Committee, returns from his summer teaching at Fisk University. I think you can reasonably expect to have all these books available when you begin your teaching in October.

The faculty and student officers have just decided upon a calendar for next year. This calendar will be published in the next issue of the mimeographed Community Bulletin, a copy of which will go out to you early next week. Suffice it here to say that the Fall Quarter will begin Saturday, September 30, less than two weeks after the close of the Summer Quarter.

I should suggest that you and Mrs Zabriskie plan to arrive three or four days before the beginning of the Fall Term so that you can get your quarters in good shape before the arrival of the students.

We're in the midst of great activity at Lake Eden trying to get the buildings and grounds in order before the arrival of the Summer Quarter people. There is much construction work going on, particularly in the Studies Building; so we're assailed on all sides by the sounds of hammers and saws.

I hope that you are enjoying your vacation from Durham; it's always good to get away from the workshop, even an attractive workshop.

I send warmest regards to you and Mrs Zabriskie.

Sincerely,

W R Wunsch

jfr

W R Wunsch

jfr

August 19, 1944

Mr George Zabriskie  
Mr. W.R. Wunsch  
2005 Yearby Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina  
Black Mountain College  
Black Mountain College

Dear Mr. Zabriskie:

As you perhaps know from one of the bulletins, the new academic year at Black Mountain College will begin on Saturday, September 30. Your quarters will be ready at least a week before that date, so you can feel free to come any time after September 23. We have not yet made assignments of rooms and apartments but shall do so within the next fortnight. I shall write you as soon as we have decided where the new people ought to live.

despite the delay of packing which is still being done at Black Mountain, I am sorry to have to report to you that there is now no dry storage space available, so I advise you to keep your packed boxes in Durham until at least a week before you decide to leave there.

I am very happy that Mrs. Gilbert has enthusiastic accounts to give of the summer Institutes. It was certainly wonderful to have her here. Our only regret is that her stay was so short, for she was a charming member of every group with which she worked.

The whole summer program has gone well and promises to continue to go well. At this writing, Jean Charlot is completing the second of a pair of frescoes under the Studies Building. Walter Gropius, J B Neumann, and Mr Charlot are preparing their evening lectures for next week. Mr Albers is conducting his large class in painting.

It's a very cool morning at Lake Eden, Septemberish-cool. Most of us are besweated.

You have received by now the official letter that went out from the College office earlier in the week. I hope that its contents have not disturbed you and Mrs Zabriskie too much. The rift, of course, has disturbed and still disturbs the College considerably; but once the separation has been effected, there is every reason to believe that life here will be richer and more deeply exciting, yet not so destructively so. I hope if you have any questions about the family quarrel and its dramatic climax, that you will write me frankly and fully.

I will continue to send Bulletins to keep you informed about the weekly activities of the College.

With this letter go my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

W R Wunsch

jfr

2005 Yearby Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina  
14 August 1944

2005 Yearby Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina  
14 August 1944

Mr. W.R. Wunsch  
Black Mountain College  
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Wunsch:

We've been back from the north long enough to have settled into our old routine, although until today I haven't been able to attack my growing pile of unanswered correspondence.

We are both looking forward to being at Black Mountain, despite the ordeal of packing which is still between us and our new residence. If you have any dry storage space available, we would like to send some of our possessions in advance of our total withdrawal from Durham, to simplify the latter process.

We'd also like to know how soon our quarters will be available. If possible, we should like to leave here on or before 28 September, when the rent is due for the next month.

The issues of the news bulletin which we have received have given us as much pleasure as information. Molly Gregory's accounts of the farm are very delightful.

Mrs. Catherine Gilbert came back from Black Mountain with very enthusiastic accounts of her attendance at the Summer Session. When we saw her the other night she spoke of little else.

We were sorry to hear from her that Dr. Hansgirg has not been well. Please give him our best wishes for his recovery.

Mrs. Zabriskie joins me in sending you our best.

Sincerely yours,



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2005 Yearby Avenue

Durham, North Carolina

18 September 1944

Mr. W.R. Wunsch

Black Mountain College

Black Mountain, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Wunsch,

I must apologize for not answering your very pleasant letter of 19 August before this time. When I received it, I innocently believed that within a week I could give you the exact date when we would arrive at Black Mountain. Meanwhile, I have been much remiss, for I still cannot fix a date any better than I could a month ago.

I have engaged a van to move our furniture and other belongings. They/constitute nearly a full load, so the procedure will be economical. And the great need for storage space at Black Mountain, which my original plan for moving in installments entailed, no longer exists.

We hope to arrive at the College on 25 September, or as soon afterwards as we can. Our packing seems to be progressing at a wretchedly slow rate. To my eyes, our ten days effort have left only a perceptible confusion. I know from past experience that we will probably manage to leave by the 25th, but not without difficulty!

Just before we began packing, Mrs. Zabriskie finished the first sketch of the design for the jacket of my book. Undoubtedly she will complete her work at Black Mountain, so you will have an opportunity to see what she has been doing.

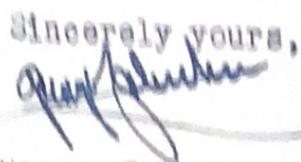
I thought that the official letter/which you issued was very fair and judicious. Now that the matter has been given an airing, I sincerely hope that it will quietly pass into oblivion.

The Bulletins continue to delight us. I only wish that some larger institutions could manage to do as well with their more

S - S - S  
publications.

I haven't yet seen a copy of the College Announcements (or catalog).  
Unless you have already sent one, I suggest that it wait until  
I.

Mrs. Zabriskie joins with me in sending you our very best.

Sincerely yours,  
  
George Zabriskie

July 30, 1945 46

Dear George:

I am sorry to receive your letter of resignation, and I hope you will accept my best wishes for your future happiness.

Mr. William A. Shimer, President  
Dear George:

Marietta, Ohio

At a meeting of the Board of Fellows of the Corporation of Black Mountain College held yesterday, July twenty-ninth, the Board voted to accept your resignation from the Faculty.

I have just heard that you have accepted a position at the University of Michigan but will make things right. I retired from Bryn Mawr College five years ago but have been teaching somewhere ever since, ended down here two and a half years ago.

George Zabriskie tells me that he has done the unprofessional thing of writing you to see if you might have a position for a poet. If Mary Gregory, possible opening, I wish to recommend him very strongly. Secretary of the Corporation that that implies, but he is a surprisingly good teacher, arousing great enthusiasm among his students and with excellent judgment on both practical matters and academic problems. He was much sought after for advice by students. Mr. George Zabriskie course in freshman English. His reasons for Black Mountain College may go to the fact that the very compressed Black Mountain, North Carolina, community life made it almost impossible for him to write. I may add that Mrs. Zabriskie is a very attractive person with a good deal of artistic ability.

With best wishes to you for the harassing job in which you are MG:GH ved,

Herbert A. Miller  
Registrar

BAM:GE

87 Main Avenue  
August 17, 1945  
Belvidere, New Jersey

6 July 1945

Dear Dave:

I'm sorry to trouble you with my troubles, and take up some of the time which BMC may leave you to rest after lunch. An ancient academic feud has made me jobless again, and since all my hopes have fallen

**Mr. William A. Shimer, President  
Marietta College** a recommendation to the slave market. Herbert

Marietta, Ohio  
Miller used to be my reference from Black Mountain, because he attended

My dear Shimer:

most of my classes and had a good first-hand knowledge of my training.  
I have just heard that you have gone into a new business. I con-  
Unfort gratulate you and hope that you not only will fit into the Congre-  
gational tradition but will make things hum. I retired from Bryn  
and th Mawr College five years ago but have been teaching somewhere ever  
since, having landed down here two and a half years ago.

if you are willing, because of the present faculty, it seems to me that  
George Zabriskie tells me that he has done the unprofessional thing  
you pr of writing you to see if you might have a position for a poet. If  
have n you have any possible opening, I wish to recommend him very strongly.  
He is young, a poet with all that that implies, but he is a sur-  
prisingly good teacher, arousing great enthusiasm among his stu-  
dents and with excellent judgment on both practical matters and aca-  
demic problems. He was much sought after for advice by students.  
He could also give a course in freshman English. His reasons for  
leaving here are entirely due to the fact that the very compressed  
conditions of living and community life made it almost impossible  
for him to write. I may add that Mrs. Zabriskie is a very attrac-  
tive person with a good deal of artistic ability. We will need it

again. With best wishes to you for the harassing job in which you are  
involved,  
just sparsely) and jobs are hard to find.

As regards next to Marian and the children, who by now probably  
Herbert A. Miller  
present Registrar at "Children", maybe they will live "progress" better.

HAM:GH

P.S. Our address after 6 July will be

6 Crum Ledge  
Goshen  
Pennsylvania

Box  
X

65 Park Avenue

Caldwell , New Jersey

2 July 1949

Dear Dave,

I'm sorry to trouble you with my troubles, and take up some of the time which BMC may leave you to rest after lunch. An ancient academic feud has made me jobless again, and since all my hopes have fallen through, I need a recommendation to the slave market. Herbert Miller used to be my reference from Black Mountain, because he audited most of my classes and had a good first-hand knowledge of my teaching. Unfortunately, he is now too crippled with arthritis and feels too old and tired to continue such efforts. I am asking you to fill his place if you are willing, because of the present faculty it seems to me that you probably have the best idea of what I was getting after. If you have no objections, I would appreciate your kindness very much.

Just now I need one addressed to

THE ALBERT TEACHERS AGENCY  
535 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.

- you might make a carbon in the pious hope that we will need it again. Just now the academic world is depressing (economically- not just spiritually) and jobs are hard to find.

We send our best to Marian and the children, who by now probably resent being called "children". Maybe they will like "progeny" better.

Yours,



PS. Our address after 6 July will be

8 Crum Ledge  
Swarthmore  
Pennsylvania

July 7, 1949

August 13, 1949

The Albert Teachers Agency  
535 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
Montgomery, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

Dear George:

I knew George Zabriskie as a teacher and colleague on the faculty of Black Mountain College the year of 1945-46. He was a very able teacher of literature and writing. It was the practice of many of the faculty to attend his classes because of the stimulus therein. He was a fine influence on the students, assisting several in tutorials to achieve interesting goals in creative writing.

Besides being an accepted poet Mr Zabriskie had considerable mechanical skill and interests, out of which he developed hobby interests. He left Black Mountain College because he did not like the combination of administration and teaching responsibility that fell to the lot of most faculty members. On occasion, when an opening in literature has developed, he has been invited to return to the College, and certainly if an opening were to develop now his availability would be of great interest to us.

Very truly yours,

David H. Corkran  
Registrar

David H Corkran  
Registrar

FOR THE BOARD OF FELLOWS OF  
BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

August 13, 1949

Dear Sirs:

Although I have no intention of publishing a preface to this poem, I feel that since you have so kindly consented to read the manuscript, I owe you a few words of introduction.

I believe that the spelling and punctuation and other textual matters of this copy are correct, since it is my personal copy. However, there may have been a few last-minute corrections made in the original which do not appear here.

Unfortunately, we have no copies of Mrs. Zabriskie's illustrations for your benefit. I feel that without them you are Mr. George Zabriskie. I do not pretend for the 8 Crum Ledge, with one possible exception, the illustrations elaborated the meaning of the poem very brilliantly. They were not intended to be mere pictures, but an integral part of this work.

Sometime back at your request I wrote a letter concerning you to the Albert Teacher Agency. I wonder what luck you have had. If you are not yet tied up, I wonder if you would be interested in trying it here again? There is a possibility that something will be available in English for this fall. If it is, I would like to know if you are willing to be considered. The salaries are somewhat better than they were when you were here in 1944-45. The faculty will be larger, and the student body probably about the same size. If you would let me know at once, I will see what can be done.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Corkran  
Registrar

Sincerely yours,  
  
George Zabriskie

FOR THE BOARD OF FELLOWS OF  
BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

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Please consider "Like The Root" as a single long poem. The sections exist only as convenient "breathing spaces": hence they are not numbered. After you have read a few of them, you will realize their interdependence.

I realize the difficulties of reading typewritten manuscripts, and I thank you for offering to undertake this one. The book will not be published until some time next year, so under the circumstances you can't very well wait for it!

Sincerely yours,



George Zabriskie

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR VERSE WRITING

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LAST POEMS AND PLAYS  
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- \* \* \* \* \* \* \* --
- Joyce, James FINNEGAN'S WAKE  
The Viking Press, 18 East 45th St. New York 1939

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July 1, 1944

Mr George Zabriskie  
65 Park Avenue  
Caldwell, N J

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Sincerely,

W R Wunsch

jfr