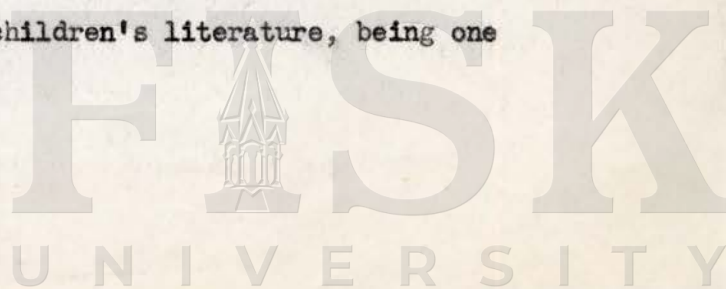


INDIVIDUAL NEGRO AWARDS

ALSUP, because of his youth, is an example of the gamble a committee must take in dealing with people who have not yet thoroughly established themselves. He did superior work (*magna cum laude*) in his graduate and undergraduate work at Fisk. He has not, however, been subjected to the keen competition offered in a larger institution, though during summer periods of biological study at Woods Hole he gave evidence of unusual ability.

BELCHER is one of three Negro fellows chosen in the field of Negro drama. While possibly he has shown less talent than the others in his creative work, he has been unusually successful in stirring up interest in drama and in dramatic festivals in the high schools and among other groups throughout the State. Frankly, the Committee was also interested in giving recognition through this award to the heroic efforts of President John W. Davis to build up a first-rate faculty at the State College of West Virginia. Of the other awards in drama, ANNE COOKE of Spelman has distinguished herself in this field in the whole Atlanta area. SHIRLEY GRAHAM has proved her ability as a playwright and play producer. All three of these fellows will be studying at the Yale School of Drama. This is rather strong pressure on a small department of a university which has hitherto not been particularly receptive to Negroes. The abilities and personalities of these fellows - if they do not overcrowd this department - may help to overcome Yale prejudice which goes back to the time when many Southerners, including John C. Calhoun, set the social tone at Yale.

BONTEMPS was one of the immediate unanimous selections of the Committee. He has proven his talent in children's literature, being one



of the few Negro authors whose books are almost equally popular with white and colored children.

BRAZEAL was selected as much for his general leadership and personality as for his scholarly ability. This is an investment in personality of the sort advocated by a number of the trustees, though the award would not have been made if his scholarly record had not been sound and substantial.

CLAYTOR, the brilliant mathematician, was an immediate selection for a renewal. For sheer scholarship, CLAYTOR, LAWSON, LUVALLE, SNOWDEN, and WEIR are tops. All working in exact sciences where objective ratings are easy, these men are distinguished in any university company.

The group in the social sciences is not subject to the same exact measurement, but by such standards as can be applied in this field, CAYTON, DEAN, MCGRAW, and IRA REID are high.

JOHN W. DAVIS, a brother of Allison Davis of the Dillard faculty, while much younger than those named above, is of equal promise.

FITCHETT is an example of a mature student who, while he has not yet accomplished as much as some of his colleagues, is of sound scholarship and fine personality. In his case the Committee was anxious to give an opportunity to a sound man to get out of the rut of routine teaching in minor institutions into which it is so easy for Negro scholars to fall.

FRANKLIN, KENNEDY, and KNOX are examples of brilliant historians.

GUICHARD PARRIS is a rather unusual choice. He comes originally from the West Indies and has not had very much contact with Negro universities in this country. His competence in French history is of such a sort that he seems a likely candidate both as a writer and as a professor, though his award is more of a gamble than many of the others.

Awards were made to three very young women in science - the Misses Goin, Green, and Smith. These are definitely gambles, but in each case the record so far is brilliant. Henry Moe, usually the most conservative member of the Committee, after interviewing these candidates and talking with their professors, strongly urged the appointments. His theory is that if a committee always plays safe it is destined to standardization if not mediocrity.

LANIER was the last man appointed in this group. He has had a good deal of fellowship help and, while he may be sure, he is certainly slow. The recommendations from his professors at Harvard were so enthusiastic that with some reluctance the Committee decided to give this man an opportunity to complete the requirements for his doctorate and to finish his book on pre-war southern types.

SWANSON is the only appointment in music. The considerable number of candidates in music and fine arts were all submitted to the juries in these fields maintained by the Guggenheim Foundation and Swanson was the only musician to pass their strict tests. The problem in music is increasingly difficult. A great many promising singers and players present themselves. In general it seems unwise to support a person who has merely ability as a performer, although when such people as Marian Anderson come along we hold ourselves in readiness to support them. The difficulty is to sort out the top people from the mediocre mass, when it is a question merely of skill in performance rather than in composition or other creative aspects of the art.