

# FELLOWSHIPS

May 10, 1948

Dear Mr. Baldwin: As you undoubtedly know, this Fund is closing on June 30, and we shall be turning over to another agency the administration of the fellowship awards made last month.

I am enclosing our check for \$666.66 to cover the first three months of your fellowship work. If you begin on the date originally planned, this payment should cover the months of June, July, and August. Toward the end of August, write to Mr. Nathan W. Levin, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, New York, giving him the address to which future payments should be mailed. The balance will be paid in two checks of \$666.67 each at three-month intervals.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:lm  
Enc.

Mr. James A. Baldwin  
46 West 131 Street  
New York, New York

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

# FELLOWSHIPS

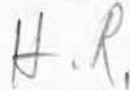
September 22, 1947

Dear Mr. Baldwin: We are glad to acknowledge your request for information about our fellowships. I am enclosing a set of application blanks and an announcement sheet describing the purposes and regulations governing the awards.

As you will note on the announcement sheet, only Negroes and white Southerners working on a problem distinctive to the South are eligible for an award. Therefore, we are unable to accept an application from Mr. Pelatowski. The project you describe is a very interesting one, and I hope that you will be able to fit it into our program.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,



For the Committee  
on Fellowships

Mr. James Baldwin  
Box 255  
Orangeburg, New York

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY

Name James Arthur Baldwin Field: Creative Writing

Free Lance Writer  
415 East 12th Street, New York, New York

Plan of Work Religion for the Negro in Harlem. The cultural, social structure, the psychological need. The position of the Negro in the nation, the implications for white and black. Done via text and photographs.

Requests grant for nine or ten months.

Personal Data Born New York City, August 1924 Age: 23  
Single Draft Status:

Undergraduate Work

Special Study League of American Writers, 1938-39  
Graduate Work

Experience Free lance writing for PM, The Nation, New Leader, and Commentary, 1947-48.

Accomplishments One novel, Crying Holy, to be published by Vanguard, Fall 1948.

Scholarships Eugene F. Saxton Memorial Fund Fellowship, Harper & Brothers, 1945-46,  
\$1400 to complete novel.

## References

Bucklin Moon, New York City  
Henrietta Weigel, "  
Issac Rosenfeld, "  
Thomas Martin, Orangeburg, N.Y.  
Beuford DeLaney, New York City

## Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2300
From Applicant	300
From Fund	\$2000

AMOUNT GRANTED



tension and release; and also, by implication, to highlight the status of those Negroes who are outside of the church and who do not have this release. The book will center much attention on the reactions and possible directions of two young children who are members of the church and will end with their acceptance of the doctrine. The tone of the book is explorative, the note at the end is questioning: What is the future of our most oppressed minority? when will the American republic grant them full status as citizens?

I have said that the book has already been done, though not to our satisfaction. before I left home I was a minister in Harlem and this gives me entrance into many of the churches. Almost all of the work we have done was done at the Mt. Sinai Tabernacle at 71 West 131st St; and the pastor, Mrs. Sara Cole Reese, and her congregation were sufficiently cooperative to leave us entirely alone during services and allow us to take pictures as and when we would; and we showed her what we were doing as we did it and met with no disapproval; (as we had feared we would) on the contrary, she did everything in her by no means limited power to encourage us. Some of the photographs and excerpts from the text were printed in the Sunday edition of P.M., April 27, 1947; and though not the best photographs were printed and not much of the text, still perhaps there is enough there to give a general idea of the tone of our book. Mr. Bucklin Moon is working with us as an editor and is one of the people willing to recommend us in the event that the Rosenwald Foundation is not yet at an end.

The photographer, Mr. Theodore Pelatowski, is a free lance photographer, twenty four years old, born in Connecticut of Polish parents and living at present in New York. He is a veteran of the recent war, served in the European theatre and was honorably discharged in the middle of 1945. He has worked and is working with the well known fashion photographer, Mr. Richard Avedon at 640 Madison Avenue. The work Mr. Pelatowski has done on his own, though far removed from fashion, is held in the highest regard by professional photographers.



I am presently engaged in the revision of a novel, Crying Holy, on which Vanguard Press has recently taken an option. I have published book reviews in The Nation and The New Leader, am working on an article on antisemitism in Harlem for the Jewish Review, Commentary. In 1945 I received the Saxton Fellowship from Harper and Brothers to complete my novel; regrettably, we could not agree on the direction of the novel and after twelve months our agreement was allowed to lapse. I am twenty three, a Negro, born and raised in Harlem with a religious background identical with that studied in Unto The Dying Lamb.

In the event that we are considered for the Rosenwald Fellowship at all I should like to state that we will need less than a year to complete our project; and we have enough done to send at any time tentative excerpts from the book. Mr. Pelatowski can be reached at Mr. Avedons' studio or at 255 West 95th St., New York City. I am living at the moment in Shanks Village, Orangeburg, N.Y. The mailing address is box 255, Orangeburg, N.Y. ; or I can be called at Piermont 65-R.

I would appreciate whatever information you can give me at the earliest possible date.

Very sincerely yours,

*James Baldwin*  
James Baldwin

PLEASE RETURN  
TO  
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

James Baldwin

The project, Unto The Dying Lamb, was first conceived in the spring of 1946, the approximate date of my meeting with the photographer I have since worked with, Mr. Theodore Pelatowski. For a long while I had been toying with the idea of recording somehow the services of a store-front church in such a manner that it would emerge as neither savage, sensational or sentimental. I, however, can do nothing with a camera, whereas, Mr. Pelatowski, it developed, could do anything he liked with it, and much, that, so far as I was concerned, had never been done before. I was born in Harlem and raised there; my father was a minister all his adult life and lived for nothing else; I was literally raised in church. For two years, from the time I was fifteen until the time I was seventeen----when I fled the ranks of the faithful and left home--- I was a young minister and preached all over Harlem. I had written a novel, Crying Holy, based on my life and my father's life in the church; it was my obsession, that, just as the Negro himself in this country is romanticized or scorned or ignored, so his religion and his need for religion and the manifestation of that need had never been understood or perceptively studied. Further, it was not enough to simply write about it for my purposes; the forms of worship with which I had grown up and which I had later denied were too desolate, too intense, too physical; it must be seen, as much as possible must be captured in order to achieve a really valid study. The Green Pastures and Cabin In the Sky are entertaining and even moving on a certain familiar level, but they do not tell the whole story; they tell instead the story we are accustomed to hear and which

James Baldwin

we have, in large part, invented for reasons which are too immediately apparent to require analysis here. These spectacles, however, by withholding part of the story, distort it altogether. Negroes, as Christians, are doing, by and large, no better than their white compatriots. What we find in church turns out to be, upon analysis, not so much strength through joy as release through frenzy, there is an undertone of guilt and terror and there are accents of vengeance in this religion which I intend to explore, which reveals, as it were, in relief, not only the basic and profound dislocation of the Negro in this country, but the horrendous dishonesty of the country itself. This is not to be mistaken, on the other hand, for a bitter diatribe against whites or Negroes or the nation; it is a study--- in contradistinction to a report, for we are not sociologists --- done and interpreted individually. We are doing it because we believe that it should be done, that we are living in an era which may see profound changes in the structure of our world, because the basic error, that Negroes, or any other group or race is 'different' is an error that threatens all of us and must therefore be challenged on as many levels as lie within our power.

The point of departure used will be the story of the Jewish exile up until the exodus led by Moses out of Egypt, 'the house of bondage'; the framework, the sermon of a minister to her flock on a Sunday morning telling them this story in contemporary terms. This story, which is one of the earliest legends the devout Negro learns, has been told so often that it has attained for the Negro a symbolic, subterranean importance difficult to overrate. The subtitle of the book, indeed, might be 'The House of Bondage' --- for, remembering that on the level from which we begin as

James Baldwin

children where there is no defense, no rationale and that we live and move on the basis of certain basic, unspoken assumptions, which lie thereafter at the root of all we do, regardless of what the intelligence may do to channelize or distort or deny these assumptions, it becomes apparent that the Negro in this country operates actually on that level as an exile. This, regardless of his struggles, his hopes, his triumphs, even despite that rather terrible light on the horizon which may herald a better or more bitter day.

The camera will, at every point, illuminate the sermon, obsessed with the people and how they live and where and with what they and the circumstances of their lives reveal. The text will, at points, interrupt the sermon, coming more clearly into the present day. The emphasis is on the growing estrangement between the church and the Negro people, the conflict between the paradise beyond the sky and the ever-growing hope and determination not to wait that long and not to take much more. It ends on an ambiguous note of hope: deliverance will come but wherefrom and when and how?

We spent much time in the spring of 1946 merely discussing the project, visiting churches, living in Harlem, thinking about it. We actually began work, that is, the actual taking of photographs in the winter of that year and worked through until late February when our sho string snapped and malnutrition forced us to retrench. Three or four separate texts were evolved which we discussed with Bucklin Moon; none of them are entirely satisfactory and we are in the process of hammering out another. We have, at present, nothing but photographs: no final text, no final layout. We need a whole new series of photographs, mostly outside of the church, which we did not anticipate last year. The book, in a word, has been broken down and we are starting all over.

Tama Baldwin

This is partly because the more we worked and thought about what we were doing, the more the character of the book changed. Principally, we need time to pull the book together and make it what we believe it can become; and this, we estimate, since we intend to be supporting ourselves, will take us the better part of a year, something like nine or ten months. ( The budget has been estimated on the basis of thirty seven weeks ) The major part of the work will be done in Harlem, much of it at the Mt. Sinai Tabernacle on West 131st Street in Harlem. All of it will be done in New York. Bucklin Moon will be working with us as editor and advisor.

We expect, of course, that Unto The Dying Lamb will be published, though we do not expect it to make any money. This may be done by a university press or, and this is more likely, by Vanguard Press, who will publish my novel in the Fall of 1948. If we succeed at all in what we are trying to do we should like to take it to the Schomburg Collection at the 135th Street Library. This is a labor of love, which, like most love, is not unmixed with guilt.

I am a novelist, thus far, self proclaimed only -- and also. ( -I like to think ) an observer. The subsequent plans for my career are hard to state formally. I cannot imagine myself not writing for any appreciable length of time. Mr. Pelatowski and I have several plans for the near future, among them a movie and possibly a photographic study of Father Divine.

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

James Arthur Baldwin

Miss Henrietta Weigel, Writer, New York City

I think that James Baldwin is exceptionally gifted, and should be eligible for a Rosenwald grant. He is imaginative and writes well, and understands the problems confronting his people as a group and in relation to the white race. He is not biased, having an unusual degree of objectivity, for any one so young and for anyone at all. He is ambitious and thoughtful. I like the project he outlines, and believe it can contribute to American life and culture. He is talented, and can bring originality to whatever he undertakes.

-----

Mr. Beuford DeLaney, Artist, New York City

I have known James Baldwin, the candidate, for a number of years. That he is possessed of unusual creative ability in writing I am convinced. I have read poetry and stories by him which have moving force and conviction of emotional and rhetorical beauty which point toward genius given the proper opportunities. Also I wish to state that so far as I know he has no handicaps of a personal nature which would menace or impair his progress in achieving his fulfillment given the needed incentive materially and environmentally. It is my earnest belief that any assistance given will more than repay the investment.

-----

Mr. Bucklin Moon, Associate Editor, Doubleday, Doran and Company

It is difficult for me to evaluate either this project or Jimmy Baldwin. I mean this in the sense that it is difficult to have



guessed that if Finnigan's Wake had been Joyce's first book it would ever have been published. I do not mean to imply that there is a link between the two, James J. and James E., because there isn't. But I do feel that there is within Jimmy Baldwin something that may turn out to be very good. Whether it will ever come out or not I don't know. Yet I am certain of one thing: it will never come out if he has to mooch along the way he is now, without money and just this side of starving to death.

I have been in on this project from a very early point. I have talked to this writer and this photographer, not once but many times. I have seen photographs that, although I am not competent to judge them from a standpoint of technique have moved me deeply. I know that they show things that ought to be shown and they they in themselves have narrative quality.

As to the idea behind what they are doing, I have a feeling it ought to be done -- at least that it ought to be attempted. Maybe it will never come off and even if it does the chances of publication so long as publishing production costs keep as high as they are, will probably be slight. But I do feel strongly that such an attempt ought to be made.

What can I tell you about Jimmy Baldwin? Not a great deal, I'm afraid, in spite of the fact that I have seen a lot of him. Is a man who comes in to mooch a cup of coffee, or a person who is half an hour late because he didn't have subway fare and had to walk reliable? I don't know. All I do know is that he talks sense and wants like hell to be a writer. I doubt if anything short of actual starvation will stop him. If he makes it with a little help he will probably attain that goal sooner.

I read the novel which Vanguard is to publish and which was written under a Gene Saxton fellowship. In some ways it is not a good novel and may not be even with revision. But when it is good, when the writer clicks and gets his teeth into it, I am convinced that eventually he will write a damned good novel.

I guess this report is getting nowhere fast. If I did not know Jimmy and someone came to me with an outline like this I very much doubt that I would want to risk any money on it or Jimmy. But somehow (and this is pure hunch) I think he ought to have a fellowship. Nothing may come of it and for all I know he may kill somebody with an ax tomorrow morning, but this kid has something.

- - - - -

Mr. Isaac Rosenfeld, Literary Editor, New Leader, New York City

I am happy to recommend James Baldwin for your assistance in the project he has outlined here. I believe his study is a very important one, not only for the influence it is sure to exert toward the better understanding of race relations in this country, but for the graphic means that Mr. Baldwin, in his own capacity as a writer, acting together with a photographer, shall have at his disposal. He knows his subject thoroughly, not only because he was for a number of years part of it, but because he has the courage to know it. His courage is two-fold -- it consists in his honesty and in his desire (and great ability) to express the truth. But courage, to my mind, is but the beginning of his claim. I value him as a man, a friend and a writer for his great personal dignity and understanding. These qualities are present in his work as they are in himself; and in everything he writes about his own people. The "case"

he makes for the Negroes is no special or partial one. It is a case made for men, about men. I wish there were more writers like him. American writing is at present very much in need of spokesmen - for men.

It is an event in the life of any minority group in this country to have among its members a writer whose capacity and devotion are as great as his. James Baldwin's understanding of the Negroes is guided by a sense of human culture which is all the more precious at a time like the present, when it is everywhere threatened. He sees the threat clearly; more so than many of our "established" writers, whose security may still, in one sense or another, be said to be intact. But James Baldwin's sense of it transcends the personal threat or the threat to his own group; he sees it sincerely and genuinely as a threat to all. His sympathy proceeds from a basis in more than personal experience and suffering. He has a sympathy, rare in the rarest men, that can penetrate outward disorder to the inner meaning, where the fact that men suffer degradation, and the significance for human culture of that degradation, are one. This inner, broader meaning, the "cultural sense" is not separated from him by any area of vagueness, rhetoric or morally self-conscious good will; it is an immediate, painful perception. It is this which gives him his right to say "we", "our", when he speaks both for the Negroes and for America; he has instinctively. I know of no one with greater authority to speak both the part and the whole. His own experience has led him directly into other men's and each has grown for him with his development as a writer.

I met James Baldwin in my capacity as literary editor of the New Leader. His reviews, which appear regularly in our literary section—

they have ranged from books on Negro life to a book by Jacques Maritain, from Robert Louis Stevenson to Maxim Gorky - have already gained him a part of the recognition he deserves and will surely win from the literary world. His work has already appeared in the Nation and will shortly begin to appear in Partisan Review. We all look forward to the publication of his novel, in the confidence that here is emerging an American writer of major stature. One need only see the intellectual fire of the man and the writer to know that it is no longer a question of James Baldwin's winning his place. It already awaits him. I feel proud to recommend him to you, without reservation, for help toward the attainment of his excellent goal.

- - - - -

Mr. Thomas Martin, Poet and Writer, Orangeburg, New York

I have known James Baldwin, intimately for over six years. He lived in my home at Princeton, New Jersey for one continuous year shortly after I first met him. At that time we were both employed by the War Department at the Belle Mead Q.M. Depot where Mr. Baldwin worked under my direct supervision. Because of this personal intimacy, I feel that I know the candidate exceedingly well, and my first impressions and observations of him have stood all tests of time.

He is a man of unique personal sincerity, forever striving, no matter what the subjective costs or trials, after the truth of things in life. I have been able to closely watch his development as a creative writer. The unerring speed and facility of his growth as a creative artist has been of such a nature that it left me without doubt as to his possession of a valuable talent. Despite all the complexities and difficulties of his past four years of life he has never altered his artistic ambitions or

personal integrity. For a man of his years he has achieved an amazing depth of human wisdom and understanding. I felt that his was a voice which the world would some day hear and respect; I have never had any reasons to change this observation.

The project which he sketches in his plan of work is one which he is uniquely capable of carrying through to a significant conclusion. Though it presupposes large labors, I know that he would be able to carry it through successfully; I have never known him to be shy of hard work. And the subject is one with which he has a great deal of personal knowledge and experience; and which, if portrayed and discussed as he proposes, would be a worthy contribution to the human and social understanding of this field of study. It is without question, an aspect of the Negro in society which has not been deeply investigated in our time. If it is to be done significantly and interestingly, and in such a manner that will arrest the attentions of all who should know of these things, then James Baldwin is the man who will do it.

-----

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 ELLIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO 15

a

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate James Baldwin  
Report Requested of Mr. Beuford DeLaney  
181 Greene St.  
New York City, New York

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Gentlemen:

I have known James Baldwin the candidate for a number of years. That he is possessed of unusual creative ability in writing I am convinced. I have read poetry and stories by James Baldwin which have moving force and conviction of emotional and rhetorical beauty which point toward genius

OVER  
UNIVERSITY

given the proper opportunities.

Also I wish to state that so far as I know James Baldwin has no handicaps of a personal nature which would menace or impair, his progress in achieving his fulfillment given the needed incentives materially and environmentally.

It is my earnest belief that any assistance given will more than repay the investment most sincerely.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Signed Beauford Delaney  
Position or Title Artist  
Address 181 Greene Street New York City 12  
Date 11.25.47

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

F I S K  
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate James Baldwin  
Report Requested of Mr. Thomas Martin  
10 W. 703 St.  
Shanks Village  
Orangeburg, New York

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

I have known James Baldwin intimately for over six years. He lived in my home at Princeton, New Jersey for one continuous year shortly after I first met him. At that time we were both employed by the War Department at the Belle Mead Q.M. Depot where Mr. Baldwin worked under my direct supervision. Because of this personal intimacy, I feel that I know the candidate exceedingly well, and my first impressions and observations of him have stood all tests of time.

He is a man of unique personal sincerity, forever striving, not matter what the subjective costs or trials, after the truths of things in life. I have been able to closely watch his development as a creative writer. The unerring speed and facility of his growth as a creative artist has been of such a nature that it left me without doubt as to his possession of a valuable talent. Despite all the complexities and difficulties of his past four years of life he has never altered his artistic ambitions or personal integrity. For a man of his years he has OVER

achieved an amazing depth of human wisdom and understanding. I felt that his was a voice which the world would some day hear and respect; I have never had any reasons to change this observation.

The project which he sketches in his plans of work is one which he is uniquely capable of carrying through to a significant conclusion. Though it presupposes large labors, I know that he would be able to carry it through successfully; I have never known him to be shy of hard work. And the subject is one with which he has a great deal of personal knowledge and experience; and which, if portrayed and discussed as he proposes, would be a worthy contribution to the human and social understanding of this field of study. It is without question, an aspect of the Negro in society which has not been deeply investigated in our time. If it is to be done significantly and interestingly, and in such a manner that it will arrest the attentions of all who should know of these things, then James Baldwin is the man who will do it.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

In our materialistic society, the attempt by a white man at being a sincere creative artist is a supremely difficult task; this is a truism accepted by all with understanding or sympathy for the arts. To be a Negro and to attempt to be a sincere creative artist in our society is nearly an impossibility for a human being. I don't know of any position which would give J. Baldwin an opportunity to utilize his unique abilities, and I know that he is without any personality handicaps.

Signed Thomas K. Mentzer  
Position or Title Poet & Writer  
Address 10 W. 703 St, Shanks Village, N.Y.  
Date 12/9/47

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

F I S I K  
U N I V E R S I T Y

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate James Baldwin

Report Requested of Mr. Bucklin Moon  
Doubleday, Doran  
14 W. 49th St.  
New York 20, New York

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT It is difficult for me to evaluate either this project or Jimmy Baldwin. I mean this in the sense that it is difficult to have guessed that if Finnigan's Wake had been Joyce's first book it would have ever been published. I do not mean to imply that there is a link between the two, James J and James B, because there isn't. But I do feel that there is within Jimmy Baldwin something that may turn out to be very good. Whether it will ever come out or not I don't know. Yet I am certain of one thing: it will never come out if he has to mooch along the way he is now, without money and just this side of starving to death.

I have been in on this project from a very early point. I have talked to this writer and this photographer, not once but many times. I have seen photographs that, although I am not competent to judge them from a standpoint of technique have moved me deeply. I know that they show things that ought to be shown and that they in themselves have narrative quality.

As to the idea behind what they are doing, I have a feeling it ought to be done ---- at least that it ought to be attempted. Maybe it will never come off and even if it does the chances of publication, so long as publishing production costs keep as high as they are, will probably be slight. But I do feel OVER

strongly that such an attempt ought to be made.

What can I tell you about Jimmy Baldwin? Not a great deal, I'm afraid, in spite of the fact that I have seen a lot of him. Is a man who comes in too mooch a cup of coffee, or a person who is half an hour late for an appointment because he didn't have subway fare and had to walk reliable? I don't know. All I do know is that he talks sense and wants like hell to be a writer. I doubt if anything short of actual starvation will stop him. If he makes it with a little help he will probably attain that goal sooner.

I read the novel which Vanguard is to be publish and which was written under a Gene Saxton fellowship. In some ways it is not a good novel and may not be even with revision. But when it is good, when the writer clicks and gets his teeth into it I am convinced that eventually he will write a damned good novel.

I guess that this report is getting nowhere fast. If I did not know Jimmy and someone came to me with an outline like this I very much doubt that I would want to risk any money on it or Jimmy. But somehow (and this is pure hunch) I think he ought to have a fellowship. Nothing may come of it and for all I know he may kill somebody with an ax tomorrow morning, but this kid has something.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Signed.....

*Deedee Daper*

Position or Title..... Associate Editor

Address..... Doubleday & Company, 14 West 49th Street, New York, N. Y.

Date..... January 22, 1948

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

a

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate            James Baldwin  
Report Requested of        Mr. Isaac Rosenfeld  
                                     85 Barrow St.  
                                     New York City

---

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

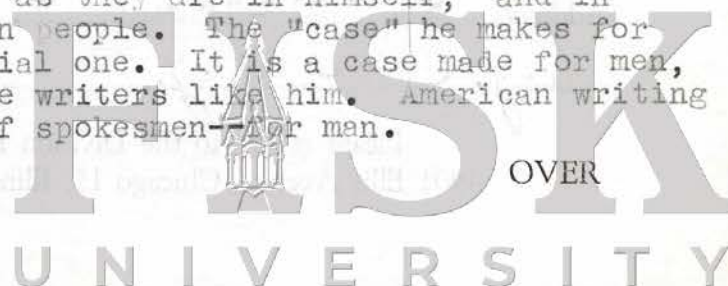
William C. Haygood  
Director for Fellowships

---

REPORT

I am happy to recommend James Baldwin for your assistance in the project he has outlined here. I believe his study is a very important one, not only for the influence it is sure to exert toward the better understanding of race relations in this country, but for the graphic means that Mr. Baldwin, in his own capacity as a writer, acting together with a photographer, shall have at his disposal. He knows his subject thoroughly, not only because he was for a number of years part of it, but because he has the courage to know it. His courage is twofold--it consists in his honesty and in his desire (and great ability) to express the truth. But courage, to my mind, is but the beginning of his claim. I value him as a man, a friend and a writer for his great personal dignity and understanding. These qualities are present in his work as they are in himself; and in everything he writes about his own people. The "case" he makes for the Negroes is no special or partial one. It is a case made for men, about men. I wish there were more writers like him. American writing is at present very much in need of spokesmen--for man.

OVER



It is an event in the life of any minority group in this country to have among its members a writer whose capacity and devotion are as great as his. James Baldwin's understanding of the Negroes is guided by a sense of human culture which is all the more precious at a time like the present, when it is everywhere threatened. He sees the threat clearly; more so than many of our "established" writers, whose security may still, in one sense or another, be said to be intact. But James Baldwin's sense of it transcends the personal threat or the threat to his own group; he sees it, sincerely and genuinely, as a threat to all. His sympathy proceeds from a basis in more than personal experience and suffering. He has a sympathy, rare in the rarest men, that can penetrate outward disorder to the inner meaning, where the fact that men suffer degradation, and the significance for human culture of that degradation, are one. This inner, broader meaning, the "cultural sense," is not separated from him by any area of vagueness, rhetoric or morally self-conscious good will; it is an immediate, painful perception. It is this which gives him his right to say "we," "our," when he speaks both for the Negroes and for America; he has it instinctively. I know of no one with greater authority to speak both for the part and the whole. His own experience has led him directly into other men's, and each has grown for him with his development as a writer.

I met James Baldwin in my capacity as literary editor of the New Leader. His reviews, which appear regularly in our literary section--they have ranged from books on Negro life to a book by Jacques Maritain, from Robert Louis Stevenson to Maxim Gorky--have already gained him a part of the recognition he deserves and will surely win from the literary world. His work has already appeared in the Nation and will shortly begin to appear in Partisan Review. We all look forward to the publication of his novel, in the confidence that here is emerging an American writer of major stature. One need only see the intellectual fire of the man and the writer to know that it is no longer a question of James Baldwin's winning his place. It already awaits him. I feel proud to recommend him to you, without reservation, for help toward the attainment of his excellent goal.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Yes.

Signed Isaac Rosenfeld  
Position or Title Literary editor, New Leader; Jugenheim Fellow, Creative Writing, 1947.  
Address 85 Barrow St.  
N.Y.C. 14, N.Y. Date 11/26/47

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

F I S I K  
U N I V E R S I T Y

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 ELLIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO 15

a

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate            James Baldwin  
Report Requested of        Miss Henrietta Weigel  
   235 W. 13 St.  
   New York City

---

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood  
*Director for Fellowships*

---

REPORT

I think that James Baldwin is exceptionally gifted, and should be eligible for a Rosenwald grant. He is imaginative and writes well, and understands the problems confronting his people as a group and in relation to the white race. He is not biased, having an unusual degree of objectivity, for anyone so young and for anyone at all. He is ambitious and thoughtful. I like the project he outlines, and believe it can contribute to American life and culture. He is talented, and can bring originality to whatever he undertakes.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 ELLIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS

Continental Report on Candidates for Fellowships

James Weigelt

President, Candidate

Miss Henrietta Weigelt

Reports Requested of

Nov. 13, 1947

New York City

The above named candidate has applied to this Fund for a Fellowship and has given your firm as a reference. The candidate's file of work is attached. Your return to this Fund should be in the form of a letter to the Director, Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. It should state whether you are recommending the candidate for a Fellowship and, if so, on what basis. It should also state whether you are recommending the candidate for a Fellowship and, if so, on what basis. It should also state whether you are recommending the candidate for a Fellowship and, if so, on what basis.

William C. Sullivan  
Director, Julius Rosenwald Fund

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities? **Yes**

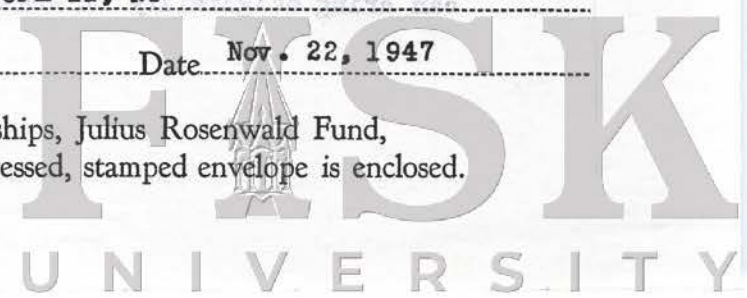
Signed Henrietta Weigelt

Position or Title Writer

Address 235 West 13 Street, New York 11, NY

Date Nov. 22, 1947

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.



November 20, 1947

Dear Mr. Baldwin: Your application for a fellowship, together with the five photographs, has been received and will be presented to the Fellowship Committee. However, since the Committee will not announce its wards until about the first of May, the earliest a grant may be taken up is June, 1948. Will you, therefore, let me hear from you submitting new dates of period for which the grant is desired?

Sincerely yours,



For the Committee on Fellowships

Mr. James A. Baldwin  
415 E. 12th St.  
New York, New York

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

# CROSS REFERENCE RECORD

FIRM NAME OR SUBJECT	FELLOWSHIPS BALDWIN JAMES	FILE NO.
DATE 11/29/46	REMARKS Bucklin Moon recommends Mr. Bladwin for fellowship.	

SEE	FELLOWSHIPS MOON BUCKLIN	FILE NO.

DATE	SIGNED

FILE CROSS REFERENCE RECORD UNDER NAME OR SUBJECT LISTED AT TOP OF THIS SHEET, AND IN PROPER DATE ORDER. THE PAPERS REFERRED TO SHOULD BE FILED UNDER NAME OR SUBJECT LISTED UNDER "SEE"

**YAWMAN AND ERBE MFG. CO.**  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.



**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

FORM NO. 099CR

# CROSS REFERENCE RECORD

FIRM NAME OR SUBJECT	FILE NO.
2 - Baldevin	
DATE	REMARKS
	5 photos to be returned

SEE	FILE NO.
Desk drawer in spare desk in Wwa's office	

DATE	SIGNED

FILE CROSS REFERENCE RECORD UNDER NAME OR SUBJECT LISTED AT TOP OF THIS SHEET, AND IN PROPER DATE ORDER. THE PAPERS REFERRED TO SHOULD BE FILED UNDER NAME OR SUBJECT LISTED UNDER "SEE"

**YAWMAN AND ERBE MFG. CO.**  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.



**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

FORM NO. 099CR

# FELLOWSHIPS

Wednesday, March 3, 1948

HR 3/4 a 4

Rosenwald Foundation  
4901 Ellis Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

The tentative script of Unto The Dying Lamb is in the process of being reworked and is, therefore, at the moment in a thoroughly unreadable state. I am enclosing instead a copy of the February issue of Commentary in which my article appeared and a proof of a long book-review ( for the March Commentary ) and a proof of a short story, Previous Condition, scheduled to be published in Commentary shortly. I hope that this meets your needs.

Very sincerely,

*James Baldwin*  
James Baldwin

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

83 Bleeker Street  
40 Kearns  
New York City

HR	4/23	HR	0
92		56	5/10

FELLOWSHIPS

April 22, 1948

Dear Miss Reitze:

Your news of the award was, naturally, wonderful news for me. Yes, of course, I shall be very glad and very proud to accept it and to begin work on the date specified. The outline originally submitted to the committee remains the basic outline for the project. I shall do as good a job as I know how.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*James Baldwin*  
James Baldwin

**FISK**  
  
**UNIVERSITY**

# Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO 15

To

Mr. James A. Baldwin

46 West 131 Street

New York, New York

Payment Voucher No. 5148

Date April 30, 1948

FELLOWSHIPS

First payment on fellowship ----- \$666.66

(Awarded April 20, 1948)

Ck. #38494

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	46-13	\$666.66	

Prepared by lcm	Checked by	Posted by
--------------------	------------	-----------

FISK UNIVERSITY  
Comptroller

# COMMENTARY

A JEWISH REVIEW

425 FOURTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 16 • N. Y.

March 1, 1948

The Julius Rosenwald Foundation  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

	HR	3/3	a	3

Gentlemen:

Mr. James Baldwin informs us that he is applying for a Rosenwald Fellowship in order to complete a book on the store church, and has asked us to write a letter in support of his application.

In the opinion of all the editors of Commentary, Mr. Baldwin is a young writer of astonishing talent. We have already published one article by Mr. Baldwin ("The Harlem Ghetto") in our February issue, which we consider to be among the best pieces of writing that have yet appeared in this magazine. We also are planning to publish a short story "Previous Condition," which is perhaps a fuller example of Mr. Baldwin's talent as a writer; and I may mention that we have every hope that Mr. Baldwin will continue to write for us in the future.

I am confident that the granting of a Fellowship to Mr. Baldwin will result in the production of a volume that will be a real contribution to American culture, and certainly will be of inestimable value in terms of the aims of the Rosenwald Foundation.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Warshaw  
Managing Editor

RW/ml



# FELLOWSHIPS

April 20, 1948

Dear Mr. Baldwin: I have the honor to inform you that you have been selected by the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund to receive a grant of Two thousand dollars (\$2000) for a nine-month period beginning June 1, 1948 to enable you to write about the cultural, social structure, the psychological need for religion for the Negro in Harlem, the position of the Negro in the nation, and the implications for white and black.

Because of the closing of the Fund it is imperative that the grant be accepted only if you are prepared to begin your project on the date specified and to carry through your work as outlined in your application. I want to point out to you that the funds included in this award are not subject to federal income tax.

Will you please let us know at once whether or not you can accept the fellowship? An announcement of the Committee's selections will be made soon, and it can include only those from whom acceptances have been received.

Sincerely yours,

HR

For the Committee  
on Fellowships

HR:RC

Mr. (James A.) Baldwin  
~~415 East 12th Street~~  
New York, New York

46 W. 131 st.

FISK  
UNIVERSITY