

✓ Please fill out and return in order that we may complete our records on former Rosenwald Fellows: mark.

Name Beatrice Yvonne Black

Present position: Statistician - Office of Distribution

War Food Administration

Address: 222 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Significant recent activities:

FELLOWSHIPS

(Use additional sheet if desired)

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

# Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO

# FELLOWSHIPS

To

Miss Beatrice Y. Elack

40 East George Street

Providence, Rhode Island

Payment Voucher No. 3125


Date June 30, 1941

Final payment on fellowship granted 4/17/40 - - - - - \$200.00

Ch.#25210

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$200.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by	 Comptroller

# FELLOWSHIPS

April 2, 1941

My dear Dean Richardson: Thank you very much for your letter regarding Miss Beatrice Black. Her application for a renewal of her grant will receive the careful consideration of the Committee on Fellowships at its forthcoming meeting.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

*mm*

GMR:MLU

Dean R. G. D. Richardson  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

# Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO

## FELLOWSHIPS

To

Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
40 East George Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

Payment Voucher No. 2606

Date March 31, 1941

Third installment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$500.00

Ck. # 24644

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	89-7	\$500.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by
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Comptroller

# Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO

# FELLOWSHIPS

To

Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
40 East George Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

Payment Voucher No. 2165


Date December 31, 1940

Second installment on fellowship grant ----- \$200.00

Ck.#24127

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	33-7	\$200.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by	
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Comptroller

UNIVERSITY

# FELLOWSHIPS

November 25, 1940

Dear Miss Black: I am enclosing a set of blanks,  
in response to your note of  
the 22nd. If you wish to apply for a renewal of  
your grant I would suggest that you wait until  
later in the year when special forms for that  
purpose are ready for distribution.

rec'd  
12/16/40  
ML

All good wishes to you in your  
present work.

Sincerely yours,

MARGARET L. L.

Secretary to Mr. Reynolds

~~Miss Beatrice V. Black~~  
40 East George Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

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UNIVERSITY

# Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO

# FELLOWSHIPS

To

Miss Beatrice Y. Black

222 N Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Payment Voucher No. 1692

Date September 12, 1940

First ~~quarterly~~ installment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$350.00

Ck.#23555

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	89-7	\$350.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by
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Comptroller



# FELLOWSHIPS

222 N Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

September 10, 1940

	DE	9/11	DE	9/12
	MLK		MLK	0

Comptroller, Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

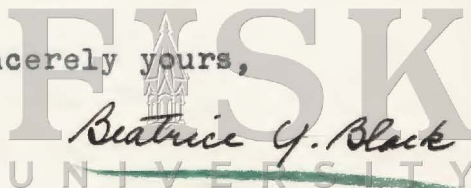
Dear Miss Elvidge:

I shall register at Brown University for the ensuing year's work on September 23. I wish to submit the following payment plan. I should like to receive the money from my fellowship in quarterly installments of \$350, \$200, \$300, and \$200 in the order named. I request this method of payment because my expenses are heaviest in the fall since I usually have to buy all my books at that time.

The first installment I should like to have sent to my home address given above. After September 22 my address will be 40 East George Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Sincerely yours,

*Beatrice G. Black*



# FELLOWSHIPS

September 4, 1940

Dear Miss Black: In order that we may have your academic record complete, I am writing to ask whether or not you received a master's degree this year from Brown University, or will you skip that step and work directly on your doctorate?

All good wishes to you as your work begins this fall.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS  
*me*

GMR:MLU

Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
69 Benevolent Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

# FELLOWSHIPS

May 1, 1940

Dear Miss Black:      When you are ready to begin  
work under your fellowship  
grant, kindly submit a payment plan that will meet  
your needs. It is customary for Fellows to prefer  
payment either in monthly or quarterly installments,  
but if another plan is more agreeable to you do not  
hesitate to suggest it.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAB:RW

Miss Beatrice Yvonne Black  
89 Benevolent Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

# FELLOWSHIPS

September 18, 1939

Dear Miss Black: During the spring we had correspondence with you and with Dean Richardson of Brown University regarding the possibility of your applying for a Rosenwald Fund fellowship. Application blanks for 1940 grants are now ready for distribution, and I am enclosing a set. Should you be interested in becoming a candidate for a 1940-41 fellowship we shall be glad to give your application careful consideration.

Very truly yours,

GMR:MLU

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Gillett House  
Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts

**FISK**  
  
UNIVERSITY

<sup>7</sup>  
FELLOWSHIPS

Black, Beatrice Y.

April 3, 1939

Dear Dean Richardson: I am sorry that there has been a delay in replying to your letter regarding Miss Black, but it came just as we were preparing material for the first meeting of our Committee on Fellowships.

Shortly before your letter was received I wrote Miss Black, explaining that January 10 was the deadline for the acceptance of applications, and asking that if she were interested in applying for a grant for 1940 that she get in touch with us during the autumn. I hope she will find it possible to do this, as your recommendation and the statements from her Smith instructors are so excellent.

Very truly yours,

GMR\*MLJ

George M. Richardson

Dean R. G. D. Richardson  
The Graduate School  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island

FELLOWSHIPS

Black, Beatrice Y.

March 7, 1939

My dear Miss Black: I am sorry to tell you that the final date for the acceptance of fellowship applications for 1939 was January 10. Should you be interested in applying for a 1940 grant, and should your plan come within the scope of our program, please get in touch with me during the early autumn.

Very truly yours,

GMR:MLU

George M. Reynolds

Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Gillett House  
Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts

sub  
at 1/27/39

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UNIVERSITY

# FELLOWSHIPS

Gillett House

	GMR	5	Smith College Northampton, Mass.
			March 3, 1939

Mr. George M. Reynolds  
Director for Fellowships

Julius Rosenwald Fund  
Chicago, Illinois

# FELLOWSHIPS

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Dean Richardson of Brown University suggested that I should write to you. I am now a senior at Smith College. I have majored in Mathematics and applied for a fellowship at Brown in the hope of being able to go on with my work. Brown University can not do very much for first-year students but Dean Richardson has said that Brown is willing to give me a \$300 scholarship covering tuition charges if some other foundation will make a grant for me. I would like to know if the Rosenwald Fund can give me any help.

Sincerely yours,

Betty W. Blakely

A  
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate      Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Report Requested of    Professor Georg Polya  
Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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. An early reply will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates.

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

*George M. Reynolds*  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Miss B. Y. Black attended my class on Differential Geometry since the beginning of the present academic year 1940/41. She worked diligently and seriously. Her home work on the subject was done with exceptional care. Her test papers were a little less good. Till now, her work entitles her to grade B in the subject of my class; I don't think it likely that her



final grade in Differential Geometry will be different from B. My personal impression is that Mrs Black deserves to continue her studies in mathematics.

Name of Candidate  
Mrs Beatrice Y. Black  
Report Requested of  
Professor Georg Polya  
Brown University, Providence, R. I.

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as 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. An early reply will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates.

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

REPORT

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

G. Polya

Position or Title

Visiting Professor

Address

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Date Feb. 25, 1941

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

ROSENWALD FUND  
UNIVERSITY

A

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate      Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Report Requested of    Dean R. G. D. Richardson  
                                  Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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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. An early reply will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates.

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


*George M. Reynolds*  
Director for Fellowships

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REPORT

Miss Black has lived up to our expectations in regard to her work during the past year. She has been intelligent and diligent and is well liked by both faculty and students. In fact, it is quite remarkable how much she has become a part of the community.

It seems to me that the plan of work which she outlines for the year 1941-42 is thoroughly sound, and I trust that she will be able to carry it out. Of course there is always a question as to whether a candidate has the originality to prepare an acceptable thesis. Should Miss Black be able to qualify for a Ph.D. in mathematics I believe that she will be the first one of her race to do so. She should prove a very useful member of an academic constituency after the solid preparation which she is acquiring.

FISK  
 OVER  
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 ELLIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Beatrice T. Black  
Report Requested of Dean R. G. Richardson  
Brown University, Providence, R. I.

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as 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. An early reply will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates. We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

*Wm. M. Richardson*  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

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?

Miss Black has every reason to look forward to a useful career. So far as I know she has no handicaps of any sort.

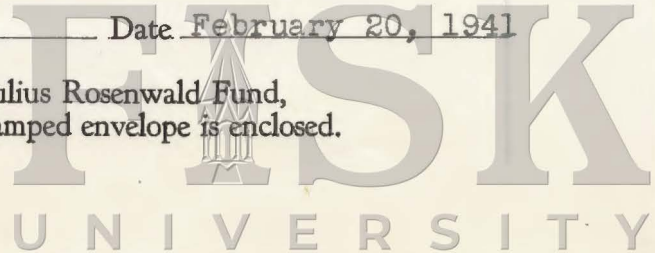
Signed *R. G. Richardson*

Position or Title Dean of the Graduate School, Head of the Department of Mathematics.

Address Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Date February 20, 1941

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



A

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate      Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Report Requested of    Professor Jacob D. Tamarkin  
   Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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. *An early reply will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates.*

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

*George M. Reynolds*  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

I have Miss Black as a student in my course on Functional analysis, and also in a seminar. In both courses Miss Black's work showed fully comparable with the work of other students working toward their Ph.D. degrees. In the seminar, particularly, Miss Black showed ability of organizing rather difficult material, and of presenting it in a very good form. In course on functional analysis Miss Black showed good ability in solving various problems in connection with the material treated in the course. While at the present stage it is difficult

OVER

to judge whether Miss Block has enough originality for writing a first class Doctor Thesis, I feel convinced that she is improving and gaining ground continuously, that she applies very serious effort in her work, and that there is a good hope that she will be successful in writing her thesis if she is given a suitable encouragement. I therefore fully support her application for a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship.

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?

I do not see any handicaps which may make it difficult for Miss Block to achieve her goal and to be a useful worker in teaching and doing research in mathematics.

Signed J. D. Tamarin

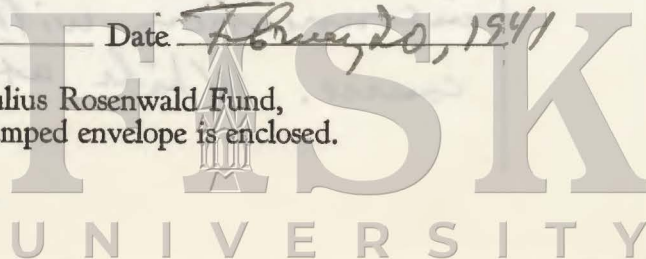
Position or Title Professor

Address Brown University

Rhodes, R.I.

Date February 20, 1941

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



A

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Beatrice Y. Black

Report Requested of Dr. Willy Feller, Lecturer in Mathematics

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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 personal characteristics and qualifications, and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. *An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.*

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

*George M. Reynolds*  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Miss B.Y.Black attends my lectures on Real Functions and I found her to be one of my most interested and most successful students. I have the definite impression that she pursues her studies with zeal and skill, and I have no doubts about her ability to carry on her studies to a successful end. I hope this end will be made attainable for her and wish to give my wholehearted support to her application.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Continental Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Beatrice J. Black

Report Requested of Dr. Willy Feller, Lecturer in Mathematics

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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 personal characteristics and qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

*George M. ...*  
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

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?

As far as I know: **yes**

Signed Willy Feller

*Willy Feller*

Position or Title Lecturer, ass. Editor "Math.Reviews".

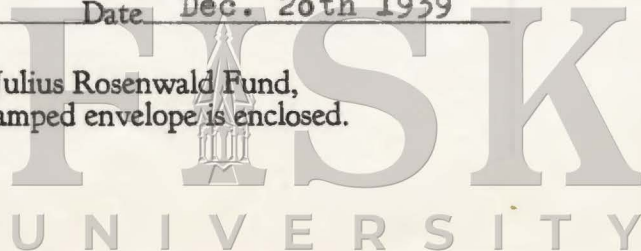
Address Math. Reviews, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Providence, R.I.

Date Dec. 20th 1939

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

OVER



Copy

*use with references*

Dear Dean Richardson:

This time I am writing in support of the application of ~~one of our Seniors, Miss Beatrice Y. Black (colored), for a Graduate Fellowship.~~

First of all, I may say that I taught Miss Black for only one semester and that at an elementary level so I am not well qualified to judge her ability. However, her work with me was of the highest quality and I know that the other members of the Department are enthusiastic about her.

She is studying <sup>ed</sup> under our General Honors plan and ~~has just completed a paper on elementary aspects of differential geometry, a paper which ~~was~~ unusually well written. I feel sure that she will be graduated with honors this Spring.~~

Miss Black ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> very well liked by the other girls and although she ~~was~~ the only colored girl among our majors, was elected president of our mathematics club, ~~for this year.~~ She has a pleasant and attractive personality and ~~seems to adjust~~ herself easily and quickly to new situations. She is very conscientious and a steady and persistent worker.

Miss Black is very anxious to do graduate work but needs financial assistance. It seems to me that she is well qualified in every way, and will no doubt become an excellent teacher. ~~In my opinion, any assistance you may be able to give her will be a good investment.~~

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Neal H. McCoy

*use in reference**Northampton Mass.*

Dear Dean Richardson:

I am writing in behalf of Miss Beatrice Black who is applying to you for a fellowship to enable her to do graduate work in mathematics. Miss Black has taken two courses from me, one in calculus, and one in advanced calculus. In addition, she has had an honors reading course under my supervision ~~both last year and this~~, so that I have had ample opportunity to become acquainted with her and to know her ability.

I am glad to be able to recommend her very highly. In my opinion she is very definitely the best student majoring in mathematics here ~~this year~~ <sup>in 1939</sup>. Her work is consistently very good. She has enough interest and enthusiasm as well as self control to prepare her assignments thoroughly. Of equal or greater importance is the fact that she has real ability. She thinks very clearly and it often happens that she is the first or the only member of the class to understand some particular phase of the subject. She can express herself either orally or in writing with much greater clarity than most students. Her personality is excellent. She is a little reserved until she becomes well acquainted which I assume may be partly deliberate and calculated to prevent embarrassment arising from the fact that she is colored. But once she has confidence in your friendship her natural vivacity becomes evident.

She is very definitely the type of girl who should be encouraged to do further work. Her qualifications for such work are very good from every point of view.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Deane Montgomery.

My dear Dean Richardson:

I am very glad to write in support of the application of Miss Beatrice Yvonne Black for a fellowship at Brown. Miss Black has done work of honor grade in all her courses in mathematics and has written an excellent paper in connection with her work for General Honors. She is able and painstaking, a combination of qualities which has given her increasing power in each of her years at college. Her skill in presenting her ideas and defending her own point of view is unusual for an undergraduate.

Her college life has presented more problems than that of most girls for she is a negro who has had to overcome certain race prejudices but who, in spite of them, has lived with apparent serenity in a college dormitory, where, as well as in classes, she has made friends by her sweet spirit and pleasant personality.

In view of all that she has achieved so far I hope that she may secure the necessary help for the year of graduate work for which she shows so much promise.

(Signed) Susan W. Hambo UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

1940 fellow

Application for reappointment should be filed by February 15, 1941. Please attach six copies of a report of your progress under your present grant, and of your plan of work for the coming year.

Name Beatrice Yvonne Black

Present address 40 East George Street Providence, Rhode Island

Permanent address 222 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Field <u>Mathematics</u>
Concise statement of plan of work <u>Studies in the field of Analysis</u> <u>leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In particular:</u> <u>completion of preparation for the preliminary examinations and</u> <u>the beginning of reading and research for the Doctor's thesis.</u>

If fellowship is renewed, where and how do you propose to spend your time?

If the fellowship is renewed I expect to study at Brown University.

I intend to spend the coming year completing the course requirements, preparing for the preliminary examinations and beginning my research.

Under whose supervision? Prof. J.D.Tamarkin or Dr. Willy Feller

For what period are you requesting a renewal? One year

Present status of work toward degree I lack one year course of having completed the course requirements for the doctorate.

List as references persons under whom you have worked during your present fellowship

Dean R.G.D.Richardson	Brown University	Providence, R.I.
Prof. Jacob D. Tamarkin	" "	" "
Prof. Georg Polya	" "	" "

Amount requested from the Fund \$1000.00

Publications, if any, since you were awarded a fellowship None

Are you applying elsewhere for a fellowship? If so, where? No

Do you plan to return to your former position?



**Name** Beatrice Yvonne Black **Field:** Mathematics

Graduate Student, Brown University  
40 East George Street, Providence, Rhode Island

REAPPOINTMENT

**Plan of Work**

Studies in the field of Analysis leading to the Ph.D. In particular: completion of preparation for the preliminary examinations and the beginning of reading and research for the Doctor's thesis.

Duration of work one year, at Brown University, under Dr. J. D. Tamarkin or Dr. Willy Feller.

**Personal Data** Born Washington, D. C., September, 1919. Single. **Age:** 21

**Undergraduate Work** Smith College, A. B., 1939.

**Graduate Work** Brown University, 1939 -

**Experience**

**Accomplishments** Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Xi.

**Fellowships:** Brown University, 1939-40; Rosenwald Fund, 1940-41, \$1050.

**References**

R. G. D. Richardson, Brown University  
Jacob D. Tamarkin, Brown University  
Georg Polya, Brown University

**Budget Summary**

Total Amount Needed	\$ 1,000
From Applicant	-
From Fund	\$ 1,000

AMOUNT GRANTED

FILE COPY UNIVERSITY

Plan of Work for the year 1941-42

Field: Mathematics

PLEASE RETURN  
TO  
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

While working at Brown University under my present grant, I am studying the theory of linear differential equations of the second order, the theory of integration and its applications to functional analysis, and Differential Geometry. I am also enrolled in the seminar course. In this course one has an opportunity to do individual reading on topics which are not usually covered in the standard courses. One prepares and presents before the seminar, which is open to the department, at least two papers each semester. Thus one obtains experience in doing independent reading and in the attendant organization of material.

I have to take only one more year course in order to fulfill the course requirements for the Ph.D. I have passed my reading examination in French and I expect to take the German examination this spring. I intend to remain in Providence during the first summer months reading under the direction of some member of the Mathematics department. This reading will be in the field of analysis and should provide a foundation for the research on my doctor's thesis.

If my grant is renewed I will continue my studies at Brown University. I shall take a course in advanced topics in analysis and one in Physics. The remainder of my time shall be devoted to research and to a review for the preliminary examinations which I expect to take not later than the spring of next year. By the end of the academic year 1941-42 I expect to have the research on my thesis well under-way.

  
Beatrice Y. Black  
FISK  
UNIVERSITY

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Beatrice Y. Black

Georg Polya, Visiting Professor of Mathematics, Brown University

Miss Black worked diligently and seriously in my class on Differential Geometry. Her home work on the subject was done with exceptional care. Her test papers were a little less good. Till now her work entitles her to grade B in the subject of my class. I don't think it likely that her final grade will be different from B. My personal impression is that Miss Black deserves to continue her studies in mathematics.

-----

R. G. D. Richardson, Dean of the Graduate School, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Brown University

Miss Black has lived up to our expectations in regard to her work during the past year. She has been intelligent and diligent and is well liked by both faculty and students. In fact, it is quite remarkable how much she has become a part of the community.

It seems to me that the plan of work which she outlines for the year 1941-42 is thoroughly sound, and I trust that she will be able to carry it out. Of course there is always a question as to whether a candidate has the originality to prepare an acceptable thesis. Should Miss Black be able to qualify for a Ph.D. in mathematics I believe that she will be the first one of her race to do so. She should prove a very useful member of an academic constituency after the solid preparation which she is acquiring.

-----

J. D. Tamarkin, Professor of Mathematics, Brown University

I have Miss Black as a student in my course on Functional Analysis, and also in a seminar. In both courses Miss Black's work was fully comparable to the work of other students working toward their Ph.D. degrees. In the seminar particularly Miss Black showed ability of organizing rather difficult material and of presenting it in a very good form. In the course on functional analysis she showed good ability in solving various problems in connection with the material treated in that course. While at the present stage it is difficult to judge whether Miss Black has enough originality for writing a first-class doctoral thesis, I feel convinced that she is improving and gaining ground continuously, that she applies very serious effort in her work, and that there is a good hope that she will be successful in writing her thesis if she is given suitable encouragement. I therefore fully support her application for a fellowship.

- - - - -

Name

Beatrice Ivonne Black

Field: Mathematics

Graduate Student, Brown University

69 Benevolent Street, Providence, Rhode Island

## Plan of Work

Advanced studies in mathematics leading to the doctorate in 1942; the year 1940-41 to be spent in preparation for the preliminary examinations.

Has been admitted. Will work under Dr. J. D. Tamarkin at Brown University. Study to begin September, 1940.

## Personal Data

Born Washington, D. C., September 2, 1919

Age: 20

Undergraduate Work Smith College, A. B., 1939.

Graduate Work Brown University, September, 1939 -

## Experience

Accomplishments Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Xi

Neilson Scholarship at Smith, 1938-39, \$500.00.

Smith Student's Aid Society Fellowship, \$700.00

Brown University Scholarship, 1939-40, \$300.00.

## References

Dean R. G. D. Richardson, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Professor A. A. Bennett, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Dr. Willy Feller, Lecturer in Mathematics, Brown University

Dr. Deane Montgomery, Associate Professor of Mathematics,  
Smith College

Dr. Neal McCoy, Department of Mathematics, Smith College

## Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$1050.00
From Applicant	
From Fund	\$1050.00

AMOUNT GRANTED

FILE COPY

UNIVERSITY



**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

## Plan of Work

PLEASE RETURN  
TO  
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

I wish to pursue advanced studies in Mathematics, specifically in the field of Analysis. I am now working on my Master's degree at Brown University. I wish to begin my studies leading to the doctorate in September, 1940 with the expectation of receiving this degree in June, 1942. The year 1940-41 will be spent in preparation for the Preliminary Examinations. During that year I shall be studying Functional Analysis, Differential Geometry and Mathematical Physics. I should like to work at Brown University where I shall probably be supervised by either Professor Tamarkin or Professor Adams.

Since there are so few students of Advanced Mathematics among Negroes and since modern Mathematics is advancing so rapidly, I believe that there is both a need of and a place for those who are adequately prepared in this subject. After obtaining my doctorate I want to teach Mathematics on the college level. By this work I hope to make some worthwhile contribution toward the raising of the standards of Negro education.

NAME Black, Beatrice Yvonne

CLASS 1939

SUMMARY OF GRADES

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

GROUP

CATALOG NO. OF COURSES

SEM. HRS. GR. SEM. HRS. GR. GROUP

CATALOG NO. OF COURSES

SEM. HRS. GR. SEM. HRS. GR. GROUP

CATALOG NO. OF COURSES

SEM. HRS. GR. SEM. HRS. GR. GROUP

PLAN

ADVANCED CREDIT BY CERT. OR EXAM. FROM

1935 - 36

Hyg 11a 3 C+

Ger 11 3 B 3 B

Astr 11 3 B+ A- 3 A-

Math 12 3 C+ B+ 3 B+

Hist 13 3 C+ C 3 C

P E 1a,b - B- - C+

Eng 11b 3 C+

Hrs. carried 15 15

Hrs. credit 15 15

1937 - 38

Major Mathematics

Astr 35 3 A 3 A

Math 23 3 A- A 3 A

Math 31a,32b 3 B+ 3 A

Math 300a,b 3 S 3 S

Educ 27a,38b 3 A 3 B

Hrs. carried 15 15

Hrs. credit 15 15

	FRESH.		SOPH.		JUN.		SEN.	
	1 <sup>st</sup> YR.	2 <sup>nd</sup> YR.	1 <sup>st</sup> YR.	2 <sup>nd</sup> YR.	1 <sup>st</sup> YR.	2 <sup>nd</sup> YR.	1 <sup>st</sup> YR.	2 <sup>nd</sup> YR.
A (4)		6		21		15		12
B (3)		12		9		6		12
C (1)		12						
D (1)								
E (6)								
SH.		0		0				
AV.		2.8		3.7		3.8		3.5
		84		111		10		84
		30		30		24		24

ENTRANCE UNITS

SUBJECT	UNITS	SUBJECT	UNITS
ENGLISH	5	CHEMISTRY	1
ALGEBRA	2	PHYSICS	1
PLANE GEOMETRY	1	ZOOLOGY	1
SOLID GEOMETRY	1	HISTORY	1
TRIGONOMETRY	1	HISTORY	1
FRENCH	1	HISTORY	1
GERMAN	1	MUSIC	1
SPANISH	1		
LATIN	1		
GREEK	1	TOTAL	16
BIOLOGY	1	SAT	5
BOTANY	1		
CONDITIONED IN		CONDITION REMOVED	

1936 - 37

Ger 23 2 A 2 A

Ger 23 int 1 A 1 A

Fr 14 3 B 3 B

Astr 31a,b 3 A- 3 A-

Math 21 3 A 3 A

Educ 22a,221b 3 A- 3 B

P E 2a,b - C+ - C+

Hrs. carried 15 15

Hrs. credit 15 15

1938 - 39

Major Mathematics

Math 34 3 A 3 A

Math 38 3 B+ 3 B+

Math 350a,b 3 S 3 S

Phil 21 3 A- 3 A-

Educ 311 3 B 3 B

Hrs. carried 15 15

Hrs. credit 15 15

AV. FOR 2 YRS. =

AV. FOR 3 YRS. =

AV. FOR 4 YRS. =

PS. 6/6 6/6 6/6 6/6 6/6

COURSE REQUIREMENTS MET AS FOLLOWS:

ENG. BY 11b HYG. BY 11a

P.E. BY 1a,b,2a,b

GROUP I BY French TEST TAKEN May '37

BY " "

GROUP II 6 BY Fr 14

GROUP III 6 BY Astr 11

67 BY Math 12

GROUP IV 6 BY Hist 13

BY

GRADUATED IN June 12, 1939

DEGREE OF A.B. Magna cum laude

IN CLASS OF



SMITH COLLEGE  
Northampton, Mass.

Official transcript

Joy Secor  
Registrar

PRIZES AND HONORS WON DURING COURSE

Neilson Scholar 1938

Elected Associate Membership Sigma Xi 1939

Elected Phi Beta Kappa 1939

Students' Aid Society Fellowship 1939



LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Beatrice Yvonne Black

Mr. Deane Montgomery, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Smith College,  
Northampton, Massachusetts

Miss Black has taken two courses from me, one in calculus, and one in advanced calculus. In addition, she has had an honors reading course under my supervision, so that I have had ample opportunity to become acquainted with her and to know her ability.

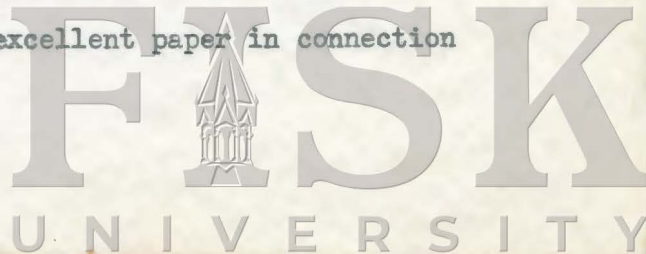
I am glad to be able to recommend her very highly. In my opinion she was very definitely the best student majoring in mathematics that we had last year. Her work was consistently very good. She had enough interest and enthusiasm as well as self control to prepare her assignments thoroughly. Of equal or greater importance is the fact that she has real ability. She thinks very clearly, and it often happened that she was the first or only member of the class to understand some particular phase of the subject. She can express herself either orally or in writing with much greater clarity than most students. Her personality is excellent. She is a little reserved until she becomes well acquainted, which I assume may be partly deliberate and calculated to prevent embarrassment arising from the fact that she is colored. But once she has confidence in your friendship, her natural vivacity becomes evident.

She is very definitely the type of girl who should be encouraged to do further work. Her qualifications for such work are very good from every point of view.

- - - - -

Professor Susan M. Rambo, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Miss Black has done work of honor grade in all her courses in mathematics and has written an excellent paper in connection



with her work for General Honors. She is able and painstaking, a combination of qualities which has given her increasing power in each of her years at college. Her skill in presenting her ideas and defending her own point of view is unusual for an undergraduate.

Her college life has presented more problems than that of most girls for she is a Negro who has had to overcome certain race prejudices, but who, in spite of them, has lived with apparent serenity in a college dormitory, where, as well as in classes, she has made friends by her sweet spirit and pleasant personality.

In view of all that she has achieved so far, I hope that she may secure the necessary help for the graduate work for which she shows so much promise.

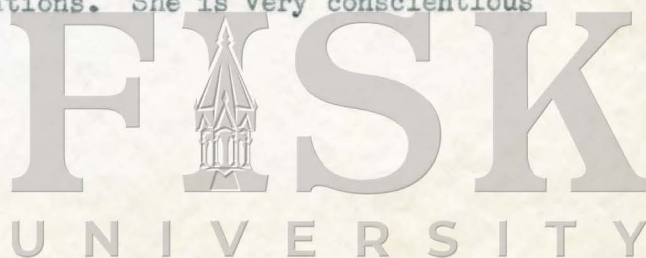
- - - - -

Mr. Neal H. McCoy, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Smith College,  
Northampton, Massachusetts

First of all, I may say that I taught Miss Black for only one semester and that at an elementary level, so I am not well qualified to judge her ability. However, her work with me was of the highest quality and I know that the other members of the Department are enthusiastic about her.

She studied under our General Honors plan and completed a paper on elementary aspects of differential geometry which was unusually well written.

Miss Black was very well liked by the other girls and although she was the only colored girl among our majors, was elected president of our mathematics club. She has a pleasant and attractive personality and adjusted herself easily and quickly to new situations. She is very conscientious and a steady and persistent worker.



Miss Black is very anxious to do graduate work, but needs financial assistance. It seems to me that she is well qualified in every way, and will no doubt become an excellent teacher.

- - - - -

Mr. R. G. D. Richardson, Dean, The Graduate School, Brown University,  
Providence, Rhode Island

Miss Black is in competition with a carefully selected lot of students in the Graduate School at Brown University, and seems to stand in the upper half of that group; this places her very high. The senior members of the Department of Mathematics were called together recently to discuss her case (along with others) and it was the general consensus that the opinions of Professors Montgomery and McCoy of Smith College are being confirmed. They believed that she was capable of attaining a doctor's degree in mathematics. We have reason, on two months' experience, to believe that this is the case. So far as we know there have been four men of Negro blood who have taken the doctor's degree in mathematics, but no women.

Miss Black seems to enjoy her work here. We are willing to keep her on here as a student or we are willing to have her go elsewhere, as seems best. Brown University is making this year a contribution in the form of a tuition scholarship (\$300). We stand ready, if necessary, to help in a limited way in future years.

Miss Black makes an excellent appearance and is treated as one of the group here. There are five other women in the Graduate School in mathematics and when there is a gathering which involves these girls, Miss Black is always included.

As secretary of the American Mathematical Society,



the research organization in mathematics of the United States and Canada, I am aware of the need for better preparation of the professors of mathematics in the Negro colleges. Miss Black will find a position much more easily than would a white woman taking a doctor's degree in mathematics, and she ought to be very useful. Brown University has close connections with Atlanta University since John Hope was a graduate of Brown who was much respected and loved. Several of our graduates have taught at one of the colleges connected with Atlanta University.

- - - - -

Dr. Willy Feller, Lecturer in Mathematics, Brown University, Providence,  
Rhode Island

Miss Black attends my lectures on Real Functions, and I have found her to be one of my most interested and most successful students. I have the definite impression that she pursues her studies with zeal and skill, and I have no doubts about her ability to carry on her studies to a successful end. I hope this end will be made attainable for her and wish to give my wholehearted support to her application.

- - - - -

Mr. A. A. Bennett, Professor of Mathematics, Brown University, Providence,  
Rhode Island

Miss Black, as a first-year graduate student, is in competition with others, some first-year, and some in their second or third years of graduate studies, in my course in Advanced Algebra. I find Miss Black holding a place slightly below the average in this selected group of graduate students from all over the country. It is too early to predict what her developing maturity in mathematical research may promise, but there seems no question that she is well equipped to study and profit by

graduate courses. Her quickness, persistence, and aggressiveness should carry her far. She retains the respect and friendship of her fellow students. She is by far the best Negro student I have known in my own field and teaching experience.

AM

*Mu*

PROGRESS REPORT - JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND FELLOWS

Name Beatrice Yvonne Black

Present position Graduate Student - Brown University

Address 222 N Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Since your fellowship was awarded have you received

(a) a salary increase? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) a promotion in rank? If so, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Degree received during award, or since, or progress made toward degree:

Master of Science in Mathematics received June, 1941  
One year of residence work toward Ph.D. degree

Title of dissertation Base Sets (Thesis for Master's degree)

Publications, if any. (Please give titles, date, and place of publication.)

Special honors or activities \_\_\_\_\_

General remarks \_\_\_\_\_



BROWN UNIVERSITY  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

FELLOWSHIPS

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

March 27, 1941

Mr. George M. Reynolds  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

		MR 78		
		ack	MR	2

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

The senior members of the department of mathematics have just been reviewing the cases of graduate students who are in their second year and you may be interested to have supplementary information about Miss Black, who is applying for reappointment as a Rosenwald Fellow. I happen to have had her myself during the first semester in a course in the theory of differential equations of the second order, which was open to first and second year graduate students. She stood as well as anyone in the course. It was not an especially strong group of 10 students, but she did better than I would have anticipated from what I had learned about her.

Her talk before the Seminar was better than satisfactory and her knowledge of the material was excellent. Her voice and presentation were a little monotonous, but it was a difficult position for her to be in.

We feel that a fellowship would be very well invested in this young lady. There is a likelihood that she will qualify for a Ph.D. at the minimum level at Brown. (I should say that the chances are better than even). There is no question in my mind that she would easily qualify at a considerable number of other institutions giving degrees in mathematics. I would not expect her to continue with research after taking her degree and we are not sure that she can do a satisfactory thesis, but we have hopes that she can.

From what I know of the national situation (as secretary of our research organization) it should be said that there would likely be more call for a negress of ability to teach mathematics than there would be for a white woman or even for a white man. It should be said also that Miss Black is growing steadily and that we hold her in high regard as a person and in her attitude toward her work. Next year would be the crucial one for her, and I sincerely trust that you will find yourselves in a position to subsidize her education further, either here at Brown University or elsewhere.

Very sincerely yours,

R. G. D. Richardson

R.G.D. Richardson, Dean.

RGDR:L

BROWN UNIVERSITY

## FELLOWSHIPS

	GAR	9/1	Memo

40 East George Street

Providence, Rhode Island

September 30, 1940

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

In order that you might have an up-to-date account of my academic record, I wish to inform you that I have completed the course and language requirements for a Master's degree. I have done some reading for my Master's thesis. I did not complete the thesis this summer because I received an opportunity to work and this curtailed my time for study. I expect to finish my paper this winter and receive the Master's degree in June, 1941. Meanwhile, I am carrying a full-time course of study which will fulfill in part the requirements for a doctorate.

Sincerely yours,

Bettrice G. Black

FELLOWSHIPS  
Black, Beatrice Y.

BROWN UNIVERSITY  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

*No further statement  
enclosed when this was  
returned 12/18  
me*

	GMR	9	GMR	4/5
	March 7, 1939.			

Mr. George M. Reynolds  
Director for Fellowships  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I have spoken to Dr. Warren Weaver of the Rockefeller Foundation and Mr. Jackson Davis of the General Education Board concerning a young negress graduating from Smith College this year who seems to have considerable talent in mathematics and who wishes to pursue graduate work in that field. They have suggested that I have her write to you and that I write to you myself.

Brown University would be willing to do the maximum that it would for any senior entering on graduate work, namely, give a tuition scholarship to this young lady in case she finds a stipend from other sources that will enable her to come here. As Secretary of the American Mathematical Society I know considerable about the demand and supply for negroes in college mathematics. Two or three negro men have taken Ph.D. degrees in mathematics, but I know of no woman who has had the ability and ambition to proceed in this way or even to come near it.

We have had here at Brown a tradition for 175 years of no limitations on race, color, or religion, and we have always had negro students in moderate numbers, including such persons as the late President Hope of Morehouse College who had close connections with us and of whom we were very fond. A few of these people have proceeded to a Ph.D. degree here at Brown University.

Professors McCoy and Montgomery of Smith College are two of the ablest young mathematicians in

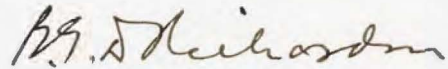


Mr. George M. Reynolds - 2

the country, and their recommendations of Miss Black can be taken at par value. It is they who have interested us in having this young woman come to us for study. I am venturing to enclose copies of excerpts of letters from Professors McCoy, Montgomery, and Rambo, written in regard to the young lady.

A grant of \$300 or more a year for a period of years from your organization would be matched by one of \$300 of our own to cover tuition. I believe that there would be a call for a really competent negro woman mathematician; I told Miss Black to write to President Florence Read of Spellman College on that head inquiring concerning the demand.

Sincerely yours,



R.G.D. Richardson,  
Dean.

DBM  
Enc.

**JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND**

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Beatrice Y. Black  
Report Requested of Mr. A. A. Bennett, Professor of Mathematics  
Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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 personal characteristics and qualifications, and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.

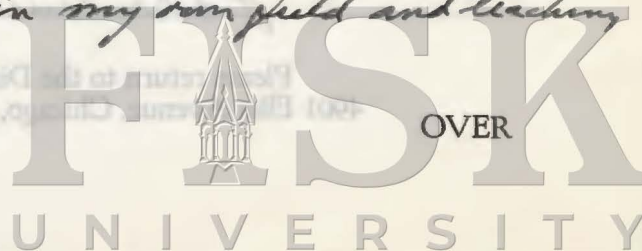
Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

*George M. Reynolds*

Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Miss Black, as a first-year graduate student is in competition with others, some first years, and some in their second or third year of graduate studies, in my course in Advanced Algebra. I find Miss Black holding a place slightly below the average in this selected group of graduate students from all over the country. It is too early to predict what her developing maturity in mathematical research may promise, but there seems no question that she is well equipped to study and profit by graduate courses. Her quickness, persistence and aggressiveness should carry her far. She retains the respect and friendship of her fellow students. She is by far the best negro student I have known, in my own field and teaching experience.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 ELLIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO

Condensed Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Bertha Y. Blank

Report Requested of: Mr. A. A. Bennett, Professor of Mathematics

From University: Providence, R. I.

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 personal characteristics and qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

Director for Fellowships

REPORT

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?

*Her easy assumption of social equality in some connections has irritated a few of my southern friends who have been warned to warn it. She is quiet and cooperative, and has no handicap that I know of, beyond those incident to color.*

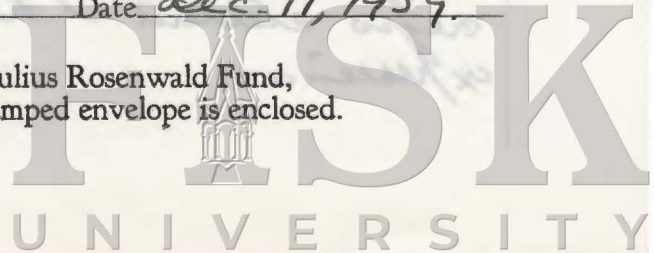
Signed Albert A. Bennett

Position or Title Prof. of Mathematics

Address Brown University  
Providence, R. I.

Date Dec. 11, 1939.

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



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

*no one*

Name of Candidate Miss Beatrice Y. Black

Report Requested of Mr. R. G. D. Richardson, Dean

The Graduate School, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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 personal characteristics and qualifications, and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. *An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.*

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

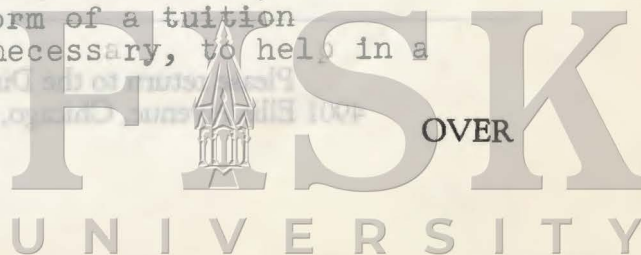
*George M. Reynolds*

Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Miss Black is in competition with a carefully selected lot of students in the Graduate school at Brown University and seems to stand in the upper half of that group; this places her very high. The senior members of the Department of Mathematics were called together recently to discuss her case (along with others) and it was the general consensus that the opinions of Professors Montgomery and McCoy of Smith College are being confirmed. They believed that she was capable of attaining a doctor's degree in mathematics. We have reason, on two months' experience, to believe that this is the case. So far as we know, there have been four men of negro blood who have taken the Ph.D. in mathematics, but no women.

Miss Black seems to enjoy her work here. We are willing to keep her on here as a student or we are willing to have her go elsewhere, as seems best. Brown University is making this year a contribution in the form of a tuition scholarship (\$300). We stand ready, if necessary, to help in a limited way in future years.



OVER

Miss Black makes an excellent appearance and is treated as one of the group here. There are five other women in the Graduate School in mathematics and when there is a gathering which involves these girls, Miss Black is always included.

As secretary of the American Mathematical Society, the research organization in mathematics of the United States and Canada, I am aware of the need for better preparation of the professors of mathematics in the negro colleges. Miss Black will find a position much more easily than would a white woman taking a Ph.D. in mathematics and she ought to be very useful. Brown University has close connections with Atlanta University since John Hope was a graduate of Brown, who was much respected and loved. Several of our graduates have taught at one of the colleges connected with Atlanta University.

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as 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 personal characteristics and qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in the field of study proposed. An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the following Committee sufficient time for adequate consideration of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.

Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

George M. Johnson  
Director for Fellowships

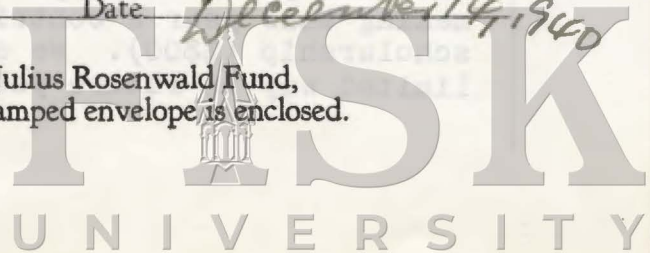
REPORT

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 R. H. Richardson  
Position or Title Dean Grad. Sch. & Head Dept. Math.  
Address Brown University, Providence R.I.

Date December 14, 1940

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



OVER

# FELLOWSHIPS

April 17, 1940

Dear Miss Black: It is a pleasure to inform you that you have been selected by the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund to receive a grant of one thousand and fifty dollars (\$1,050) to assist you in carrying forward your study of mathematics at Brown University for one year.

Please let us know at once whether or not you can accept this grant. An official announcement of the Committee's selections for the year will be made soon and it can include only those from whom acceptances have been received.

Very truly yours,

GMR:MLJ

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

Miss Beatrice Yvonne Black  
69 Benevolent Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

