

1938

a

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

Age 35

JAN 14 1938

✓ Candidate

Arna Wendell Bontemps

Special Field

Creative Writing

Principal Shiloh Academy - Writing
606 E. 46th Street, Chicago, Ill.

Plan of Work

- (a) To gather background material for books in the children's field.
- (b) To complete the research and finish writing a broad-canvas historical novel.

Handwritten notes:
 I think I should be...
 our efforts...
 ...

Digest of Application

Born 1902 Alexandria, La. Four Children

Obtained A.B. in 1923 from Pacific Union, Angwin, California. Expects M.A. from University of Chicago in Summer 1938. Special study at Columbia, N.Y.U. 1925-30

Teacher at Harlem Academy (now defunct) 1924-31, \$165 per month. Teacher Oakwood Junior College, Huntsville, Ala., 1931-34, \$110 per month. Principal at Shiloh Academy, Chicago, \$1800.

Won 2 Opportunity prizes for poetry (\$100 each). 1 Crisis poetry prize (\$75) and 1 Opportunity short story prize (\$100). Two plays produced by Gilipin Theatre. Pamphlet on T. B. widely circulated. Novels: Black Thunder (Macmillan '36), God Needs Sunday (Harcourt, Brace & Co. '31) Books for Children: Sad-Faced Boy (Houghton Mifflin '37), You Can't Pet A Possum (Morrow '34), Popo and Fifina (Macmillan '32). Book of American Negro Poetry--Johnson, Caroling Dusk--Cullen. Our Singing Strength--Kronenberg, The New Negro (2nd edition) Lock, Braithwaite Anthology '26, The Negro Genius and Heroes & Builders--Brawley, Afrika Singt--Neusbaum, etc.

References

- #James Walton Johnson, Fisk University
- #Benjamin Brawley, Dept. English, Howard University
- #Miss Helen English, Los Angeles Public Library
- Professor Melville Herskovitz, Northwestern University

Budget Summary

Total amount needed	\$2,250
From applicant	350
From Fund	\$1,900

Committee Notes

Superior abilities as creative writer have been revealed.
Black Thunder -

Granted \$1900

Documents submitted

- Photograph x
- Exhibit material
- Transcripts

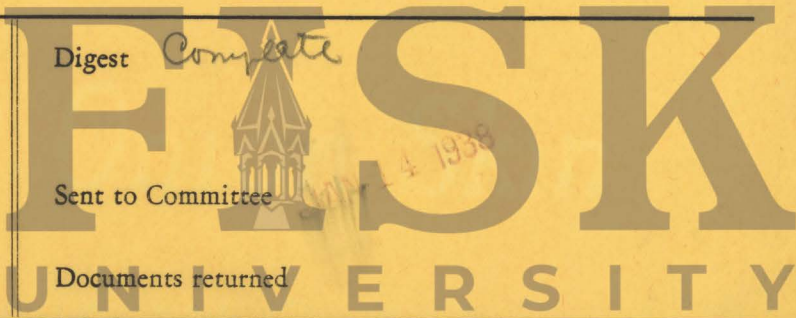
Plan of work x

Digest

Complete

Sent to Committee

Documents returned



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

JAN 1 1938

Special Field
Creative Writing

Arna Wendell Bontemps

Candidate

Principal Shiloh Academy - Writing
608 E. 46th Street, Chicago, Ill.

Plan of Work

- (a) To gather background material for books in the children's field.
- (b) To complete the research and finish writing a broad-canvas historical novel.

was struck heavily by her
copy one especially in her irregular
academic training

Digest of Application

Born 1902 Alexandria, La. Four Children

M.A. from University of Chicago in Summer 1936. Special study at Columbia, N.Y.U. 1935-30. Obtained A.B. in 1925 from Pacific Union, Angwin, California. Expects

Shiloh Academy, Chicago, \$1800. Oakwood Junior College, Huntsville, Ala., 1931-34, \$110 per month. Principal at Teacher at Harlem Academy (now defunct) 1934-31, \$185 per month. Teacher

Heroes & Builders--Brawley, Afrika Singt--Neubauer, etc.
The New Negro (2nd edition) Lock, Brathwaite Anthology '36, The Negro Genius and
of American Negro Poetry--Johnson, Caroling Dark--Gillen. Our Singing Strength--Kronen-
Miffin '37, You Can't Put A Possum (Morrow '34), Popo and Fifiina (Macmillan '32). Book
Needs Sunday (Harcourt, Brace & Co. '31) Books for Children: Sad-Faced Boy (Houghton
Pamphlet on T. B. widely circulated. Novels: Black Thunder (Macmillan '36), God
(\$75) and I Opportunity short story prize (\$100). Two plays produced by Gilpin Theatre.
Won 2 Opportunity prizes for poetry (\$100 each). I Gracia poetry prize

References	From Fund	From applicant	Total amount needed
James Nelson Johnson, Fisk University Benjamin Brawley, Dept. English, Howard University Miss Helen English, Los Angeles Public Library Professor Melville Herakovitz, Northwestern University	\$1,900	350	\$2,250

Granted \$1900

Committee Notes
superior ability in creative writing has been revealed.
Robert Johnson

Digest Complete

Sent to Committee

Documents returned



JAN 1 1938

1939 0

RENEWAL

ARNA W BONTEMPS (N)

37

Creative Writing

We gave this man a full year
free for study & writing.

He is top man. But we can't
go on supporting a free lance
writer for ever

He might as well sell his tooth
into some method of self support
now as later

no

BONTEMPS, ARNA W.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

9/18/40 Editor with Federal Writers Project in Illinois. Is completing, as a personal project, the editing of an autobiography of W. C. Handy, which will be published by Macmillan in the spring of 1941. Is still working on a novel which was begun under fellowship.

1943 *Librarian, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee*

1945. Four new books: They Seek a City, Arch Above the Road, St. Louis Woman, Negro history. Also magazine articles, play, etc.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

1938
1942
1943

Name Bontemps, Arna W. (M) (1902)

Negro
White Southerner

Position Principal of Shiloh Academy, Chicago

Special Field Creative Writing Group

College Pacific Union College, California, B. A., 1923; Columbia University and
University New York University, 1925-30; University of Chicago, 1936-

Plan of Work:

no inst

1938 To gather background material for books in the children's field and to complete the research and finish writing a broad-canvas historical novel.

1942 For studies in library science, at the University of Chicago, leading to the M. A. degree in Library Science

Action of Fellowship Committee:

1938 Granted \$1,900 for one year of work.
1942 Granted \$2,400



Taught at Harlem Academy, New York, 1924-31; at Oakwood Junior College, Huntsville, Alabama, 1931-34; principal of Shiloh Academy, Chicago, 1935-

Publications: Black Thunder (Macmillan, 1936); God Sends Sunday (Harcourt Brace, 1931) Sad-Faced Boy (Houghton Mifflin, 1937); You Can't Pet a Possum (Morrow, 1934); Popo and Fifina (Macmillan, 1932). Several of his poems have won prizes and have appeared in various anthologies. Two plays have been produced at the Gilpin Theatre.

Drums at Dusk (novel) Macmillan, April, 1939.

Under 1938 Fellowship Mr. Bontemps completed residence requirements in English toward M. A. degree; thesis and examinations are outstanding.

*Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee*

FISK

UNIVERSITY

ARNA BONTEMPS

(39)

Assistant Project Technician
Illinois Writers' Project

Library Science

Tops

Name Arna Wendell Bontemps Field: Library Science

Assistant Project Technician, Illinois Writers' Project
703 East 50th Place, Chicago

Plan of Work To work toward an M. A. degree in the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. While at it, I hope also to complete work begun several years ago in English and leading to a similar degree in that field.

Requests grant for one year. Has been admitted to the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. Seeks training for position as University or College Librarian.

12 months

Personal Data Born Alexandria, Louisiana, October 1902. Age: 39
Married, five children.

Undergraduate Work Pacific Union College, B. A. 1923.

Graduate Work University of Chicago, has completed residence requirements for Master's degree in English.

Experience Teacher and Principal, Harlem Academy, 1924-31, \$1,248 to \$2,000; teacher, Oakwood Junior College, Huntsville Alabama, 1931-34, \$1,400; Principal, Shiloh Academy, Chicago, 1935-38, \$1,200; present position since 1940, \$2,336.

Accomplishments Publications: Novels, God Sends Sunday, Harcourt, 1931, Black Thunder, Macmillan, 1936, Drums at Dusk, Macmillan, 1939; four juvenile books, including Sad-Faced Boy and The Fast Sooner Hound (with Jack Conroy); editor of Father of the Blues, by W. C. Handy, Macmillan, 1941, and Golden Slippers, an anthology of poetry for children, Harpers, 1941.

Is included in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the East.

Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship, 1938, \$1,900.

- References
- John T. Frederick, Northwestern University
 - May Lambertson Becker, New York Herald Tribune
 - Lois Dwight Cole, Macmillan Company
 - Helen English, Los Angeles Public Library
 - Napier Wilt, University of Chicago
 - Jasmine Britton, Los Angeles Board of Education

Ref from Cole Becker since 3/21

Sent to Committee

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Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2,550
From Applicant	150
From Fund	\$2,400

AMOUNT GRANTED \$2,400



ARNA BONTEMPS

Leaves for Haiti August 15 to be gone until latter part of October, 1938.

*Speaking engagements, high schools, in Los Angeles etc
now & early December*

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UNIVERSITY