

Fellowship Com

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

June 26, 1939

Dr. George M. Reynolds
Director for Fellowships
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

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My dear Dr. Reynolds:

I am sending my approval of the \$1500 award for Howard Swanson.

I find that I have overlooked what seems to be a rather unique situation regarding one of the fellowships, to say the least. I have talked with John Hope Franklin about his research experience in North Carolina, where he is studying the Free Negro, and he has been having extraordinary success in getting access to the records in the archives, and is receiving helpful cooperation. In the case of E. Horace Fitchett, who has been working in South Carolina, the research experience has been almost a nightmare, although he seems to have uncovered some very valuable material on his study of the Free Negroes in Charleston. I want to quote from one of his letters:

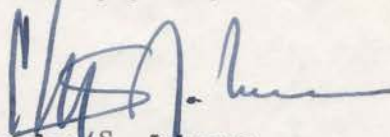
My entrance into the institution referred to in my last letter was made possible through the Negro janitor. I was secreted into the building after closing hours and before opening hours. I used the lavatory as my reading room, for the materials which I requested were brought there for me. Under such circumstances only a limited amount of work could be done, of course. But I did succeed in obtaining information which no other institution here, or elsewhere as far as I know, could furnish. The old directories of Charleston, giving the occupational status of all classes of people, are particularly useful. As early as 1819 the businesses of Negroes were designated. And by checking with this number of the directory one can trace the business activities of Negroes to a much earlier period.

He has been working day and night, trying to complete the major portion of the records by early June; and he wants to return to Chicago for the summer to get ready for his doctoral examinations. His regular duties at Claflin are of such nature that very little time is permitted for research and writing, and what he does not do before he goes back may have to string along for a considerable time after he resumes his deanship.



He has been wondering if he could be considered for an extension of two or three months, beginning September first, for straight writing of his manuscript. This is a problem that I am referring for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. S. Johnson', written over the typed name.

Charles S. Johnson

csj-p