

1937

Name Edmonds, Sheppard Randolph (M)

(1900) Negro
White Southerner

Position Professor of Drama, Dillard University

Special Field Fine Arts
Group Drama

College Oberlin, 1921-26 (minus 1 yr.) A. B.

University Columbia University summers of 1927-30, A. M., 1931; Yale University, 1934-35.

Plan of Work:

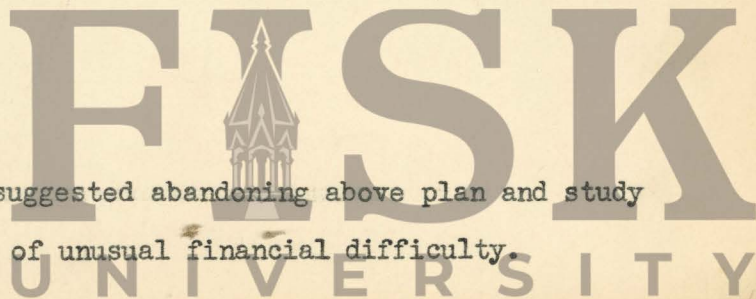
*Ireland
England*

I propose to study for three summers in summer school such courses in drama as will aid me to build a dramatic program at Dillard and at the same time count as an additional year of study toward the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Would like to attend Northwestern University (On advice of Committee spent time abroad instead of becoming attached to institution in this country.)

Action of Fellowship Committee:

\$1,500 for one year. Committee suggested abandoning above plan and study with Abbey Players and at Malvern.

\$400 added to this grant because of unusual financial difficulty.



GEB fellowship, Yale University, tuition and fees plus \$98 a month for one year.

During fellowship, Mr. Edmonds carried out the following program:

Spent seven months in Ireland writing plays and articles, observing Irish professional and amateur theatre. Wrote 2 full-length and two one-act plays, 4 articles and some poems. One of the full-length plays, "The Land of Cotton," being considered for professional production. Admitted to all rehearsals of the Longford Company at the Gate Theatre, of the Gate Theatre Company, and of Abbey Players. Has returned to post at Dillard. (list of writings in final report of activity)

FISK

UNIVERSITY

EDMONDS, SHEPPARD RANDOLPH

CAREER AFTER TENURE OF FELLOWSHIP

Organized the Dillard University State-wide High School Drama Festival of the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Association. Five regional festivals and one final festival were sponsored. Dillard Players Guild has appeared many times in New Orleans and on tour, performing, among places, at Fisk University and at the Third All-Southern Negro Youth Congress in Birmingham. It will appear in four festivals during the coming season.

Since autumn of 1938 has written two long plays. One of these, "The Bride of Odunga," is promised an out-of-doors production next summer. "The Land of Cotton," one of the long plays completed while on fellowship, won the \$100 first prize in a national contest sponsored last spring by the Baltimore Foundation of Expressive Arts. Scheduled for fall production by the Negro Little Theatre Guild in Baltimore, and the Negro Peoples Community Theatre in New Orleans.

Mr. Edmonds has been asked to serve as president of the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Association to coordinate the leisure-time activities program in the colored high schools of the state. Also will serve on a national committee of the Southern Negro Youth Congress to outline plans for Negro folk festival modelled after some of the great festivals in Europe. 9/21/39



9/24/40 Mr. Edmonds continues his writing and his work as professor of drama at Dillard University. In April of 1940 he read a paper at the Regional Theatre Festival at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and presented one of his own plays with the Dillard Players.

- 1943 - Captain in U.S. Army for 17 mo. In charge of soldier shows and entertainment at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz.
- 1945 - Prof. of Drama, Director of Public Relations, Dillard U.

Year 1957
Age: 37

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

do not write

Name Sheppard Randolph Edmonds
Address Dillard University, New Orleans, La.
Position Prof. of Drama, Dillard University \$2800

Negro
White Southerner

Special Field Drama
Group

Plan of Work

I propose to study for three summers in summer school such courses in drama that will aid me in building a dramatic program at Dillard University, and at the same time count as an additional year of study towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Place of study: Northwestern University (3 summers), assurance of admittance.

Position: present.

Digest of Application

Born 1900. Married, 1 child. Oberlin College, 1921-26 (minus 1 yr.) AB. Columbia University, summers 1927, 1930, AM. Yale University, 1934, 1935.

GEB fellowship, Yale University, tuition and fees, plus \$98 mo. for 1 year.

Morgan College, Baltimore, prof. of English, \$2400. Dillard University, prof. of Drama, \$2800.

Publications (over)

Applicant's References 2/27/37

Prof. Allardyce Nicol, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
Prof. Alexander Dean, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
Dr. W. S. Nelson, Pres., Dillard University, New Orleans
Dr. Frederick H. Koch, University of N. C., Chapel Hill

Other References

Budget Summary

to be revised

Total amount needed: \$ 655

From applicant: _____

From fund: \$ 655

Granted: _____

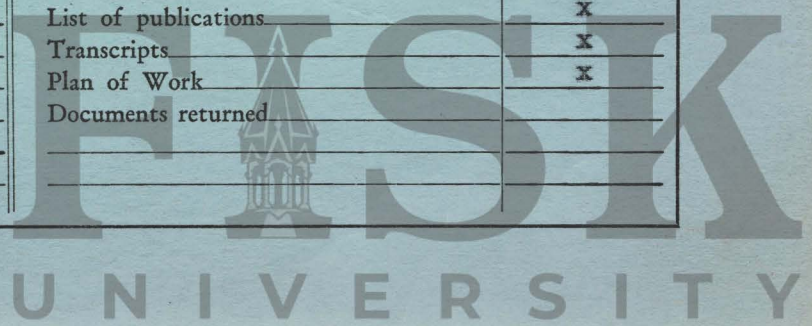
Action of Committee

Jack will hear about what body suggest Halverson or Abbey Pappas. to study elsewhere

Oh C. J. D. D.

PROCEDURE

Application received	2/27/37	Documents submitted:	
acknowledged	2/27/37	Photograph	
Previous		List of publications	X
Index Card		Transcripts	X
Digest	✓	Plan of Work	X
Submitted to Committee		Documents returned	



Publications:

Books: SHADES AND SHADOWS, The Meador Publishing Co., Boston
SIX PLAYS FOR A NEGRO THEATRE, The Walter H. Baker, Co., Boston

Articles:

Not Many of Your People Come Here, The Messenger, 1928
Some Whys and Wherefores of College Dramatics, The Crisis, 1929
Some Reflections of the Negro in American Drama, Opportunity, 1930
What Good are College Dramatics, The Crisis, 1934.
What I am Trying to do in Negro Drama, The Afro-American, 1934
The Little Theatres, articles of comment in The Afro-American
The South - A New Mecca of Art and Literature, The Arts Quarterly, 1937

Plays: One-Act

For Fatherland
Yellow Death
Eight One*Act Unproduced Plays

Three-Act

Rocky Roads
Sharecroppers
One Side of Harlem
Illicit Love
Three Wives

April 11, 1937 Final meeting of Committee.

Quite possible for him to take the second semester and the summer and go a long way on his project, spending the winter term with the Abbey players and the summer at Malvern. Work for Ph. D. at Northwestern is out of consideration, as there is no use in formal degree work. Mr. Paty to see Edmonds. and make budget adjustment