

Selma Hortense G. Burke

PLEASE RETURN
TO
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

1. Description of project, its character, scope and significance--

As a project worthy of consideration for fellowship in the Rosenwald fund, I propose:

To make a special investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture; to test, catalogue, and make available to students and teachers of sculpture the results of my investigation.

To obtain definite knowledge, I must first find the materials; then carefully test their adaptability to sculpture, in some cases executing pieces to prove the worth of the materials.

My observations during the four years I have studied at Columbia have proven to me that such a project is of vital importance to American sculpture. During the summer school of 1939, I frequently discussed sculpture and sculptural materials with teacher-students who were teachers and heads of art departments in schools and colleges throughout America. Most of them had M.A. degrees. Out of fifty teachers, only five had done some carving in wood in low reliefs; and none, apparently, had ever worked in stone; nor had they any extensive knowledge of native permanent materials for sculpture.

Most sculptors and students of sculpture think of permanent materials generally in terms of foreign stones, such as Belgian black marble, Belgian granite, Carrara (Italian) marble, African onyx, etc. These imported stones are tremendously expensive and the sculptor or student is too often handicapped by his inability to buy materials. So extensive is the use of foreign stone in America that it constitutes a considerable industry abroad. American stones are relatively little known or used, though many are equal to the foreign product in both texture and permanency. For example, York fossil is a beautiful black stone similar to Belgian marble and equally durable, but known to few sculptors; Georgia pink marble is similar to expensive Greek marbles; Tennessee

and Vermont furnish fine marbles for sculpture, and American granites are equal to the imported varieties. There are many other even lesser known stones in America that lend themselves to the sculptor's chisel.

In addition to the importance that such compiled data as I contemplate would have for American sculptors and students, the movement might, in time, have more far-reaching results. The use of American stone by well-known sculptors would promote such materials for wider acceptance in American building.

In addition to carrying out the above project, my plan would be to continue my studies at Columbia University for another year or year and a half, taking additional work in the history of art, the study of the human figure, and courses in geology, geometry and botany.

2 - Present state of project and expectation as to completion -

Work on the project has so far been limited to research in the library of Columbia University and the public libraries of New York City. I have been unable to find any published work or compiled data dealing with permanent sculptural materials to be found in America.

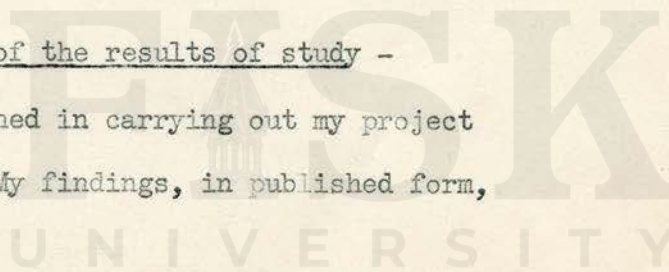
I estimate that the necessary geological research, actual testing of materials with hammer and chisel and compiling of data will require at least one year.

3. - Where and under whose authority work would be carried on -

The work would be carried on under the supervision of the dean and associate teachers of the School of Architecture of Columbia University.

4. - Expectation as to publication or use of the results of study -

I expect to use the knowledge gained in carrying out my project in my future work of teaching sculpture. My findings, in published form,



could also be made available to architects, sculptors and students of sculpture throughout America. I plan also to make further sculptural studies of outstanding Negro characters.

5. - Subsequent plans--

I plan only to try to improve my work as a sculptor and to give to students the benefit of what I have learned.

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense Burke

Report Requested of Dr. Albert Einstein

Princeton Research Institute

Princeton, New Jersey

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

I know Miss Burke as a fellow-student of my daughter in the Columbia Art-Department. Her personality and ability have found recognition with her teacher and her colleagues. I also believe that the investigation she proposes could be worthwhile and that she has the experience to carry it through.

A. Einstein

Professor Albert Einstein.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO

A

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Selma Horstmann Burke
Report Requested of: Dr. Albert Einstein
Princeton Research Institute
Princeton, New Jersey

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Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

George M. [Signature]
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?

in the Columbia Art-Department. Her personality and ability have found recognition with her teacher and her colleagues. I also believe that the investigation she proposed could be worthwhile and that she has the experience to carry it through.

Signed _____

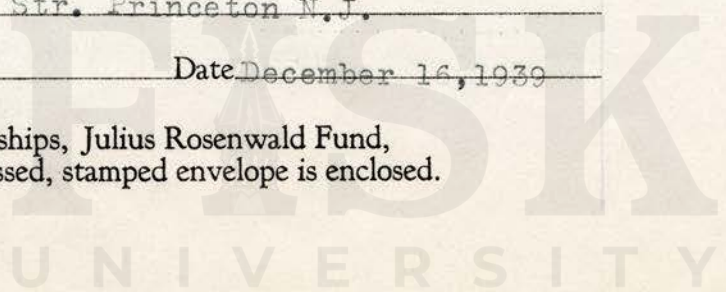
Position or Title _____

Address _____ 112 Mercer Str. Princeton N.J.

Date December 14, 1939

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

OVER



OUTLINE OF ART DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
OF SELMA H. BURKE
(To be presented as a Summer Lyceum Activity)

I propose to present to the Summer School teacher-student body in the North Carolina State Colleges some tangible and concrete information on the technique of the sculptor in the form of lectures and demonstrations. For example, I would set up a portrait head in clay, choosing from the group my subject. This would give the group much first hand information and would acquaint the teacher-student with the physical and creative work that goes to make a piece of sculpture.

During the past year the President of the United States urged for the country a National Art Week. He felt that the wider dispersing of art information and the more extensive exposure of the populace to art works would enhance the growth of culture among the people of the country. I would suggest to the teacher-student that he try to stimulate the creative ability of pupils interested in art, thus encouraging participation in the observance of National Art Week in the manner that marks the observance of the National Negro Education week, the National Negro History week, the national holidays, etc. This would be in line with the movement for art appreciation which has been launched by the President.

My plan is to present my program at four Negro colleges, spending one school week at each college. The sessions could be one hour or more per day. This could be arranged to suit the program of each separate college. The cost of various necessary materials would be about Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars. These materials are: 100 pounds of clay, plaster for casting and a pedestal which could be built at the school.

The completed piece of sculpture would be left at the college as a part of the school's art collection.

FELLOWSHIPS

April 4, 1940

My dear Miss Burke: If you would like to submit some of your work for the consideration of our art jury, will you please have it at the gallery of W. S. Budworth & Son, 424 West 52nd Street, New York, by Tuesday, April 9?

The jury will go over the various exhibits on Wednesday, April 10, and we should like to have you pick up your work as soon as possible after that date.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

GMR*MLU

Miss Selma Burke
29 East 28th Street
New York, N. Y.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

Burke, Selma H

December 28th, 1940

	GMR	30	6	30
			all	

Mr. Geo. M. Reynolds,
 Director For Fellowship,
 Julius Rosenwald Fund,
 490 Ellis Avenue,
 Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Reynolds:-

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering me as one to recommend candidates for the Fellowship.

In addition, I would like to say that in suggesting possible candidates for the Fund, I am taking into consideration the noble work this fund is doing and realize the importance and responsibility of my choice.

I respectfully submit the names of these three people who I sincerely believe would in their respective places in the world, further the purpose of the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

✓ Miss Lila Shelby ✓
 557 Merrick Street
 Shreveport, La.

Miss Shelby is at present a Student at the Art Dept. of Columbia University. In speaking to the Director of the Art Department with regards to Miss Shelby, aside from my own observations, Professor Frank Machau highly recommends Miss Shelby. I hope that by this time you have already received correspondence from Miss Shelby.

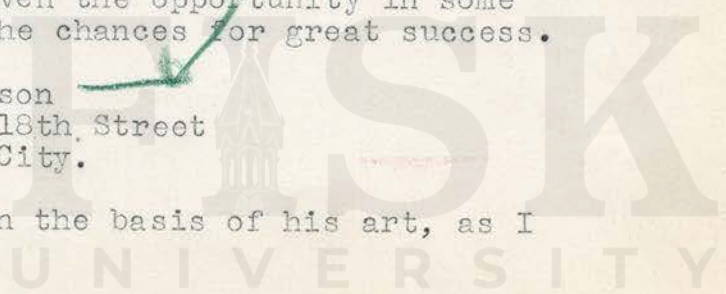
✓ William Chase ✓
 43 West 66th Street
 New York City.

Mr. Chase whom I have known for eight years or more, is a Journalist, though I do not know what phase of Journalism he would apply for to the Rosenwald Fund. I have read his column for a great many years and observed through his political cartoons that he has much to say and I feel certain that if given the opportunity in some specific way, Mr. Chase has the chances for great success.

already
 rec'd
 Dec 27

✓ Ellis Wilson ✓
 123 East 18th Street
 New York City.

I recommend Mr. Wilson on the basis of his art, as I



(continued)

feel he has the possibilities of a great artist and I feel that with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund, Mr. Wilson could accomplish a great deal of what he has hoped to in his field.

I would like to say further that I would like you to feel free to call upon me at all times for any information that I can possibly assist you with.

Sincerely yours,

Selma Hortense Burke

Selma H. Burke

FISK
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 Selma Hortense G. Burke

Present address 148 East Twenty-eighth Street, New York, N. Y.

Permanent address #1 Burke Lane, Mooresville, N. C.

Field <u>SCULPTURE</u>
Concise statement of plan of work <u>Creative sculpture and research on</u> <u>the utility of American stones and woods for the purpose of the</u> <u>sculptor.</u>

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

To study at Columbia University, New York, N. Y., and at The Academia,
San Carlos, Mexico City, D. F.

Under whose supervision? Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

For what period are you requesting a renewal? One year, ending March 1, 1942

Present status of work toward degree Am working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree
(not on original application)

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

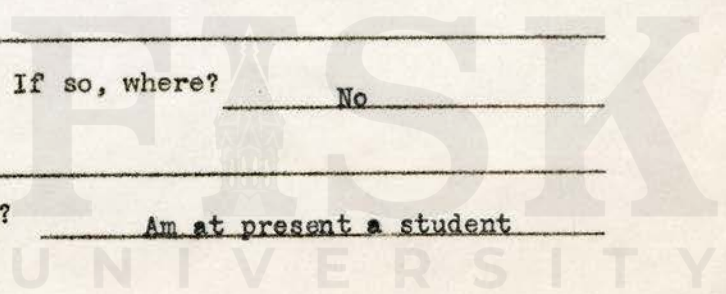
Mu Leopold Arnaud, Dean of the School of Architecture, Columbia University; Merle
Hoover, English Dept., O. Malderelli, Sculpture Dept., Frank Mechau, Art Dept.,
S. Wingert, Dept. of Fine Arts, all of Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

Amount requested from the Fund Two Thousand (\$2000.00) Dollars

Publications, if any, since you were awarded a fellowship _____

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

Do you plan to return to your former position? Am at present a student



Selma H. Burke
148 East 28th St.,
New York City

FELLOWSHIPS

Burke, Selma

August 14, 1941

Mr. William C. Haygood
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Ill.

	WCH	15	WCH	20
	MLW		MLW	0

Dear Mr. Haygood:

In accordance with your request of August 6th, which I received on the 11th instant, I am returning the questionnaire with such information as fits my case. The questionnaire seems to apply to academic projects rather than to sculpture.

Thinking that possibly in the course of reorganization, you ^{may} have lost sight of my outline of activities during the year 1940 which I submitted in February 1941, I am enclosing a copy of same herewith.

Since that time, I have made a tour of my native state, North Carolina, for the purpose of furthering my project (the study of native North American sculpture media) and the cultural interests of Negroes.

This trip, financed with the last of my fellowship money, was to have been the first lap on a planned trip to Mexico where I expected to study at the Academie San Carlos in Mexico City and investigate sculpture materials in that vicinity.

At that time, I had, I thought, good reason to expect that the fellowship would be renewed for another year, as I had made good use of my first year's funds; and that money to continue my Mexican project would be forthcoming. When the renewal failed to materialize, I was obliged to abandon my plans and return to New York.

However, I was able to accomplish a considerable program in North Carolina, of which the following is a summary:

Charlotte, N. C.

Johnson C. Smith University

Delivered lecture to art class and an informal talk to student body. Arrangements made by Prof. Grigsby.

Second Ward High School

Delivered address to student body, at the request of Dr. Grigsby, principal (father of Prof. Grigsby.)



Statesville, N.C.

Cool Springs High School (a model school of North Carolina)

Addressed students in art

Stony Grove County School, Prof. Mason C. Miller, Principal

Talked to student body.

Mooreville, N.C.

Negro Junior High School - Prof. Woods, Principal

Addressed student assembly

Mooreville High School (white)

Two Junior High Schools (white)

Delivered lectures, illustrated with small pieces of sculpture in stone and plaster and photographs of work in various North American media; pointing out suitable local materials for carving and sculpture.

Baptist Church (white)

Lectured on sculpture trends in America today

Mooreville Womans Club (white)

Lecture on sculpture and architecture in America and abroad. Request of Mrs. Conn Johnson, President of Woman's Club.

In addition to the above program, while visiting Mooreville I made a bust of Dr. W. D. McLellan, Chief Surgeon of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, which was presented to the Mooreville Public Library at the request of patrons of that institution. Dr. McLellan is well known and liked--almost revered--throughout that section. Literally the whole town turned out for the presentation--the Mayor; principals, teachers and students of schools; professional and business men and their wives. Because

Because of the enthusiasm created by my lectures and what they considered extraordinary accomplishments for a Negro, Mrs. Clay Williams, who donated the library to the town, presented to the library a complete set of books on art, including the moderns. Up to that time, art classes had not had access to needed research material.

It was remarkable that in the audience no distinction was made between black and white. A friendly interest and lack of discrimination were shown.

On the strength of my work there and the attention it called to Negro culture, Mrs. Clarence MacNeely, wife of a leading banker, suggested that my sister who is interested in dramatics have her group give a play; the proceeds to go to the Negro Community Center. Mrs. MacNeely arranged for a white auditorium and the play was so well attended by townfolk that sufficient money was raised to build and paint a much needed porch for the Negro Community Center.

These incidents were concrete examples of the interest and good feeling aroused, which will have an ever widening influence toward better relations between the races, and more opportunities for the Negroes. I feel that many influential persons were for the first time made aware that Negroes have more than song and dance ability and became interested in doing something about it. Certain it is that these were things not ordinarily done in the South without long and laborious effort.

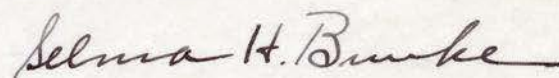
All the good I have accomplished has been made possible by the Rosenwald Fellowship, for which I am deeply grateful, both for myself and for my race.

Since returning to New York I have done one piece in North Carolina blue marble; modeled a figure in clay; have completed a bust of Mr. Walter White's son; and am currently working on a bust of A. Phillip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Under separate cover, I am sending photographs of recent work and clippings from North Carolina papers.

Sincerely yours,

Selma H. Burke



Name Selma Hortense Burke Field: Art-Sculpture

Director, School of Sculpture
88 East 10th Street, New York City

Plan of Work To make an intensive study of North American Forest Woods, particularly adaptable to sculpture; to photograph and compile in bound form results of research in wood and stone.

Requests grant for one year beginning in June, 1947.

Applied 1941

Personal Data Born Mooresville, North Carolina, January 1910 Age: 37
Single, no dependents Draft Status: None

Undergraduate Work Slater State Normal, Winston Salem, N.C., 1921, diploma
Graduate Nurse, St. Agnes Hospital, 1924, diploma
Columbia University, School of Art, 1936-41

Graduate Work

Experience Sculptor, WPA Art Project, New York, 1936-37, \$1200; teacher, WPA Art Project, New York, 1937-38, \$1000; teacher, private instruction, 1938-39, \$220; motor division, US Navy Motor Corporation, Brooklyn, 1941-43, \$2000; teacher, Studio Workshop, 1943-46, \$1200; teacher, school of sculpture, 1945-, \$600.

Accomplishments Negro Business & Professional Women's Club; International League for Peace and Freedom; Penn. Art Critic; Friends of Democracy Youth Group; Chairman, Art Committee Riverdale Children Asso.; Chairman, Continuation Fund Bethune Cookman College; Commissioned to do Roosevelt Plaque, Col. Hayward Plaque; Commissioned to do Portrait Bust of Dr. Mary M. Bethune; Guest sculptor, Yaddo, 1946.

Fellowships: Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1940, \$1400; Monitorship, 1939-40, \$164; Beehler Steel Works Scholarship, Vienna, 1937, \$3000.

References
Mary McLeod Bethune, Daytona Beach, Florida
Sarah Newmeyer, Museum Modern Art, New York City
Bernard Davis, Northwood Textile Mills, Philadelphia
Leland Stowe, Bronxville, New York
Elizabeth Ames, The Corporation of Yaddo, New York

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2720
From Applicant	220
From Fund	\$2500

AMOUNT GRANTED

FILE COPY

UNIVERSITY

Selma Hortense Burke

1. Description of the project, its character, scope, and significance.
As a project worthy of consideration for fellowship in the Rosenwald fund, I submit the following:

To carve nine logs of wood, five and six foot tall, of North American growth, varying in kind, offered for study to me by Mr. Thomas Luther - 11 Madison Avenue, Saratoga Springs, New York who is a Director at Yaddo Corporation, Saratoga Springs, New York. Botanist and Colonel in the United States Army in charge of reforestation of the Black Forest in Germany.

With this personal gift I can carve these woods and test their adaptability to sculpture.

During this past summer I was guest sculptor at Yaddo. Here I was relieved of the responsibilities of the chores of the day, which gained for me an invaluable perspective towards formulating ideas in relation to the carving of wood sculptures. My discoveries in working with these woods thus far are proving very beneficial.

This knowledge of native permanent woods could be very practical for teacher and student of sculpture. The economical and physical impropities could be made known.

Most Sculptors and students of sculpture regard foreign woods as of superior quality for permanent works. Little is known of our North AMERICAN Forest possessions in wood and therefore they have been neglected in their uses. These are less expensive and therefore could be used to greater advantage by sculptors and recommended more highly by teachers of sculpture. May I give a few names of some of our local species of trees applicable to sculpture which I hope to chisel and compile data on these projects--

Quercus ruba-----red oak
Juglans cinerea L----butternut-white walnut
Quercus velutina Lam--black oak, yellow oak
Tilia americana-----whitewood, basswood, bee tree, lime
Picea Abies (L) Karst--norway spruce
Juglana nigra L --- black walnut
Betula lutea Michx. f. ---- yellow birch
Betula papyrifera Marsh --- paper birch, canoe birch, white birch

Many times during my lecture tours of the South and the North I am approached by teachers and students to suggest suitable woods for carving. Colleges and public schools feel that foreign woods are most suitable. The reason for this is the lack of knowledge of our own treasured possessions in our own American Forests which are less expensive than foreign woods. I would like to make available to schools and colleges a pamphlet containing the various woods and in what parts of America they may be found and their suitability to students of sculpture; thereby keeping the students enthusiasm and his interests in sculpture at an enthusiastic level.

Selma Hortense Burke

Generally local woods for carving like stone is still the students handicap because they do not know what is suitable and accessible.

Carrara (Italian) marble has made Italy famous and this material is used all over the world. When speaking of sculpture in stone one feels Carrara is the permanent material.

North American Woods possess equal qualities of those of foreign countries-yet unknown due to the lack of educating the world of their existence yet within easy reach of the American Sculptor.

Only one month ago while delivering a lecture at the Vassar Club here in New York I was asked to suggest a book or pamphlet where some knowledge pertaining to American materials in wood and stone could be found. Here as so often before I immediately realized the necessity for a reference book where these materials could be found nearest our own locality and their important qualities for sculpture.

Thus far my consultations with experts on this subject of North American Woods have resulted in confusion and contradiction all along. Each has his own pet idea about them, whereas I intend to actually work with these woods so that the information and knowledge I intend to give the world will be first hand, truthful, and simple--

2. Present state of the project and expectation as to completion.
My work on this project thus far has been to acquire these nine logs varying in kind.

I deem it necessary to devote eighteen months to the actual working with this material and compiling the data gained from this research.

3. Where work would be carried on and authorities with whom it would be done.

The work would be carried on at my studio and at the school of sculpture with frequent consultations of Botanist, Mr. Thomas Luther, of Saratoga Springs, New York.

4. Expectation as to publication or use of results of my study.
I expect to compile all my findings in pamphlet form with photographs for the use of teachers and students in sculpture, schools and colleges.

Selma Hortense Burke

I also plan to use this knowledge gained by me to further my teachings of sculpture in wood and stone, and in my own creative undertakings.

5. Subsequent plans for my career.

I plan to create a group of wood carvings for exhibition and a permanent place in American Sculpture by an American Negro Sculptor.

Name Selma Hortense Geneva Burke Field: Art
 29 East 28th Street
 New York City

Plan of Work

To continue the study of sculpture, following an organized program, and making a special investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture.

Wishes to work at Columbia University, under Mr. Frank Mechau and Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli. Has been admitted. Seeks no degree. Probable duration of study two years, beginning September, 1940. Will not return to present position.

Personal Data Born Mooresville, North Carolina, January, 1910 Age: 30

Undergraduate Work Classes in sculpture at Columbia University, 1936-39

Graduate nurse, trained at St. Agnes Hospital,
 Raleigh, North Carolina

Graduate Work

Experience Sculptor, WPA Art Project, New York, 1936-37, \$1200.
 Teacher, WPA Art Project, Harlem Art Center, 1937-39, \$1000.
 Private teacher, 1938-39, \$220.

Accomplishments Many pieces of sculpture.

Publications: Oesterreichische Kunst, Vienna, July-October Issues, 1937; Art News, New York City, 1938; articles in New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Pittsburgh Courier, Philadelphia Tribune, Chicago Defender, Afro-American, New York Age, etc.

References

Mr. Walter White, National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People
 Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli, Columbia University
 Mr. Frank Mechau, Columbia University
 Mr. Leopold Arnaud, Dean, Columbia University
 Dr. Albert Einstein, Princeton Research Institute
 Mr. Charles Studin, Lawyer, New York City

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$1515.00
From Applicant	15.00
From Fund	<u>\$1500.00</u>

AMOUNT GRANTED



K
UNIVERSITY

PINCHOS HORN

PHOTOGRAPHER

610 EAST 15th STREET

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Tel: MA. 6-8011

Hoatense Burke

FISK
UNIVERSITY

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Selma Hortense Burke

Mr. Leopold Arnaud, Dean, School of Architecture, Columbia University

Miss Burke has been enrolled in our classes since 1936, studying sculpture under Oronzio Maldarelli. Being seriously handicapped financially, she has been unable to follow a complete program, which she greatly needs to round out both her general knowledge and her specialized training.

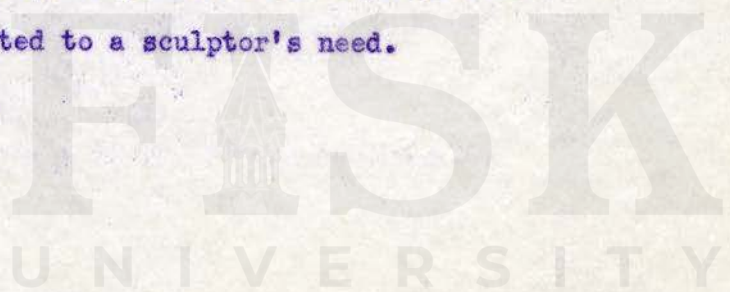
A gifted sculptress, her work has attracted considerable attention, and it is our opinion that with time and adequate training she should develop into a creative artist of real worth. A fellowship would enable Miss Burke to pursue a planned curriculum that would provide training and stimulus, both of which she needs equally.

Miss Burke also has an interesting idea which she wishes to develop in connection with her training in sculpture: to investigate the North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture. Many of these materials, though known, are little used at present, while others that offer great possibilities in texture and color are almost unknown. Her findings might be of real value to artistic production.

I take pleasure in recommending Miss Selma Burke for your consideration.

Mr. Frank Mechau, Associate in Drawing and Painting, Columbia University

Miss Burke is a person of fine intelligence and character. Her work here has been first rate. In my opinion, Miss Burke's program is a broad and well integrated one, well fitted to a sculptor's need.



Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli, Associate in Sculpture, Columbia University

I have known Selma Burke for over five years. She has been my pupil in Sculpture at Columbia University for three years. Her performance in this field has been consistently excellent. She possesses natural talent and I have great hopes for her eventual artistic development. Her personality is very human and she is endowed with great integrity. She has been handicapped in her work having to periodically abandon her studies, owing to financial difficulties. If awarded the Julius Rosenwald Fellowship, I believe it will be a great help and impetus to spur this worthy student on to achievement.

I have read her plan of study carefully and approve of it entirely.

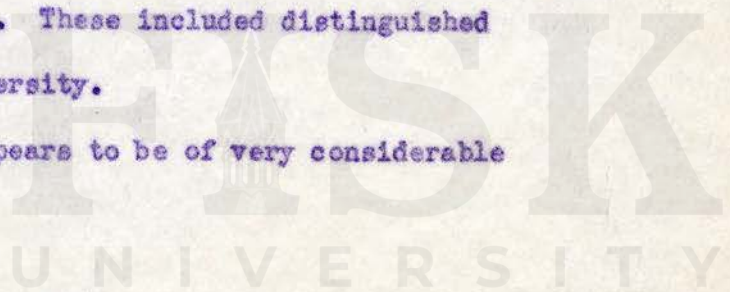
Dr. Albert Einstein, Princeton Research Institute, Princeton, New Jersey

I know Miss Burke as a fellow-student of my daughter in the Columbia Art Department. Her personality and ability have found recognition with her teacher and her colleagues. I also believe that the investigation she proposes could be worthwhile and that she has the experience to carry it through.

Mr. Walter White, Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City

I have seen only photographs of Miss Burke's work, but she came to me with very high commendation from persons better qualified than I to judge the artistic merit of her work. These included distinguished sculptors and professors at Columbia University.

Miss Burke's project appears to be of very considerable



importance. Success of her proposed investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculptors should be of enormous value.

- - - - -

Mr. Charles Studin, Attorney-at Law, New York City

I have known Selma Burke for a number of years. She is one of the rare people of this world. She has great charm, great honor, invincible courage and unflagging devotion to her work. You can judge my opinion of her from the fact that I am giving a party in her honor at my apartment this afternoon and have invited to it some of the most important figures in the world of art and otherwise who live in New York City.

While I am not qualified to pass judgment on her work as an artist, I can bear witness that she is highly esteemed by some of the best artists. I have a piece of her work in my house which has been much admired.

I should select Miss Burke as a person who would succeed in anything that she undertook and it may well be that she is destined to become one of the outstanding artists of our time.

I have tried to convey in this sketchy way that Miss Burke is a real person and that if the Rosenwald Fund sees fit to choose her for one of its fellowships, it may be sure that it is making no mistake.

A

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense Burke

Report Requested of Mr. Charles Studin

12 East 10th Street

New York City

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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

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You can judge of my opinion of her from the fact that I am giving a party in her honor at my apartment this afternoon and have invited to it some of the most important figures in the world of art and otherwise who live in New York City.

While I am not qualified to pass judgment on her work as an artist, I can bear witness that she is highly esteemed by some of the best artists. I have a piece of her work in my house which has been much admired.

I should select Miss Burke as a person who would succeed in anything that she undertook and it may well be that she is destined to become one of the outstanding artists of our time.

I have tried to convey in this sketchy way that Miss Burke is a real person and that if the Rosenwald Fund sees fit to choose her for one of its Fellowships, it may be sure that it is making no mistake.

Date December 18th, 1939

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

OVER

PISK
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidates for Fellowships

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Horstense Burke

Report Requested of Mr. Charles Steadman

12 East 10th Street

New York City

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 the 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.

Charles M. Steadman
Director for Fellowships

REPORT I have known Selma Burke for a number of years. She is one of the rare people of this world. She has great charm, great honor, invincible courage and unflinching devotion to her work.

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?

She is certainly free from personality handicaps and would satisfactorily fill any position that she undertakes.

Signed Charles H. Steadman

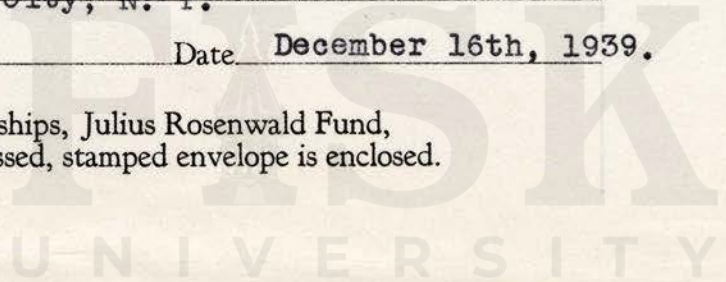
Position or Title Attorney-at-Law

Address 12 East 10th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Date December 16th, 1939.

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

OVER



A
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Walter White
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
69 Fifth Avenue, 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 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

I have seen only photographs of Miss Burke's work but she came to me with very high commendation from persons better qualified than

I to judge the artistic merit of her work. These included distinguished sculptors and professors at Columbia University.

Miss Burke's project appears to be of very considerable importance. Success of her proposed investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculptors should be of enormous value.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

A

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Selma Hottel Burke

Report Requested of: Mr. Walter White

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

69 Fifth Avenue, New York City

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 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.

Walter White
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

Walter White

Position or Title

Secy. NAACP

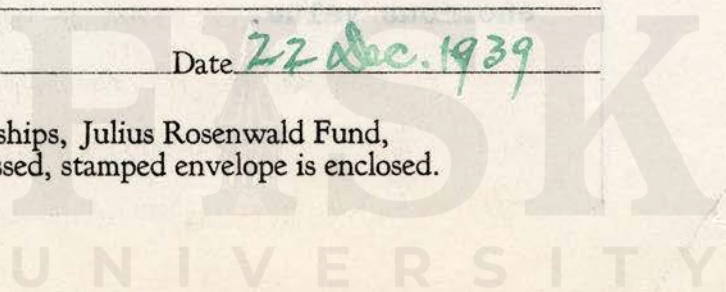
Address

69 Fifth Ave.
New York

Date 22 Dec. 1939

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

OVER



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense Burke

Report Requested of Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli

Columbia University

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 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

I have known Selma Burke for over five years. She has been my pupil in Sculpture at Columbia University for three years. Her performance in this field has been consistently excellent. She possesses native talent and I have great hope for her eventual artistic development. Her personality is very human and she is endowed with great integrity. She has been handicapped in her work having to periodically abandon her studies, owing to financial difficulties. If awarded the

OVER

Julius Rosenwald Fellowship. I believe it will be a great help and impetus to spur this worthy student on to achievement.

I have read her plan of study carefully and approve of it entirely.

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?

The applicant has no personality handicaps.

Signed

Oronzio Maldarelli

Position or Title

Associate in Scripture, Columbia University

Address

East Hall - 1145 Amsterdam Ave. N.Y.C.

Date

Dec. 30, 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

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense Burke

Report Requested of Mr. Frank Mechau

Columbia University

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 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

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Miss Burke is a person of fine intelligence and character. Her work here has been first rate.

In my opinion, Miss Burke's program is a broad and well integrated one, well fitted to a sculptor's need.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Mechau

Frank Mechau
Associate in
Drawing and Painting

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Selma Horvath Burke
Report Requested of: Mr. Frank Michau
Columbia University
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 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.

Frank M. Michau
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?

yes

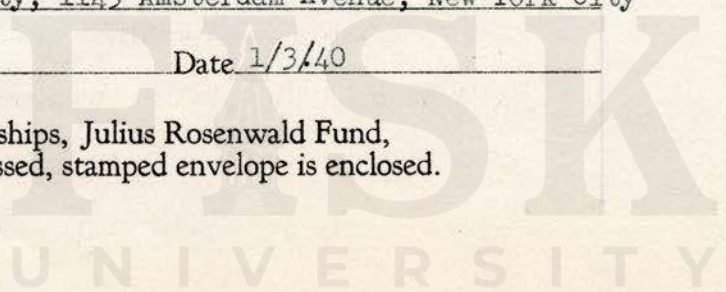
Signed Frank Michau

Position or Title Associate in Drawing and Painting, Columbia University

Address East Hall, Columbia University, 1145 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City

Date 1/3/40

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



Name

Selma Hortense Geneva Burke

Field: Art

29 East 28th Street
New York City

Plan of Work

To continue the study of sculpture, following an organized program, and making a special investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture.

Wishes to work at Columbia University, under Mr. Frank Mechau and Mr. Cronzio Maldarelli. Has been admitted. Seeks no degree. Probable duration of study two years, beginning September, 1940. Will not return to present position.

Personal Data

Born Mooresville, North Carolina, January, 1910

Age: 30

Undergraduate Work

Classes in sculpture at Columbia University, 1936-39

Graduate nurse, trained at St. Agnes Hospital,
Raleigh, North Carolina

Graduate Work

Experience

Sculptor, WPA Art Project, New York, 1936-37, \$1200.

Teacher, WPA Art Project, Harlem Art Center, 1937-39, \$1000.

Private teacher, 1938-39, \$220.

Accomplishments

Many pieces of sculpture.

Publications:

Oesterreichische Kunst, Vienna, July-October Issues, 1937; Art News, New York City, 1938; articles in New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Pittsburgh Courier, Philadelphia Tribune, Chicago Defender, Afro-American, New York Age, etc.

References

Mr. Walter White, National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People
Mr. Cronzio Maldarelli, Columbia University
Mr. Frank Mechau, Columbia University
Mr. Leopold Arnaud, Dean, Columbia University
Dr. Albert Einstein, Princeton Research Institute
Mr. Charles Studin, Lawyer, New York City

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$1515.00
From Applicant	15.00
From Fund	\$1500.00

AMOUNT GRANTED

1. Description of project, its character, scope and significance--

As a project worthy of consideration for fellowship in the Rosenwald fund, I propose:

To make a special investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture; to test, catalogue, and make available to students and teachers of sculpture the results of my investigation.

To obtain definite knowledge, I must first find the materials; then carefully test their adaptability to sculpture, in some cases executing pieces to prove the worth of the materials.

My observations during the four years I have studied at Columbia have proven to me that such a project is of vital importance to American sculpture. During the summer school of 1939, I frequently discussed sculpture and sculptural materials with teacher-students who were teachers and heads of art departments in schools and colleges throughout America. Most of them had M.A. degrees. Out of fifty teachers, only five had done some carving in wood in low reliefs; and none, apparently, had ever worked in stone; nor had they any extensive knowledge of native permanent materials for sculpture.

Most sculptors and students of sculpture think of permanent materials generally in terms of foreign stones, such as Belgian black marble, Belgian granite, Carrara (Italian) marble, African onyx, etc. These imported stones are tremendously expensive and the sculptor or student is too often handicapped by his inability to buy materials. So extensive is the use of foreign stone in America that it constitutes a considerable industry abroad. American stones are relatively little known or used, though many are equal to the foreign product in both texture and permanency. For example, York fossil is a beautiful black stone similar to Belgian marble and equally durable, but known to few sculptors; Georgia pink marble is similar to expensive Greek marbles; Tennessee

and Vermont furnish fine marbles for sculpture, and American granites are equal to the imported varieties. There are many other even lesser known stones in America that lend themselves to the sculptor's chisel.

In addition to the importance that such compiled data as I contemplate would have for American sculptors and students, the movement might, in time, have more far-reaching results. The use of American stone by well-known sculptors would promote such materials for wider acceptance in American building.

In addition to carrying out the above project, my plan would be to continue my studies at Columbia University for another year or year and a half, taking additional work in the history of art, the study of the human figure, and courses in geology, geometry and botany.

2 - Present state of project and expectation as to completion -

Work on the project has so far been limited to research in the library of Columbia University and the public libraries of New York City. I have been unable to find any published work or compiled data dealing with permanent sculptural materials to be found in America.

I estimate that the necessary geological research, actual testing of materials with hammer and chisel and compiling of data will require at least one year.

3. - Where and under whose authority work would be carried on -

The work would be carried on under the supervision of the dean and associate teachers of the School of Architecture of Columbia University.

4. - Expectation as to publication or use of the results of study -

I expect to use the knowledge gained in carrying out my project in my future work of teaching sculpture. My findings, in published form,

could also be made available to architects, sculptors and students of sculpture throughout America. I plan also to make further sculptural studies of outstanding Negro characters.

5. - Subsequent plans--

I plan only to try to improve my work as a sculptor and to give to students the benefit of what I have learned.

Columbia University
in the City of New York

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

FELLOWSHIPS

November 27, 1939

Julius Rosenwald Fund
Fellowship Committee
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

	GMP	13	ack. 13

Gentlemen:

Miss Selma Burke has informed me of her intention to apply for a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in order to continue her studies in sculpture at Columbia University.

Miss Burke has been enrolled in our classes since 1936, studying sculpture under Oronzio Maldarelli. Being seriously handicapped financially, she has been unable to follow a complete program, which she greatly needs to round out both her general knowledge and her specialized training.

A gifted sculptress, her work has attracted considerable attention, and it is our opinion that with time and adequate training she should develop into a creative artist of real worth. A fellowship would enable Miss Burke to pursue a planned curriculum that would provide training and stimulus, both of which she needs equally.

Miss Burke also has an interesting idea which she wishes to develop in connection with her training in sculpture: to investigate the North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture. Many of these materials, though known, are little used at present, while others that offer great possibilities in texture and color are almost unknown. Her findings might be of real value to artistic production.

I take pleasure in recommending Miss Selma Burke for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Leopold Arnaud
Leopold Arnaud,
Dean

LA:LV

FSK
UNIVERSITY

OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

I. MONITOR TO PROFESSOR MALDERELLI AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

In the School of Sculpture.

II. SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES:

Drawing under Prof. T. Cornahan

History of Fine Arts under Mr. S. Wingert

Sculpture under Prof. O. Malderelli

III. FALL TERM:

English under Prof. Merle Hoover

History of Fine Arts under Mr. E. M. Upjohn

Drawing under Prof. T. Cornahan

Drawing under Prof. Frank Mechau

Sculpture under Prof. O. Malderelli

IV. CONFERENCES WITH SCULPTORS AND ARCHITECTS:

William Barrett, Sculptor, Piermont, N. Y.

William Zorach, Sculptor, New York, N. Y.

John Gregory, Sculptor, New York, N. Y.

L. P. Adams, Architect, New York, N. Y.

William Lescaze, Architect, New York, N. Y.

V. RESEARCH IN MUSEUMS:

The Museum of Modern Art

Conferred with Miss Hussey

The Museum of Natural History

Conferred with Dr. Vokes, Dr. Bough and Miss Gray.
Did extensive research.

VI. DEMONSTRATIONS IN SCULPTURE TECHNIQUE:

Hamden High School, New Haven, Conn.
Rutherford High School, Rutherford, N. J.
Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

VII. INFORMAL LECTURES ON SCULPTURE:

Watkins Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church, Mooresville, N. C.
Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

VIII. SCULPTURE EXHIBITIONS:

"One Man Show", Winston-Salem Teachers College
Portrait, The Artists Gallery, New York, N. Y.
Portrait, 135th Street Library, New York, N. Y.
Portrait, The Art Gallery, Columbia University
Mask, The Modern Art Museum, University of Indiana

IX. FORMULATED LYCEUM PROGRAM

(See attached description of program.)

X. TRIPS TO QUARRIES:

Westerly, R. I.
Rutland, Mass.
Portland, Maine
Brattleboro, N. H.
Richmond, Va.
Hidnite, N. C.
Tuckahoe, N. Y.

XI. PREPARATIONS FOR "ONE MAN SHOW" IN NEW YORK

Tentatively Scheduled for Fall of 1941 at Columbia University
(Approval of Dean Arnaud secured and publicity arrangements
discussed.)

XII. WORK IN PROGRESS: LIFE SIZE FIGURE



LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Selma Hortense G. Burke

Leopold Arnaud, Dean, School of Architecture, Columbia University.

Following the plan of study which she submitted to the Rosenwald Committee, Miss Burke has registered in the University for several courses, with special interest in her major field of Sculpture. We are well acquainted with Miss Burke, as she has been a student in our sculpture classes for several years.

The fellowship award has been of inestimable benefit to Miss Burke. It has allowed her to receive a more rounded education, has opened many new horizons for her, and has allowed her to devote herself to studies without the stress of financial worries. Miss Burke has reaped great benefits from this year of work. If it is at all possible to do so, I strongly recommend that the fellowship be renewed. Another year of serious work, similar to the one she is now completing, would undoubtedly fit Miss Burke for teaching in the Negro schools of the South, as she intends to do.

I take pleasure in recommending Miss Selma Burke for your serious consideration.

- - - - -

O. Maldarelli, Associate in Sculpture, Columbia University.

Miss Burke has done some very constructive work at Columbia during her Rosenwald period. Her plan to finish her fellowship in Mexico is very good. I think the exposure to Mexican art will be very beneficial in her eventual development. I recommend her for an extension in the Rosenwald Fund for another year.

- - - - -



Selma Hortense G. Burke

Frank Mechau, Director, Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Columbia University.

Miss Burke, to my belief, has worked hard and well this past year. I fear she tried to cover too much territory in line of duty barking her shins along the scholastic line. Her sculpture is improving, which is the important thing. I hope you see fit to grant Miss Burke a renewal - she is a worthy person.

M. M. Hoover, Assistant to the Director, University Extension, Columbia University.

As an artist Miss Burke is exceptional. . . .

She was a member of one of my classes in English last term. Here, I am sorry to say, my report is not so favorable. Miss Burke claimed that she was doing too much work outside the classroom, with the result that she had no time for her work in English. Whatever the cause may have been, she made slight effort to do the required work, although her English is very immature.

If Miss Burke expects to carry out her cherished plans, she will be called upon frequently to write and to speak. She should be able to use clear and effective English. I would suggest that one of the stipulations for a renewal of her fellowship should be that Miss Burke make an honest and vigorous effort to improve her English.

FELLOWSHIPS

April 17, 1940

Dear Miss Burke: 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 four hundred dollars (\$1,400) to assist you in carrying forward your studies in sculpture at Columbia University for one year beginning in September, 1940.

Please let us know at once if 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:MLU

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

Miss Selma Hortense Burke
29 East 28th Street
New York, N. Y.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

29 East 28th Street
New York, NEW YORK
April 19, 1940

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

My dear Mr. Reynolds:

Your letter, informing me that I had been selected by the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund to receive a grant of One thousand four hundred dollars to continue my studies at Columbia University, brought me great joy.

It is with deep gratitude that I accept the grant and, humbly realizing the responsibility it places upon me, I pledge a zealous pursuit of knowledge out of which I trust may develop some achievement worthy of such benevolence.

With sincerest thanks, I am

Most respectfully yours,

Selma Hortense Burke

Selma Hortense Burke

SHB:CEG

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

May 1, 1940

Dear Miss Burke: 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

DAE:RW

Miss Selma Hortense Burke
29 East 28th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

	56	5/8	56	5/9
	mlw		mlw	

May 7, 1940

Miss Dorothy A. Elvidge
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss Elvidge:

In answer to your letter I should so like to begin work on my fellowship grant June 1, 1940 and the payment plan which is preferable for me would be the following. Three hundred dollars for June and one hundred twenty-five dollars per month thereafter.

If this is agreeable, may I also suggest that the checks be sent to the Drydocks Saving Bank to be accredited to my account. The address of this branch is The Drydocks Savings Institution, 742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street, New York City.

Sincerely,

Selma Hortense Burke
29 East 28th Street
New York City

*8 mo
1 mo 1940*

M.R. ⁷⁴⁴⁰ FELLOWSHIPS

May 9, 1940

Dear Miss Burke: The payment plan outlined in your recent letter is entirely agreeable to us. I shall see that you receive \$300 on June 1, \$125 on the 1st of each month from July 1 to and including February 1, 1941, and a final payment of \$100 on March 1.

We shall send these checks to the Drydocks Savings Institution in New York to be deposited to your account.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:AM

Miss Selma Hortense Burke
29 East 28th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution

M/C - Selma Hortense Burke

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 1511

Date May 31, 1940

First installment on fellowship granted 4/17/40 - - - - - \$500.00

Ck.#23109

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$500.00	

Prepared by

AM

Checked by

Posted by

Comptroller



Miss
FELLOWSHIPS

May 31, 1940

Gentlemen: Kindly deposit the enclosed check
for \$300 to the account of
Miss Selma Hortense Burke, notifying her when
this has been done.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:RW

Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Cc to Miss Selma H. Burke

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution - A/C -

Payment Voucher No. 1500

Selma Hortense Burke

Date July 1, 1940

742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street

New York City

Second installment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ch.#23519

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by <i>AM</i>	Checked by	Posted by	Comptroller
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FELLOWSHIPS

July 1, 1940

Gentlemen: Please deposit the enclosed
check for \$125 to the account
of Miss Selma Hortense Burke, notifying her
when this has been done.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAYVAM

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

c.c. Miss Selma Hortense Burke

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

July 31, 1940

Gentlemen: Kindly deposit the enclosed check
for \$125 to the account of Miss
Selma Hortense Burke, notifying her when this has
been done.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:RW

Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue, at 59th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution
A/C Selma Hortense Burke
742 Lexington Avenue, at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 1474

Date July 31, 1940

Third installment on fellowship granted 4/17/40 - - - - - \$125.00

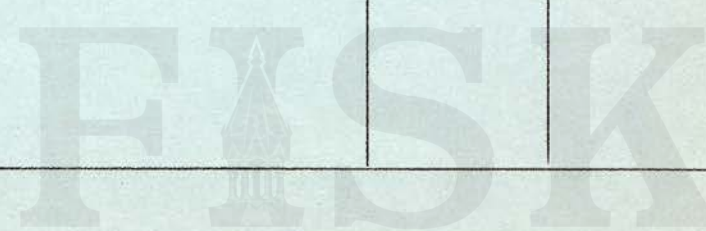
Ck. #23293

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	59-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by
McK

Checked by

Posted by


Comptroller

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To

The Drydocks Savings Institution
A/C Selma Hortense Burke
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 1594

Date August 30, 1940

Fourth payment on fellowship granted 4/17/40 - - - - - \$125.00

Ch. #25457

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by	Comptroller
McK			



FELLOWSHIPS

September 30, 1940

Gentlemen: Please deposit the enclosed
check to the account of
Miss Selma Hortense Burke, notifying her when
this has been done.

Very truly yours,



Secretary to Miss Elvidge

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution - A/C -

Selma Hortense Burke

Payment Voucher No. 1732

Date September 30, 1940

Fifth payment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ck.#23620

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by
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Comptroller

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution

A/C - Selma Hortense Burke

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 1851

Date October 31, 1940

Sixth payment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ck.#23761

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by
AM		



Comptroller

FELLOWSHIPS

October 31, 1940

Gentlemen: Please deposit the enclosed check
for \$125 to the account of Miss Selma
Hortense Burke, notifying her when this has been done.

If you will send me ten or twelve
deposit slips, I shall be glad to make them up when
sending in future deposits for Miss Burke.

Very truly yours,

am
Secretary to Miss Elvidge

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To

The Drydocks Savings Institution - A/C -

Selma Hortense Burke

The Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 2011

Date November 29, 1940

Seventh payment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ck.#23928

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	59-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by	Comptroller
AM			

FELLOWSHIPS
148-50 E 88th St
New York

December 28th, 1940

	GMR	30	6	30
	AM			
	BY			

renewal
forms

Mr. Geo M. Reynolds,
Director For Fellowship,
Julius Rosenwald Fund,
490 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Reynolds:-

May I take this opportunity to inquire as to what method may be used to enable a renewal of my Fellowship. I ask this so that I may continue the work I am in the midst of doing at Columbia University.

My Fellowship as you know will expire on March 1st and it would then be impossible for me to complete my Scholastic subjects in addition to my creative project.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you and beg for your consideration in this matter.

Thanking you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Selma Hortense Burke

Selma H. Burke

first payment May 31

Tell her final payment will be made as scheduled -
Renewal will be considered at meeting of Com. - We
can promise nothing until after meeting. Will
advise her then - v

We can take no financial responsibility for interest
& risk beyond the present grant



December 31, 1940

Gentlemen: Please deposit the enclosed
check to the account of
Miss Selma Hortense Burke, notifying her when
this has been done.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:AM

Drydocks Savings Institution
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution - A/C -

Payment Voucher No. 1167

Selma Hortense Burke

Date December 31, 1940

742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street

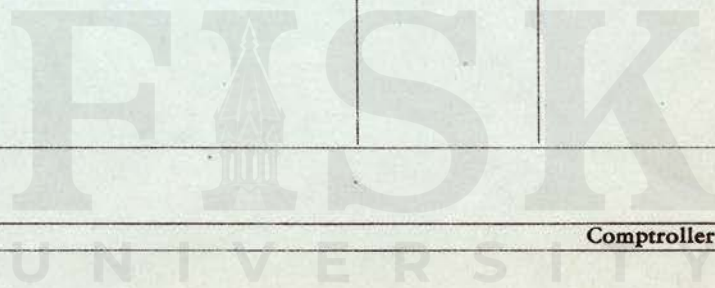
New York City

Eighth installment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ck.#24128

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by	Comptroller
AM			



OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

I. ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR MALDERELLI AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

In the School of Sculpture.

II. SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES:

Drawing under Prof. T. Cornahan

History of Fine Arts under Mr. S. Wingert

Sculpture under Prof. O. Malderelli

III. FALL TERM:

English under Prof. Merle Hoover

History of Fine Arts under Mr. E. M. Upjohn

Drawing under Prof. T. Cornahan

Drawing under Prof. Frank Mechau

Sculpture under Prof. O. Malderelli

IV. CONFERENCES WITH SCULPTORS AND ARCHITECTS:

William Barrett, Sculptor, Piermont, N. Y.

William Zorach, Sculptor, New York, N. Y.

John Gregory, Sculptor, New York, N. Y.

L. P. Adams, Architect, New York, N. Y.

William Lescaze, Architect, New York, N. Y.

V. RESEARCH IN MUSEUMS:

Museum of Modern Art
Conferred with Miss Hussey

Museum of Natural History
Conferred with Dr. Vokes, Dr. Bough and Miss Gray.
Did extensive research.

VI. DEMONSTRATIONS IN SCULPTURE TECHNIQUE:

Hamden High School, New Haven, Conn.

Rutherford High School, Rutherford, N. J.

Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

VII. INFORMAL LECTURES ON SCULPTURE:

Watkins Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church, Mooresville, N. C.

Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

VIII. SCULPTURE EXHIBITIONS:

"One Man Show", Winston-Salem Teachers College

Portrait, The Artists Gallery, New York, N. Y.

Portrait, 135th Street Library, New York, N. Y.

Portrait, The Art Gallery, Columbia University

Mask, The Modern Art Museum, University of Indiana

IX. FORMULATED LYCEUM PROGRAM

(See attached description of program.)

X. TRIPS TO QUARRIES:

Westerly, R. I.

Rutland, Mass.

Portland, Maine

Brattleboro, N. H.

Richmond, Va.

Hidnite, N. C.

Tuckahoe, N. Y.

XI. PREPARATIONS FOR "ONE MAN SHOW" IN NEW YORK

Tentatively Scheduled for Fall 1941 at Columbia University

(Approval of Dean Arnaud secured and publicity arrangements discussed.)

XII. WORK IN PROGRESS: LIFE SIZE FIGURE

OUTLINE OF ART DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
OF SELMA H. BURKE
(To be presented as a Summer Lyceum Activity)

I propose to present to the Summer School teacher-student body in the North Carolina State Colleges some tangible and concrete information on the technique of the sculptor in the form of lectures and demonstrations. For example, I would set up a portrait head in clay, choosing from the group my subject. This would give the group much first hand information and would acquaint the teacher-student with the physical and creative work that goes to make a piece of sculpture.

During the past year the President of the United States urged for the country a National Art Week. He felt that the wider dispersing of art information and the more extensive exposure of the populace to art works would enhance the growth of culture among the people of the country. I would suggest to the teacher-student that he try to stimulate ~~in the pupils~~ the creative ability of students interested in art, thus ~~arousing~~ thus encouraging participation in the observance of National Art Week in the manner that marks the observance of the National Negro Education week, the National Negro History week, the national holidays, etc. This would be ~~in~~ in line with the movement for art appreciation which has been launched by the President.

My plan is to present my program at four Negro colleges, spending one school week at each college. The sessions could be one hour or more per day. This could be arranged to suit the program of each separate college. The cost of various necessary materials would be about Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars. These materials are: 100 pounds of clay, plaster for casting and a pedestal which can be built at the school.

The completed piece of sculpture would ~~benefit~~ benefit at the college as a part of the school's art collection.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Selma Hortense Burke

Mr. Leopold Arnaud, Dean, School of Architecture, Columbia University

Miss Burke has been enrolled in our classes since 1936, studying sculpture under Oronzio Maldarelli. Being seriously handicapped financially, she has been unable to follow a complete program, which she greatly needs to round out both her general knowledge and her specialized training.

A gifted sculptress, her work has attracted considerable attention, and it is our opinion that with time and adequate training she should develop into a creative artist of real worth. A fellowship would enable Miss Burke to pursue a planned curriculum that would provide training and stimulus, both of which she needs equally.

Miss Burke also has an interesting idea which she wishes to develop in connection with her training in sculpture: to investigate the North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculpture. Many of these materials, though known, are little used at present, while others that offer great possibilities in texture and color are almost unknown. Her findings might be of real value to artistic production.

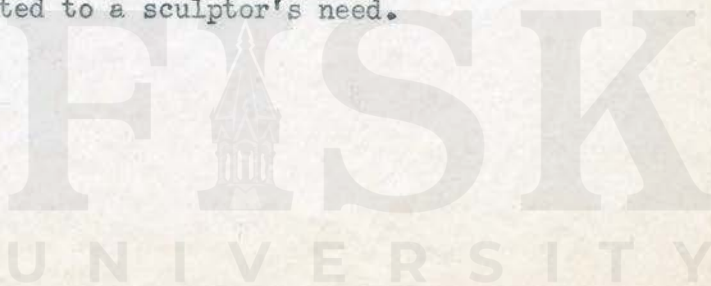
I take pleasure in recommending Miss Selma Burke for your consideration.

- - - - -

Mr. Frank Mechau, Associate in Drawing and Painting, Columbia University

Miss Burke is a person of fine intelligence and character. Her work here has been first rate. In my opinion, Miss Burke's program is a broad and well integrated one, well fitted to a sculptor's need.

- - - - -



Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli, Associate in Sculpture, Columbia University

I have known Selma Burke for over five years. She has been my pupil in Sculpture at Columbia University for three years. Her performance in this field has been consistently excellent. She possesses natural talent and I have great hopes for her eventual artistic development. Her personality is very human and she is endowed with great integrity. She has been handicapped in her work having to periodically abandon her studies, owing to financial difficulties. If awarded the Julius Rosenwald Fellowship, I believe it will be a great help and impetus to spur this worthy student on to achievement.

I have read her plan of study carefully and approve of it entirely.

- - - - -

Dr. Albert Einstein, Princeton Research Institute, Princeton, New Jersey

I know Miss Burke as a fellow-student of my daughter in the Columbia Art Department. Her personality and ability have found recognition with her teacher and her colleagues. I also believe that the investigation she proposes could be worthwhile and that she has the experience to carry it through.

- - - - -

Mr. Walter White, Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City

I have seen only photographs of Miss Burke's work, but she came to me with very high commendation from persons better qualified than I to judge the artistic merit of her work. These included distinguished sculptors and professors at Columbia University.

Miss Burke's project appears to be of very considerable



importance. Success of her proposed investigation of native North American stones and woods particularly suited to sculptors should be of enormous value.

- - - - -

Mr. Charles Studin, Attorney-at Law, New York City

I have known Selma Burke for a number of years. She is one of the rare people of this world. She has great charm, great honor, invincible courage and unflagging devotion to her work. You can judge my opinion of her from the fact that I am giving a party in her honor at my apartment this afternoon and have invited to it some of the most important figures in the world of art and otherwise who live in New York City.

While I am not qualified to pass judgment on her work as an artist, I can bear witness that she is highly esteemed by some of the best artists. I have a piece of her work in my house which has been much admired.

I should select Miss Burke as a person who would succeed in anything that she undertook and it may well be that she is destined to become one of the outstanding artists of our time.

I have tried to convey in this sketchy way that Miss Burke is a real person and that if the Rosenwald Fund sees fit to choose her for one of its fellowships, it may be sure that it is making no mistake.

Name Selma Hortense G. Burke **Field:** Art-
Sculpture

Student, Columbia University
148 East 28th Street, New York City

REAPPOINTMENT

Plan of Work

Creative sculpture and research on the utility of American stones and woods for the purpose of the sculptor.

Wishes to study at Columbia University and at The Academia, San Carlos, Mexico City. Probable duration of work one year. Is now working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Personal Data

Born Mooresville, North Carolina, January, 1910.

Age: 31

Undergraduate Work

Classes in sculpture at Columbia University, 1936-39;
Columbia University, 1940-

Graduate Work**Experience**

Sculptor, WPA Art Project, New York, 1936-37, \$1200;
teacher, WPA Art Project, Harlem Art Center, 1937-39, \$1000;
private teacher, 1938-39, \$220.

Accomplishments

Many pieces of sculpture.

Publications:

Articles in Art News, New York Times, New York Herald
Tribune, Pittsburgh Courier, Chicago Defender, etc.

Fellowship:

Rosenwald Fund, 1940-41, \$1400.

References

Leopold Arnaud, Columbia University
Merle Hoover, Columbia University
O. Malderelli, Columbia University
Frank Mechau, Columbia University
S. Wingert, Columbia University

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$ 2,000
From Applicant	— — —
From Fund	\$ 2,000

AMOUNT GRANTED

FILE COPY

UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. S. Wingert
Columbia University, 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. (not enclosed)

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 Burke was a student of mine in a Summer Session course in 1940. Her work, unfortunately, was very poor, and on the basis of it I would certainly not recommend her for a fellowship. I understand, however, that her real forte is in the creative art field, not the historical, and that in it she shows real promise. But, since I have not seen any of her work, I am not in a position to pass judgment on that phase of her activity.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

1901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Lorenson G. Burke

Report Requested of Mr. S. Wrigley

Columbia University, New York

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 (and enclosed)

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.

Paul S. Wrigley
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Miss Burke was a student of mine in a summer session course in 1940.

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 - so far as I know. But, she shows real promise. I am not in a position to pass judgment on that phase of her activity.

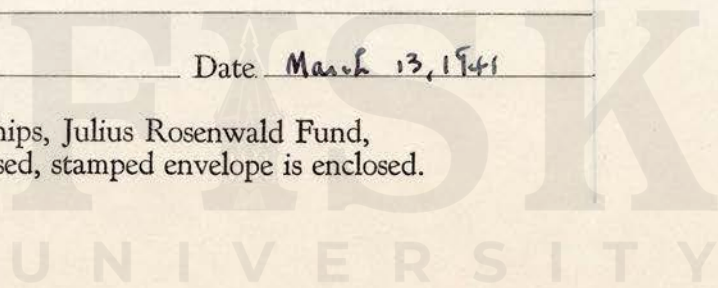
Signed Paul S. Wrigley

Position or Title Curator of Fine Arts

Address Columbia University, N.Y.C.

Date March 13, 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 Selma Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Leopold Arnaud
 School of Architecture, Columbia University

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.
(not enclosed)

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 Selma Hortense G. Burke was awarded a Fellowship from the Julius Rosenwald Fund for the year 1940-41. Following the plan of study which she submitted to the Rosenwald Committee, Miss Burke has registered in the University for several courses, with special interest in her major field of Sculpture. We are well acquainted with Miss Burke, as she has been a student in our Sculpture classes for several years.

The Fellowship award has been of inestimable benefit to Miss Burke. It has allowed her to receive a more rounded education, has opened many new horizons for her, and has allowed her to devote herself to studies without the stress of financial worries. Miss Burke has reaped great benefits from this year of work. If it is at all possible to do so, I strongly recommend that the Fellowship be renewed. Another year of serious work, similar to the one she is now completing, would undoubtedly fit Miss Burke for teaching in the negro schools of the South, as she intends to do.

I take pleasure in recommending Miss Selma Burke for your serious consideration.

OVER

P. S. K.
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate

Miss Selma Horstense G. Burke

Report Requested of

Mr. Leopold Arnaud

School of Architecture, Columbia University

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. (not enclosed)

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.

Leopold Arnaud
 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 *Leopold Arnaud* Leopold Arnaud

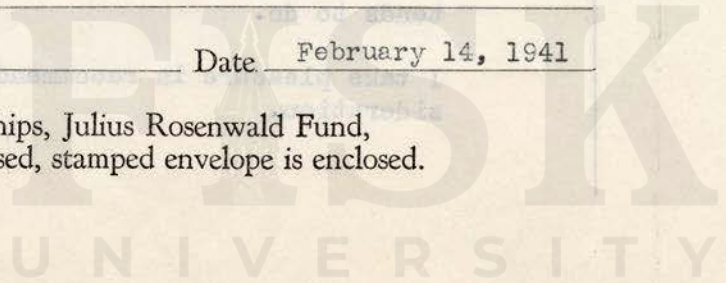
Position or Title Dean - School of Architecture - Columbia University

Address New York, N. Y.

Date February 14, 1941

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

OVER



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. O. Malderelli
Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

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. (not enclosed)

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 Burke has done some very constructive work at Columbia during her Rosenwald period. Her plan to finish her fellowship in Mexico is very good. I think the exposure to Mexican art will be very beneficial in her eventual development. I recommend her for an extension in the Rosenwald Foundation for another year.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Selma Horstman G. Burke
Report Requested of: Mr. G. Malgerelli
Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

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. (not enclosed)

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. Lippman
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?

during her Rosenwald period. Her plan to finish her fellowship in Mexico is very good. I think the exposure to Mexican art will be very beneficial in her eventual development.

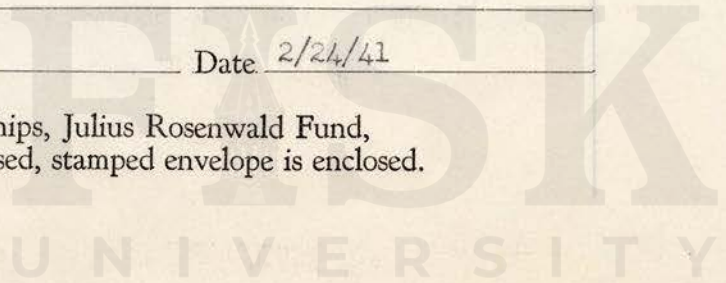
Signed *Oronizio Malgerelli*

Position or Title Associate in Sculpture

Address Columbia University

New York, New York Date 2/24/41

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



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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Frank Mechau
 Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

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. (not enclosed)

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 Burke to my beliefs
has worked hard & well this
past year - I fear she tried
to cover too much territory

OVER

in line of duty barking her
shins along the scholastic line.
Her sculpture is improving
which is the important thing.
I hope you see fit to grant
Miss Burke a renewal she
is a worthy person.

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 Frank Meckau
Position or Title Director, drawing - painting, sculpture
Address 1145 Amsterdam - Columbia University
New York City - N.Y. Date Feb 20

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

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FEB 14 1941

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Merle Hoover
 Columbia University, 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. (not enclosed)

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

February 21, 1941

Mr. George M. Reynolds
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Reynolds

~~I am pleased to make a frank statement concerning Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke.~~

~~In the first place, as an artist Miss Burke is exceptional. From various authorities here on the Campus I have learned that she is a most talented sculptress. Moreover, she has the highest purposes for herself and for her artistic ability. She plans to make a study of various sculpture materials in the United States. She also plans to interest her own people in the kind of work that she is doing.~~

She was a member of one of my classes in English last term. Here, I am sorry to say, my report is not so favorable. Miss Burke claimed that she was doing too much work outside the classroom, with the result that she had no time for her work

OVER

in English. Whatever the cause may have been, she made slight effort to do the required work, although her English is very immature.

If Miss Burke expects to carry out her cherished plans, she will be called upon frequently to write and to speak. She should be able to use clear and effective English. I would suggest that one of the stipulations for a renewal of her fellowship should be that Miss Burke make an honest and vigorous effort to improve her English.

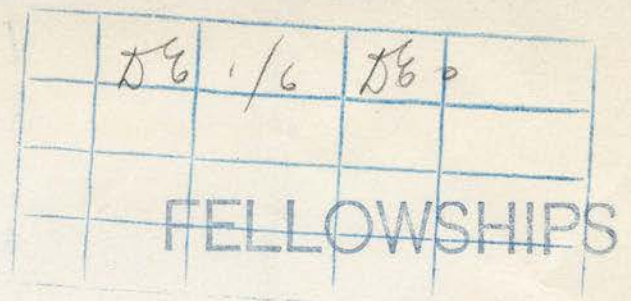
Very sincerely yours

M. M. Hoover
Assistant to the Director

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 M. M. Hoover
Position or Title Assistant to the Director University Extension
Address Columbia University Broadway and 116 Street
New York, N. Y. Date Feb. 21, 1941

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



January 4th, 1941

Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Att: Miss D.A. Elvidge

My dear Miss Elvidge:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the information regarding the Rosenwald Fellowship Fund in connection with the federal income tax returns.

Respectfully yours,

Selma H. Burke

Selma Burke

Miss Selma H. Burke
148-50 East 28th Street
New York City.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

FELLOWSHIPS

To
The Drydocks Savings Institution
A/C - Selma Hortense Burke
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 2309

Date January 31, 1941

Ninth installment on fellowship grant - - - - - \$125.00

Ck. #24276

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	39-7	\$125.00	

Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by
AM		



Comptroller

FELLOWSHIPS

14400
100

ERE	3	AWO
BURK		BK 5
SE		SE

Burke, Selma

148 East 28th Street
New York, New York
February 1, 1941

Dr. Edwin R. Embree
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Embree:

In my application for a fellowship I mentioned the year spent studying in Europe. The persons who sponsored my study abroad are now in Mexico. Inasmuch as the war has frozen their European assets, they have been unable to subsidize any of my activities recently, however, on the ranch where they live there is a shed which has been used by an artist. They suggested that I come there and work for awhile. Because of the aforementioned financial condition, the offer is of necessity limited to the use of space only.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity, since it would expedite and enhance many aspects of the original plan of my project. I had intended to make a field trip into the southwest eventually. This could be accomplished on my way to Mexico. There are some Mexican stones and woods which, I am given to understand, would be worth my investigation.

Dean Arnaud of the School of Architecture at Columbia University recently extended an invitation to me to have my first "one-man show" in the school gallery. I shall, of course, strive to have something really worthwhile and outstanding for this exhibition. To do so will require exclusive concentration on my sculpture. I have found this last semester that my academic work was diverting more than its share of my attention and energy. The ranch is miles from everything, therefore, I feel that this would be conducive to my accomplishing work of such quality as will justify the school's confidence in giving me this exhibition, not to mention my obligation to the Rosenwald Foundation. I should like to work there until August, at which time I will return to New York in order to resume work at Columbia University in September.

My feeling is that this would be a unique opportunity. This opinion is shared also by Dean Arnaud with whom I have discussed this proposal at length. I have also discussed it with two of my sponsors, Mr. Walter White and Mr. Charles Studin. They agree enthusiastically with my plan. I am now preparing a report on the work accomplished to



date, regarding my fellowship. I shall include a copy of this report with my application for the renewal of my grant.

I should appreciate hearing from you before the end of the registration period for the coming semester, February 8th, as I will, of course, follow whatever you suggest. If this plan does not receive your approval, I shall register here at the University.

Yours very sincerely,

Selma Furke

Selma Furke

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: ALGONQUIN 4-3551

Official Organ: The Crisis



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- Wilmington, Del.** Louis L. Redding

February
4th
1941

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WUP 10	GR 0

My dear Mr. Embree:

Miss Selma Burke has talked with me concerning her letter to you of February 1st. I do hope that her request for a grant from the Rosenwald Fund for study in Mexico can be granted.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Mr. Edwin R. Embree
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago,
Illinois.



FELLOWSHIPS

February 5, 1941

Dear Miss Burke: Mr. Embree has referred to me your letter of February 1, and I have read it with interest.

If you are advised by your instructors at Columbia University that it would be a good plan for you to work during the next few months in Mexico, such a plan is entirely agreeable to us. We shall be glad to have you keep us informed of your address.

All good wishes to you.

Very truly yours,

GMR*MLU

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS

Miss Selma Burke
~~148 East 28th Street~~
New York, N. Y.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

February 11, 1941

My dear Miss Burke: Your application for a renewal of your fellowship has been received and it will have the careful attention of the Committee.

I am sure you realize that this application will have to be considered along with all of the others received this year, and that our approval of your proposed trip to Mexico applies only to your present grant. I mention it, however, in order that there may be no possible misunderstanding.

All good wishes to you for your proposed stay in a delightful country.

Very truly yours,

GMR*MLJ

W. M. REYNOLDS

Miss Selma Hortense G. Burke
148 East Twenty-eighth Street
New York, N. Y.

Registered mail

FISK
UNIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIPS

	GWR	14	GL	0

148 East 28th Street
New York, N. Y.
February 12, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Thank you for your very kind letter of February 5th. I have received the approval of my instructors at Columbia Univ. for study in Mexico, and am planning to leave New York about the 18th inst. for Mexico City.

I shall advise you of my address upon my arrival there. Meanwhile, I can be reached in care of Wells Fargo, Ave. Madero 14, Mexico, D. F.

I am today mailing to you an album containing photographs of some of the work I have done during the year 1940, to be considered as a supplement to the report of my work mailed to you on the 7th inst.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Selma Burke

Selma Burke

FELLOWSHIPS

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FELLOWSHIPS

To The Drydocks Savings Institution - A/C -
Miss Selma Hortense Durke
742 Lexington Avenue at 59th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 2454

Date February 28, 1941

Final payment on grant of \$1,400 made 4/17/40 - - - - \$100.00

Ck.#24426

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	89-7	\$100.00	

Prepared by AM	Checked by	Posted by	Comptroller
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FELLOWSHIPS

August 20, 1941

Dear Miss Burke: Thank you for your nice letter of August 14 and the photographs and clippings which came by separate mail. I did have a copy of your outline on file and the purpose of my recent letter was merely to bring your activities up to date for a report to our trustees. I am sorry that you had to go to this extra trouble, but the full statement of your productive year under fellowship will be of interest in our report.

Your reception in Mooresville was indeed unusual, and I imagine was a matter of considerable pride and satisfaction to you.

I hope you will continue to keep us informed of your career and accomplishments.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:McK

Miss Selma H. Burke
148 East 28th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Memo

PROGRESS REPORT - JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND FELLOWS

Name Selma Hortense G. Burke

Present position None

Address 148 East 28th Street, New York City

Since your fellowship was awarded have you received

(a) a salary increase? Not employed

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

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

Columbia University does not give degrees in the Sculpture Division

Title of dissertation Study of native North American stones and woods for sculpture.

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

Lecture material published in newspaper articles

Proposed volume on use of native sculpture media not yet ready for publication.

Special honors or activities See copy of previously submitted Outline of Activities for 1940, attached hereto, together with supplementary letter.

General remarks _____



FELLOWSHIPS

Web	9	WEH	° Selma H. Burke
DE		EB	148 East 28th Street
			New York City

October 7, 1941

Mr. William C. Haygood,
 Director of Fellowships
 Julius Rosenwald Fund
 4901 Ellis Avenue,
 Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Haygood:

In order to carry on my studies in sculpture and complete my investigations in native American media begun under the Rosenwald fellowship (a renewal of which seems to have been denied me), I am trying to get another fellowship.

For this purpose, I would much appreciate the return of my portfolio sent you last February and the additional material—newspaper clipping, photographs, and outline of work accomplished under the Rosenwald fellowship—sent in my letter of August 14th.

*ret'd
 Express
 10/9/41
 me*

Sincerely yours,

Selma H. Burke
 Selma H. Burke



FELLOWSHIPS

October 9, 1941

My dear Miss Burke: I am returning to you today
by Railway Express the
exhibit material which you have submitted in con-
nection with the fellowship which you held from the
Fund. This consists of the portfolio presented to
the art jury last February, and the envelope of
glossy prints and clippings which you sent me in
August. I hope you are successful in obtaining the
grant you seeking.


Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH*MLU

Miss Selma H. Burke
148 East 28th Street
New York City

FISK
UNIVERSITY



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mrs. Ferdinand de Bermingham, Jr.
26 Washington Square
New York 11

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SCULPTURE

67 WEST THIRD STREET

NEW YORK 12, N. Y.

SELMA BURKE, DIRECTOR

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	WCH	1/16	WCH	5

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE
AT THE SELMA BURKE SCHOOL OF SCULPTURE, 67
WEST THIRD STREET, ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH,
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL, FROM
FOUR TO SEVEN O'CLOCK, TO SEE THE RECENT
WORK OF (Selma) Burke AND HER STUDENTS.

R.S.V.P. ON ENCLOSED CARD TO MRS. FERDINAND
DE BERMINGHAM, JR., 26 WASHINGTON SQUARE,
NEW YORK 11.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Selma Hortense Burke

In order to bring your files up to date on my work may I submit places I have exhibited my sculptures and work permanently placed since 1940:

Mac Millen Galleries	New York City	1940
Mooreville Public Library	Mooreville, N. C.	1941
Downtown Gallery	New York City	1941
Pyramid Club	Philadelphia, Penn.	1942
Atlanta University	Atlanta, Georgia	1942-3
British Art Center	New York City	1942
New York University	New York City	1943
Free World House	New York City	1944
A. C. A. Gallery	New York City	1944
Greenwich House	New York City	1945
St. John's Church	New York City	1945
Baltimore Museum	Baltimore, Maryland	1945
Cleveland Museum of Art	Cleveland, Ohio	1945
Brooklyn Museum of Art	Brooklyn, New York	1945
Museum of Seattle	Seattle, Washington	1945
Museum of Rhode Island	Providence, Rhode Island	1945
Critics Show	New York City	1945
G. Place Gallery	Washington, D. C.	1944
St. George's Church	New York City	1945
Albany Institute	Albany, New York	1945
Vassar Club	New York City	1946
Hampton Institute	Hampton, Virginia	1946
Modern Age Art Gallery	New York City	1945
(First One Man Show)		
Permanently placed Drawing:		
Howard University	Washington, D. C.	
Permanently placed Sculpture:		
Atlanta University	Atlanta, Georgia	
Mooreville Public Library	Mooreville, N. C.	
Modern Age Art Gallery	New York City	
Recorder of Deeds Building	Washington, D. C.	
(U. S. Gov't)		
U. S. Armory	145th St. N. Y. C.	
Negro County High School	Statesville, N. C.	
N. Y. Public Library	136th St. Branch N. Y. C.	
Public School #39	New York City	
Public School #40	Jamaica, Long Island	
Bethune Cookman College	Daytona Beach, Florida	
Bernard Davis	Philadelphia, Penn.	
Charles Studin	New York City	
Miss Nora Holt	London, England	
(British Intelligence)		
Dr. Jean Sisley	Paris, France	
Camp Minisink Town House	New York City	
Dr. Godfrey Nurse	New York City	
Mr. Leland Stowe	Bronxville, New York	
Captain McDonald	New York City	
Mrs. H. Griffin	New York City	

Selma Hortense Burke

ERE	11/1	ERE	0
WCH		WCH	11/5

FELLOWSHIPS

Oct. 30th, 1946

DR. EDWIN R. EMBREE

4901 Ellis Avenue

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Embree in 1940 I received a Rosenwald Fellowship at Columbia University to study North American Materials for Sculpture, the grant was for one year and since that time I have consistently made progress with my art, some of the outstanding achievements, have been, the successful execution and placement of the plaque of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the Recorder of Deeds Building at Washington, DC. The plaque representing the 369th Regiment, commanded by the late Colonel William Haywood, the plaque is 9ft, x6ft and is placed in the US Armory at 5th Ave and 143rd St, NYC, Mrs. Roosevelt was the Guest Speaker and there were some 15000 people in the Streets of Harlem of which some five thousand, saw the unveiling.

It was a few weeks before that Mrs Roosevelt came to my studio and saw the plaque of her Husband before it was completed, and she later made a special trip to Washington to see the plaque in place.

The County Schools of Iredell County Statesville NC. Commissioned me to do a plaque of Mrs. Mary Holliday Supervisor of county schools was successfully placed in the foyer of the county's only high school. The Trustee Board of Bethune - Cookman College, had me do a Portrait bust of Dr. Bethune which was unveiled at the school last March. All of these works were cast in Bronze and separate news reels were made and shown in Theatres through out the country by the All American News Reel Service. The White Theatres that showed them were mostly in the South, two of my home Town Mooresville, NC. the exact number could be obtained from the News Service whose main office is 88 East 10th Street, New York City, Phone GR. 7-4276

Selma Hortense Burke

in Chicago.

This past summer I was Guest Sculptor at Yaddo, Saratoga Springs while there I picked from some of the wood a few peices and made a few carvings, they were so fine the Director Mrs Elizabeth Ames introduced me to one of the Trustees, Mr Luther a specialist on both European and American woods having had charge of the Black forest of Germany of this last war, became very interested in my project of suitable woods for sculpture not, only sent me a memo on them, but a truck arrived several days later with nine, five foot logs, You can imagine my delima knowing that I had only a few days more at Yaddo, . It was at this time I spoke with Mr. Horace Cayton who als o was a Guest and he suggested to me that I apply again for a Rosenwald. I should like nothing better than to carve these nine logs plus the two I am now working on, for a fine one man show, the subject matter being Biblical and social

Last year I had my first one man show which was received with some success, not many sales but, review by the Art critics most in-
thusiastically with the New York Times reproducing one of my peices
"The Wodow"

THE nine sculptures I should not want to keep, once they wereshown some college or school could have them as a source of insp-
iration to students .
There are many reason why I would like to carry out such an idea
first because it follows through on my first Fellowship and second,
it is original, and grew out of simplicity .

May I hear from you at your earliet conveience

I am Sincerely



Selma Burke

FELLOWSHIP

November 5, 1946

Dear Miss Burke: Mr. Embree has read and referred to me your letter of October 30, and I am sending you herewith a set of application blanks, which I hope you will fill out and return before the first of the year.

All of us here have followed your career with interest, and Mr. Cayton spoke to me of having seen you this summer at Yaddo.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:rfl
enc.

Miss Selma Hortense Burke
88 East 10th Street
New York, New York

FISK
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

a 1/10
M 1940
Dept 1941

Application and accompanying documents should be filed as early as possible for the convenience of the Fellowship Committee, preferably during the early autumn. No application can be considered by the Committee unless the completely filled-out blank and all of the materials requested reach the Director for Fellowships by January 1, 1947.

Negro White Southerner

Name in full..... Selma Hortense Burke

Present address..... 88 East 10th Street New York New York
City State

Permanent address..... 206 Burke Lane Mooresville North Carolina
City State

Present position (be specific)..... Director

Institution or organization..... School of Sculpture Annual salary..... \$600.

Address..... 67 West Third Street New York New York
City State

Specific Field..... Sculpture
Concise statement of plan of work..... To make an intensive study of North American Forest Woods particularly adaptable to sculpture;
To photograph and compile in bound form results of my research in Wood and Stone.

Dates of period for which grant is desired..... June 1st 1947---November 30th 1948

What is your estimate of the total duration of the proposed project?..... ~~Two Years~~

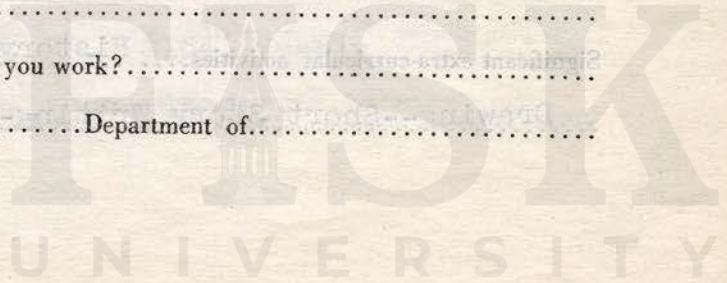
Will you return to your present position?..... Yes..... If not, for what position do you seek further training?.....

If you contemplate graduate study, please fill in the following:
THE SCHOOL OF SCULPTURE WITH ITS VISITING STAFF

What institution do you wish to attend?.....

Have you been admitted?..... For what degree will you work?.....

Under whose supervision?..... Department of.....



Personal History

Place of birth... Mooreville, North Carolina Date of birth... January 1st 1910

Single, married, widowed, divorced..... Single

Name and address of wife or husband.....

Occupation and salary of wife or husband.....

Number and ages of children.....

Dependents..... To what extent?..... Relationship.....

Have you any constitutional disorder or physical disability?..... No

(The Committee on Fellowships reserves the right to require a full physical examination.)

Draft status.....

Education

One official transcript of your college and university records together with five copies must be submitted with your application. (Copies may be typed by the applicant.)

	Name of Institution	Period of Study (Give dates)	Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates (Give dates)
College	<u>Slater State Normal High Winston Salem, N. C.</u>	<u>1918--1921 inclusive</u>	<u>Diploma</u>
University	<u>St. Agnes Hospital</u>	<u>1921--1924</u>	<u>Diploma</u>
Professional or technical	<u>Columbia University-N.Y. School of Art</u>	<u>1936--1941</u>	
Special study	<u>State Board Examination for Nursing-N.C.</u>		<u>Degree</u>
	<u>State Board Examination for Nursing-Penn.</u>		<u>Degree</u>

Significant extra-curricular activities..... History of Art--First and Second Year English

Drawing--Short Story Writing----Ballet Dancing



Experience

Give record chronologically.

Institution or Organization	Address	Position	Inclusive Dates	Annual Salary
W. P. A. Art Project	110 King St. N. Y.	Sculptor	1936-1937	1200.
W. P. A. Art Project	Harlem Art Center	Teacher	1937-1938	1000.
Private Instruction	29 East 28th St. N.Y.	Teacher	1938-1939	220.
U. S. Navy Motor Corp	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Motor Div.	1941-1943	2000.
Studio Workshop	88 East 10th St. N.Y.	Teaching	1943-1946	1200.
School of Sculpture	67 West 3rd St. N. Y.	Teacher	1945-1947	600.

Accomplishments

1. Of what learned, scientific, or artistic societies are you a member? Negro Business & Prof. Women's Club
 N. Y. -- International League for Peace and Freedom- Penn. Art Critic
 Friends of Democracy Youth Group--Chairman Art Committee Riverdale
 Children Assoc. - Chairman for Continuation Fund Bethune Cookman College

2. What research or creative work have you done? (If in business or a profession, give evidence of standing and achievements.)

Julius Rosenwald Fellow 1939-1940.- Commissioned to do Roosevelt Plaque
 completed 1945-Commissioned to do Plaque of Col. Hayward for 369th Reg.
 Reg. U. S. Armory N. Y. - Commissioned to do Portrait Bust of Dr. Mary
 McLeod Bethune by Trustee Board of Bethune Cookman College-Guest Sculptor
 Yaddo-New York. 1946

3. Publications (Books and articles. Give title, date, and publisher).....

4. List scholarships or fellowships you have previously held or now hold, stating in each case the places and periods of tenure, the studies pursued during your incumbency, and the amounts of the stipends.

Julius Rosenwald Fellowship - N. Y. 1939-1940 Columbia Univ. \$1400.
 Monitorship-Columbia Univ. 1938-1940 N. Y. \$164. Yearly
 Boehler Steel Works Scholarship--Vienna-1937 \$3000.

Budget Estimate

Room and board.....	\$35. per week	\$ 1820.....
Clothing		200.....
Insurance		
Tuition		
Transportation		200.....
Miscellaneous	Materials, Supplies	
	Incidentals	\$ 500.....
		\$2720.....
Total amount needed		\$2720.....
Amount applicant can provide		\$.....
Amount requested from Fund		\$ 2500.....

Clip (do not paste)
photograph here

If you have applied or expect to apply elsewhere for any fellowship for the same period (which is, of course, permissible) state the facts regarding such application.

References

List references from whom confidential information may be obtained concerning your professional qualifications and from whom expert opinion may be obtained as to the value and practicability of your proposed plan of work.

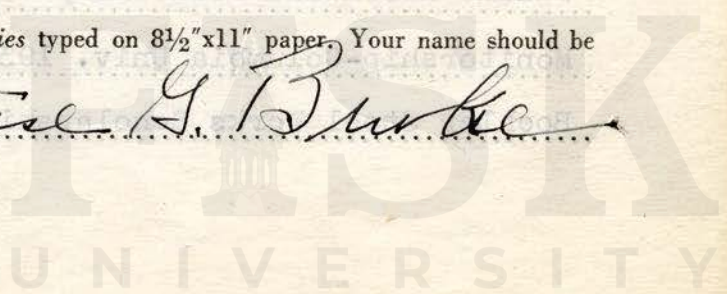
Name of Reference	Position	Address
✓ Mrs. Elizabeth Ames	Executive Director	Yaddo Corp., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
✓ Mr. Leland Stowe	Author, Commentator	Bronxville, New York
X ✓ Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune	Pres.	Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida
X ✓ Mr. Bernard Davis	Northwood Textile	163 E 33rd St. N. Y. C.
X ✓ Miss Sarah Newmeyer	Publicity Director	Museum Modern Art, N. Y. 11 West 53rd Street

Statement of Plan of Work

Submit a statement giving detailed plans for your work during the tenure of your fellowship. This statement should include: (1) a full description of the project, including its character, scope, and significance; (2) the present state of the project (time of commencement, progress to date, etc.) and expectation as to completion; (3) the proposed university, institution of similar grade, or other place where work would be carried on, and the authorities with whom it would be done; (4) your expectation as to publication or use of the results of your study; (5) subsequent plans for your career.

Your plan of work should be carefully prepared. Submit seven copies typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Your name should be on each sheet.

SIGNATURE *Selma Hortense G. Burke*





LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Selma Hortense Burke

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Bethune-Cookman College, Baytona Beach, Florida

Miss Burke has an exceptional talent and ability and it would be a wonderful investment by the Julius Rosenwald Fund to help her in developing the project she has outlined. She is a very deserving individual and one with great possibilities. I do not hesitate to recommend this young woman for the consideration she seeks at this time.

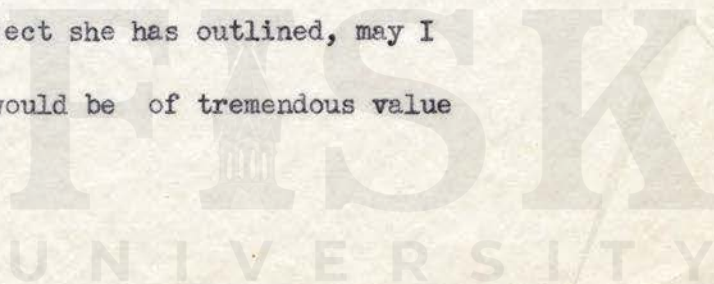
- - - - -

Miss Sarah Newmeyer, Director of Publicity, Museum of Modern Art, New York

I have known Miss Burke and her work for two or three years. I consider both the sculptor and the sculpture very superior. Miss Burke is not only an artist of considerable creative power with technical skill of execution, but has a remarkably keen analytical mind in regard to the fundamental phases of her art. She is perfectly equipped by nature, and experience and has keen observation and analysis to carry out the project she has submitted on the research and analysis of North American Woods as material for sculpture.

Two years ago I directed an exhibition of her work which was very well received by the New York critics. I should also like to state that in my opinion she has done absolutely the best sculptural likeness of the late President Roosevelt ever produced. You need only compare it with the sculpture portraits of the late President by other artists.

In addition Miss Burke's peculiar fitness for carrying to successful completion the project she has outlined, may I point out that when finished the project would be of tremendous value



to sculptors all over the country.

To sum up: Miss Burke's talent, her technical skill, her originality both creative and analytical, and especially her warm, vigorous and expansive personality make her an extremely suitable candidate for a Julius Rosenwald fellowship. If it is granted to her, I am sure her successful completion of the project done under it will bring added luster to the prestige already enjoyed by the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

- - - - -

Mr. Bernard Davis, President, Northwood Textile Mills, Philadelphia

Miss Selma Burke was introduced to me in the studio of Osip Eadkine as the foremost woman sculptress in the United States. This was about seven years ago.

I became interested in Miss Burke's work and purchased five sculptures from her. As I collect the work of the foremost painters and sculptors in the country and am a member of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, I wish to say that her work is of remarkable quality and shows great promise. I could write at length about Miss Burke's other achievements, such as the plaque from life of the late President Roosevelt, but these are of minor importance. What is most important is that talent such as Miss Burke's should be given every opportunity. What Marian Anderson is to singing, Miss Burke is to sculpture and I cannot recommend too strongly her qualifications and the potential of making a noteworthy impress in her field, which is sculpture, upon the culture of the United States.

- - - - -

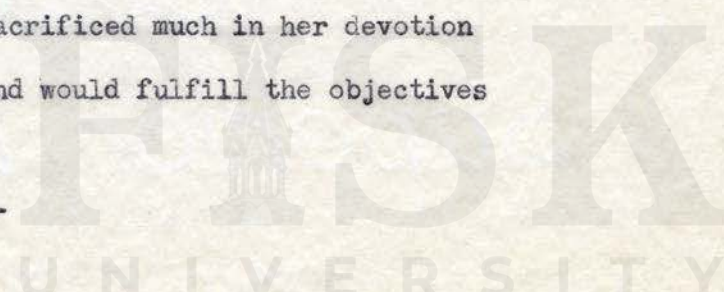


Mr. Leland Stowe, Author, Lecturer and Foreign Correspondent, New York

I have known Selma Burke and her work in sculpture over a period of eight years or more. I own one of her early wood carvings, a very beautifully executed head, which continues to arouse comment and admiration from visitors to our home. Miss Burke has since produced other striking works in wood. In fact, I am convinced that she has an exceptional and highly individual talent for wood carving. Unfortunately, her creativeness has always been greatly limited by the necessities of her daily existence - and she has always lived under difficult circumstances and in extreme modesty.

It is a rule of mine not to recommend anyone for any fellowship, in the arts or otherwise, except when I believed such a person combined unusual capacity with earnestness and serious application. Having watched Miss Burke's steady progress over a period of years I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that I regard her to be an artist definitely "worthy and deserving" of aid. Until now she has accomplished much, but she has never had an opportunity to devote all her time, without outside preoccupations, to her creative work. If she is able to devote a year or more to the project she has in mind, I feel certain that her results will be impressive and a contribution to wood carving in America, by Americans, with American wood.

I wish to emphasize again I regard Selma Burke's wood-carved sculpture as much beyond the ordinary and of real promise for sustained future development. I hope very much that she may be granted this opportunity. She has sacrificed much in her devotion to her art. In my opinion she merits and would fulfill the objectives of the Julius Rosenwald Fund awards.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ames, Executive Director, The Corporation of Yaddo
Saratoga Springs, New York

The fact that Miss Burke was invited to Yaddo for an extended stay is in itself a statement of the belief we have in her as an artist. We consider her abilities to be very great, and we feel that the outline she has submitted to you is based in her greatest potentialities. She is completely sincere and hard-working, setting always for herself the very highest standards and having always a proper humility about her achievements.

I sincerely hope that one of your grants will go to her.

- - - - -

Selma Hortense Burke

In order to bring your files up to date on my work may I submit places I have exhibited my sculptures and work permanently placed since 1940:

Mac Millen Galleries	New York City	1940
Mooreville Public Library	Mooreville, N. C.	1941
Downtown Gallery	New York City	1941
Pyramid Club	Philadelphia, Penn.	1942
Atlanta University	Atlanta, Georgia	1942-3
British Art Center	New York City	1942
New York University	New York City	1943
Free World House	New York City	1944
A. C. A. Gallery	New York City	1944
Greenwich House	New York City	1945
St. John's Church	New York City	1945
Baltimore Museum	Baltimore, Maryland	1945
Cleveland Museum of Art	Cleveland, Ohio	1945
Brooklyn Museum of Art	Brooklyn, New York	1945
Museum of Seattle	Seattle, Washington	1945
Museum of Rhode Island	Providence, Rhode Island	1945
Critics Show	New York City	1945
G. Place Gallery	Washington, D. C.	1944
St. George's Church	New York City	1945
Albany Institute	Albany, New York	1945
Vassar Club	New York City	1946
Hampton Institute	Hampton, Virginia	1946
Modern Age Art Gallery (First One Man Show)	New York City	1945
Permanently placed Drawing:		
Howard University	Washington, D. C.	
Permanently placed Sculpture:		
Atlanta University	Atlanta, Georgia	
Mooreville Public Library	Mooreville, N. C.	
Modern Age Art Gallery	New York City	
Recorder of Deeds Building (U. S. Gov't)	Washington, D. C.	
U. S. Armory	145th St. N. Y. C.	
Negro County High School	Statesville, N. C.	
N. Y. Public Library	136th St. Branch N. Y. C.	
Public School #39	New York City	
Public School #40	Jamaica, Long Island	
Bethune Cookman College	Daytona Beach, Florida	
Bernard Davis	Philadelphia, Penn.	
Charles Studin	New York City	
Miss Nora Holt (British Intelligence)	London, England	
Dr. Jean Sisley	Paris, France	
Camp Minisink Town House	New York City	
Dr. Godfrey Nurse	New York City	
Mr. Leland Stowe	Bronxville, New York	
Captain McDonald	New York City	
Mrs. H. Griffin	New York City	

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

March 4, 1947

a 3/6

Dear Mr. Haygood:

I am very sorry to have delayed sending the enclosed report on Selma Burke's application for Fellowship.

The ^{reason} ~~cause~~ for the delay has been the upheaval of my office caused by moving within the building.

I hope the enclosed will not be too late to be of value to you and to Miss Burke.

Sincerely,



Mr. William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago 15, Illinois

SN:bk

FISK
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

a 3/24

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selma Hortense Burke
Report Requested of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
President & Founder
College
Daytona Beach, Florida

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

Miss Burke has an exceptional talent and a bility and it would be a wonderful investment by the Julius Rosenwald Fund to help her in developing the project she has outlined. She is a very deserving individual and one with great possibilities. I do not hesitate to recommend this young woman for the consideration she seeks at this time.

Note: the delay in returning this blank is due to the fact that I have been out of the office most of the time and my secretary has been away for six months. I am sorry to have kept it so long.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
1901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Miss Katherine Burke
Report Requested of: Mr. Mary McLeod Bethune,
President & Founder,
College
Daytona Beach, Florida

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 the 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. Haysgood
Director for Fellowships

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.

Miss Burke has an exceptional talent and it would be a wonderful investment by the Julius Rosenwald Fund to help her in developing the project she has outlined. She is a very deserving individual and one with great possibilities. I do not hesitate to recommend

Signed..... Mary McLeod Bethune

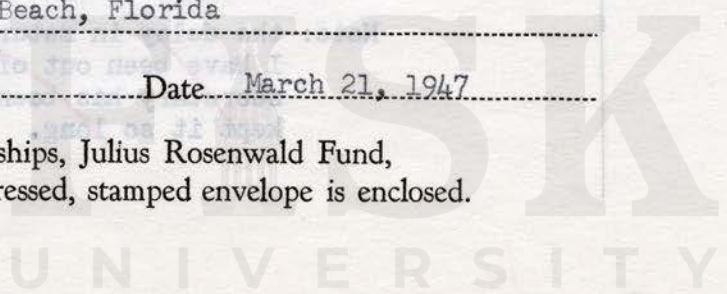
Position or Title..... President-Emeritus, Bethune-Cookman College

Address..... Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida

Date..... March 21, 1947

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

OVER



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

SECOND REQUEST

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE PROMPT RETURN OF THIS FORM AND ALSO THE MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY SENT YOU IN REGARD TO THIS CANDIDATE.

THANK YOU.

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selma Hortense Burke
Report Requested of Miss Sarah Newmeyer
Museum Modern Art
11 West 53rd St.
New York, N. Y.

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 Miss Burke and her work for two or three years. I consider both the sculptor and the sculpture very superior. Miss Burke is not only an artist of considerable creative power with technical skill of execution, but has a remarkably keen analytical mind in regard to the fundamental phases of her art. She is perfectly equipped by nature, and experience and has keen observation and analysis to carry out the project she has submitted on the research and analysis of North American Woods as material for sculpture.

Two years ago I directed an exhibition of her work which was very well received by the New York critics. I should also like to state that in my opinion she has done absolutely the best sculptural likeness of the late President Roosevelt ever produced. You need only compare it with the sculpture portraits of the late President by other artists.

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

In addition Miss Burke's peculiar fitness for carrying to successful completion the project she has outlined, may I point out that when finished the project would be of tremendous value to sculptors all over the country.

To sum up: Miss Burke's talent, her technical skill, her originality both creative and analytical, and especially her warm, vigorous and expansive personality make her an extremely suitable candidate for a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship. If it is granted to her, I am sure her successful completion of the project done under it will bring brilliant luster to the prestige already enjoyed by the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

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. Flaygood

William C. Flaygood
Director for Fellowships

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**

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Signed *Sacch B. Dewmeyer*

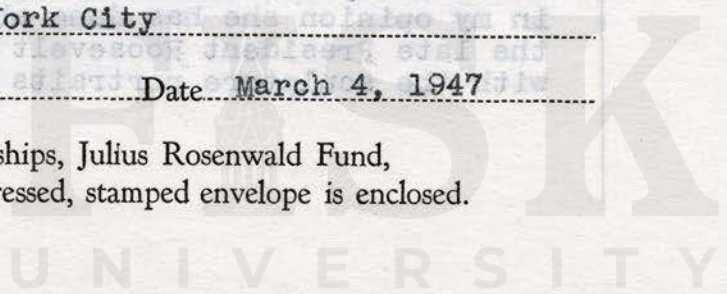
Position or Title Director of Publicity, Museum of Modern Art

Address 11 West 53 Street, New York City

Date March 4, 1947

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

OVER



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selmer Hortense Burke
Report Requested of Miss Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director
Museum Modern Art
11 West 53rd Street -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.

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William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

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OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

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

William C. Faywood

William C. Faywood
Director for Fellowships

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**

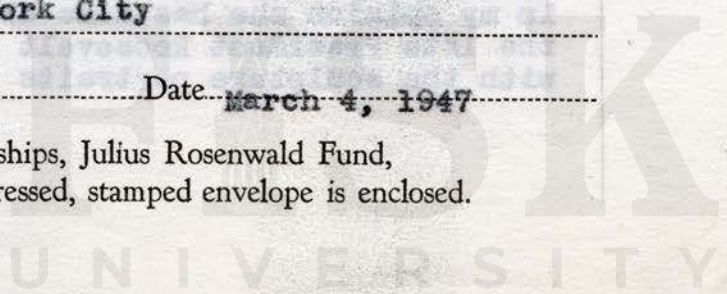
Signed *Sarah Brewster*

Position or Title **Director of Publicity, Museum of Modern Art**

Address **11 West 53 Street, New York City**

Date **March 4, 1947**

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



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

2/26

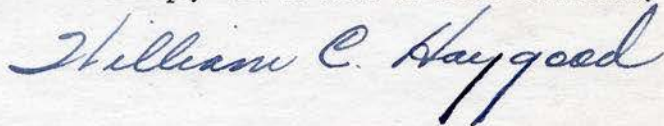
Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selmar Horgense Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Bernard Davis
Northwood Textile
163 East 33rd Street
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 Miss Selma Burke was introduced to me in the studio of Osip Eadkine as the foremost woman sculptress in the United States. This was about seven years ago.

I became interested in Miss Burke's work and purchased five sculptures from her. As I collect the work of the foremost painters and sculptors in the country and am a member of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, I wish to say that her work is of remarkable quality and shows great promise. I could write at length about Miss Burke's other achievements, such as the plaque from life of the late President Roosevelt, but these are of minor importance. What is most important is that talent such as Miss Burke's should be given every opportunity. What Marian Anderson is to singing, Miss Burke is to sculpture and I cannot recommend too strongly her qualifications and the potential of making a noteworthy impress in her field, which is sculpture, upon the culture of the United States.

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

OVER

UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate
Subject: Florence Burke
Report Requested of
Mr. Bernard Davis
Northwood Textile
163 East 34th Street
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. Hasgood

William C. Hasgood
Director for Fellowships

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?

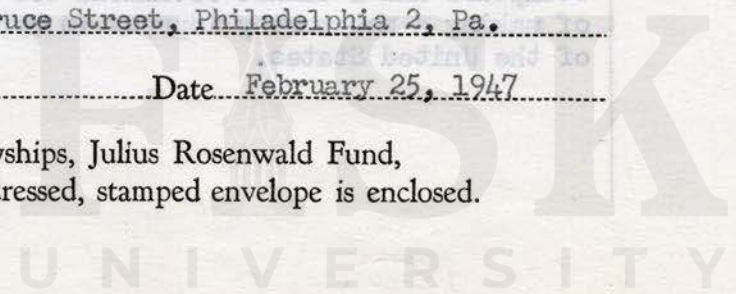
Signed *Bernard Davis*

Position or Title President, Northwood Textile Mills

Address Touraine Apartments, 1520 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

Date February 25, 1947

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



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

A/20

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selmar Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mrs. Elizabeth Ames
Executive Director
Yaddo Corporation - Saratoga
Springs, 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

William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

The fact that Miss Burke was invited to Yaddo for an extended stay is in itself a statement of the belief we have in her as an artist. We consider her abilities to be very great, and we feel that the outline she has submitted to you is based in her greatest potentialities. She is completely sincere and hard-working, setting always for herself the very highest standards and having always a proper humility about her achievements.

I sincerely hope that one of your grants will go to her.

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

OVER



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Selmer Horstman G. Burke
Report Requested of: Mrs. Elizabeth Ames
Executive Director
Yaddo Corporation - Saratoga
Saratoga, 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 the 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. Haysgood
Director for Fellowships

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?

She is free from any personality handicaps; on the other hand she is most richly endowed in ways that will help her on every level as an artist.

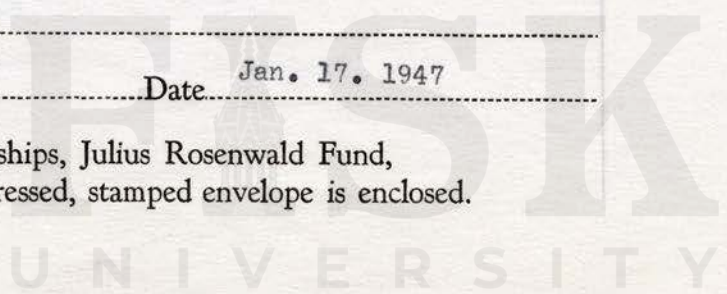
Signed *Elizabeth Ames*

Position or Title Executive Director, The Corporation of Yaddo
Saratoga Springs, New York

Address _____

Date Jan. 17. 1947

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



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Selmar Hortense G. Burke
Report Requested of Mr. Leland Stowe, Commentator
Bronxville,
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 Selma Burke and her work in sculpture over a period of eight years or more. I own one of her early wood carvings, a very beautifully executed head, which continues to arouse comment and admiration from visitors to our home. Miss Burke has since produced other striking works in wood. In fact, I am convinced that she has an exceptional and highly individual talent for wood carving. Unfortunately, her creativeness has always been greatly limited by the necessities of her daily existence--and she has always lived under difficult circumstances and in extreme modesty.

It is a rule of mine not to recommend anyone for any fellowship, in the arts or otherwise, except when I believed such a person combined unusual capacity with earnestness and serious application. Having watched Miss Burke's steady progress over a period of years I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that I regard her to be an artist definitely "worthy and deserving" of aid. Until now she has accomplished much, but she

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE

has never had an opportunity to devote all her time, without outside preoccupations, to her creative work. If she is able to devote a year or more to the project she has in mind, I feel certain that her results will be impressive and a contribution to wood carving in America, by Americans, with American wood.

I wish to emphasize again I regard Selma Burke's wood-carved sculpture as much beyond the ordinary and of real promise for sustained future development. I hope very much that she may be granted this opportunity. She has sacrificed much in her devotion to her art. In my opinion she merits and would fulfill the objectives of the Julius Rosenwald Fund awards.

Sincerely yours,

Leland Stowe.

William C. Hayward
Director for Fellowships

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 Leland Stowe

Position or Title Author, lecturer and foreign correspondent

Address 17. Beachmont Ave. Bronxville, New York.

Date _____

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

FELLOWSHIPS



Plaque. Selma Burke, well known sculptress, is shown with the plaque which she was commissioned to do, of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was unveiled in Washington September 24 by President Truman. It presents Roosevelt in bas-relief and Four Freedoms. It will hang in the lobby of the Recorder of Deeds

9/29/45