

BOTKIN, B. A.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Folk and the Individual: Their Creative Reciprocity" talk at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Buffalo, Nov. 1937, later published in *The English Journal*, Feb. 1938

Sonnet: "Carnival" in *Frontier and Midland*, summer, 1938.

"Regionalism and Culture" in *The Writer in a Changing World*.

*(4/4 1939) future  
see report for pub. of collection of essays. & less specific articles*

A Treasury of American Folklore, edited by B. A. Botkin. Crown Publishers,  
New York. May, 1944.

Lay My Burden Down, edited by B. A. Botkin. University of Chicago Press. 1945.

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

BOTKIN, B. A.

PUBLICATIONS

"Regionalism and Culture". Chapter in The Writer in a Changing World, edited by Henry Hart. Equinox Co-operative Press, N. Y., 1937

"The New Regionalism". Reprinted from the introduction to Folk-Say: A Regional Miscellany, 1929, in The American Mind: Selections from the Literature of the U. S. Edited by Harry R. Warfel, Ralph H. Gabriel, and Stanley T. Williams. American Book Company, New York, 1937.

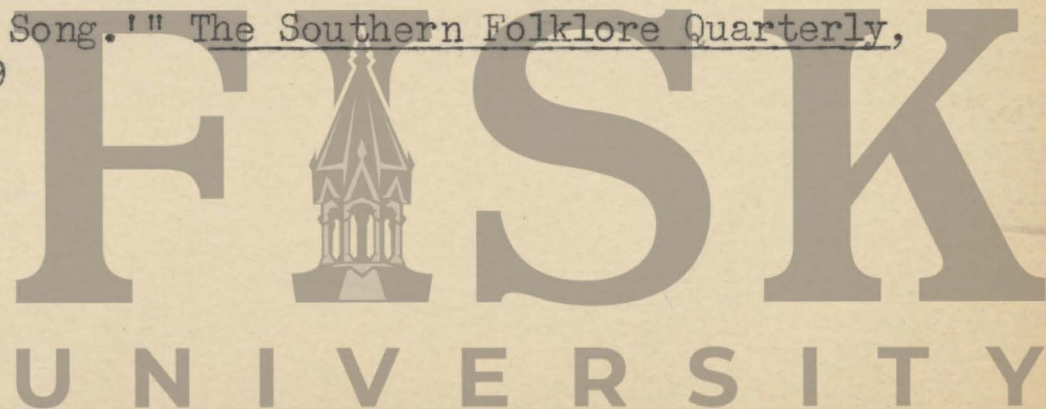
"Highway West". Poem. "Some Southwest Poets", The New Republic, Oct. 8, 1937

"The Folk and the Individual: Their Creative Reciprocity." The English Journal, February, 1938.

Special contributor to chapter on "Cultural Diversity", in The Problems of A Changing Population, National Resources Committee. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, 1938.

"Carnival." Poem. Frontier and Midland, Summer, 1938

"WPA and Folklore Research: 'Bread and Song.'" The Southern Folklore Quarterly, March, 1939



BOTKIN, B. A.

CAREER SINCE TENURE OF FELLOWSHIP

In May, 1938 (during fellowship) appointed folklore consultant (part-time) of the Federal Writers' Project, Washington.

Had leave from University of Oklahoma extended to permit him to serve as National folklore editor of the Federal Writers' project, with headquarters in Washington, serving until August 31, 1939.

Returned to University of Oklahoma, September, 1939, where he has been promoted to associate professor, without change of salary.

Since 1937 has served on the Creative Writing Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English. Fall of 1939 became chairman of the Washington Chapter of the League of American Writers. Chairman of craft session on American Folk Literature at Third National Writers' Congress of League of American Writers to be held in New York in June, 1939. For 12th consecutive year serving as president of Oklahoma Folklore Society. 9/30/39

---

In 1941 appointed one of the first of the new Associate Fellows of the Library of Congress.

Became Assistant-in-Charge of the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress, replacing Alan Lomax. 11/27/42



1945: Edited Lay My Burden Down, put out by University of Chicago Press.

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

Name Botkin, Benjamin Albert (1901) Negro   
 White Southerner

Position Assistant Professor of English, U of Oklahoma *w* Language and Literature  
 Special Field Folk and regional  
 Group movement in the South

College Harvard, 1920 A.B. magna cum laude

University Columbia, A.M. June, 1921; Ph. D. University of Nebraska, June, 1931

## Plan of Work:

A critical survey of the folk and regional movement in the South in its historical, functional, cultural, and aesthetic aspects, including under the head of "folk and regional movement" all expressions of cultural self-consciousness and self-criticism with roots in "place, work, and folk." No institutional connection; will travel, write, and do research in libraries.

## Action of Fellowship Committee:

Granted \$1,800 for one year



*Mae*

Year 1937  
Age 36

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

Name Benjamin Albert Botkin  
Address 138 Page Street, Norman, Oklahoma  
Position Asst. Prof. of English, University of Oklahoma

Negro   
White Southerner   
"in the folk + regional"  
Special Field Criticism  
Group movement in the south

Plan of Work  
A critical survey of the folk and regional movement in the South in its historical, functional, cultural, and aesthetic aspects, including under the head of "folk and regional movement" all expressions of cultural self-consciousness and self-criticism with roots in "place, work, and folk."

No place of study - seeks to travel, write, do research in libraries and archives

Digest of Application

Born 1901. Married. Harvard 1920 AB magna cum laude. Columbia AM. June, 1921 University of Nebraska PHD June 1931.  
Four undergraduate tuition scholarships at Harvard College. Two grad. scholarships (\$250 ea at Columbia. Faculty research grant (\$125) U. of Oklahoma \$125 (folk songs and tunes)  
Instructor in English U. of Oklahoma 1921-30 (on leave 1923-25, 1930-31) \$1600-\$2200 -9 mos.  
" " " U. of Nebraska 1930-31 \$1200 - 9 mos.  
" " " single terms - Eron Preparatory School (\$25 weekly), U. of Montana (\$250 term), New Mexico Normal, (\$500 term)

Doctoral Dissertation "The American Play-Party Song". Has contributed much to local and Applicant's References 3/1/37 Other References professional magazines

Lewis Mumford, writer, Amenia, New York  
Dr. Howard Odum, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Louis Untermeyer, writer, 21 Birchhead Place, Toledo, Ohio  
Dr. Rupert Vance, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Frank Lorimer, National Resources Committee, Washington, D.

Budget Summary

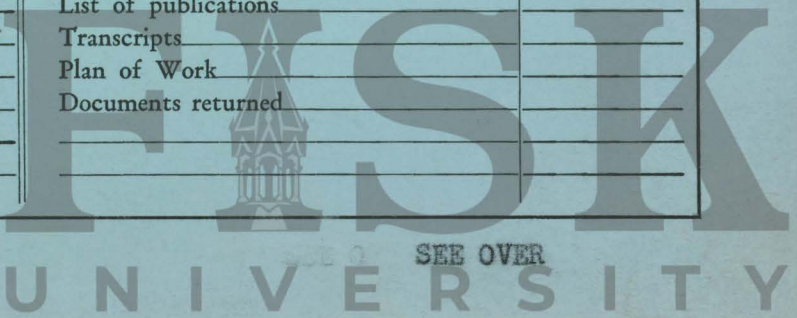
Total amount needed	\$2500
From applicant	1000
From Fund	\$1500
Granted	\$

Granted \$1800

*ok granted HLR*

PROCEDURE

Application received	3/1/37	Documents submitted:
acknowledged	3/1/37	
Previous		Photograph
Index Card		List of publications
Digest	✓	Transcripts
<u>BV 3/6</u>		Plan of Work
Submitted to Committee		Documents returned



SEE OVER

The Great American Wisecrack: A Study in Popular Speech and Humor (to be published by University of Oklahoma Press and already published in part in American Speech)

Cultural Diversity in American Literature - for a report on National Population Problems

Southern and Southwestern Folk and Folklore - published in part as Chapter 26 in Culture in the South, edited by Couch, U. of N. C. Press

In addition, Mr. Botkin has published many poems, critical essays, translations in Folk-Say, the Harp, New Masses, Journal of Negro Life, Opportunity, The Bookman, The New Republic, etc. (complete list in application.)

Mr. Botkin is a member of the following societies:

American Folklore Society  
National Committee on Folk Arts of the United States (expert consultant)  
American Folk Song Society  
National Folk Festival  
Oklahoma Folklore Society  
League of American Writers  
Western Writers' Congress

Permanent Address: University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

*Research in folk regions - 1/2*

**FISK**  
UNIVERSITY

Four undergraduate tuition scholarships at Harvard; two graduate scholarships at Columbia. Faculty research grant at University of Oklahoma.

**Fellowship record:** Primarily engaged at Library of Congress collecting material for study of folk and regional movement in the South. Also did research in general field of folk and regional trends in American literature and certain phases of American speech, dealing with popular, topical, and humorous invention and novelty. Beginning in May part-time arrangement between Fund and Federal Writers' project made it possible for Botkin to carry work into field.

Since expiration of fellowship has had leave from University of Oklahoma extended to permit him to serve as national folklore editor of the Federal Writers' project, with headquarters in Washington.

*References Department Music Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.*

**FISK**  
  
**UNIVERSITY**