

Fellowship
Comm.

March 11, 1946

Dear Dean Thompson: This is to let you know
that a hotel room has been
reserved for you at the Hotel Shoreland, 5454 South
Shore Drive for the nights of Saturday, March 23 and
March 24. If you will not use it for the 24th,
I know the hotel would like to know that fact
as soon as you do.

Very truly yours,

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Secretary to Mr. Eabree

Dean Charles H. Thompson
Graduate School
Howard University
Washington, D. C.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Fellowships
Comm.

March 8, 1946

Dear Dean Thompson: It is exceedingly good of you to serve on the Fund's Committee on Fellowships. A first batch of digests will reach you early this week. In total, about 150 applicants will need careful consideration by the committee. And from this group awards are likely to be made to somewhere between fifty and sixty people.

I am enclosing the brief announcement of the fellowships which is the official statement of conditions of consideration and award. Within the very general conditions stipulated, the committee tries to select those persons in the three categories who are most apt to be of distinguished service to the nation and seem likely to benefit most by the additional period of development which a fellowship would make possible. We do not attempt to define our conditions of award more precisely than that. Each member of the committee has his own standards of distinction, public service, and eligibility. On the whole, I think it is better for each one of us to follow his own trends, especially since the committee as a whole proves pretty successful in ironing out any personal idiosyncrasies or particular ideas.

With the digests will come lists of persons cataloged first as between Negroes, white Southerners, and race relations candidates -- and second, cataloged as to special subjects: sociology, physics, music, etc. Members of the committee have used different devices for recording and indexing their judgments. The device that has seemed to me simplest is to rate the candidates roughly on an A, B, C. basis with or without annotations in a notebook as to the special qualifications. In committee procedure, we find it pretty easy to agree on the top people and to eliminate the bottom group. Much of our time is spent in debating the relative merits of the B plus category.

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March 8, 1946

In general, if you can acquaint yourself in advance fairly thoroughly with the total group of candidates, the procedure of selection will be indicated readily at the committee meetings. The first of these meetings is the two-day period of Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24. We meet at the Fund office at ten o'clock Saturday morning and arrange the other sessions at our convenience. If you arrive on the Capitol Limited or other early morning train from Washington, that will put you in town in ample time for the sessions. If necessary, I think you can get out on the afternoon train of Sunday. I will leave train reservations entirely to you, it being understood of course that we expect to meet all of your expenses in connection with the fellowship work. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, we will reserve a room for you for Saturday with an option for additional nights if you decide to stay over. While the hotel situation is as bad in Chicago as in other cities, I am sure we can get a room at some place that will be comfortable and convenient.

Again accept our thanks for your service and our anticipation of meeting with you a couple of weeks hence.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:SO
Enc.

Dean Charles H. Thompson
Graduate School
Howard University
Washington, D. C.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

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March 23 &
24 mts

Fellowship Com.

March 12, 1946

Dear Mr. Thompson: I am sending you today the first and largest installment of the fellowship applications. You will find them arranged by fields, and a master list to facilitate location and filing.

In the fields of painting, music, photography, and creative writing, we have independent outside juries who do the main job of comparison for us, and the Committee generally takes as many of their first choices as there are funds for grants. Therefore, you won't have much to do on these applications, and they are being sent mainly so that you can get a complete view of the total number and quality of applicants.

There will be another batch of about thirty more applications, which will be forthcoming by the end of this week or the first of next.

We are all very happy that you are going to be on the Fellowship Committee, and I am personally looking forward to seeing you again after the lapse of years. I have been back on the job a month and am still occasionally bogged down by the complexities of civilian life.

If you have any questions please write.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:RFL
encl.

Dean Charles H. Thompson
Graduate School, Howard University
Washington 1, D. C.

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Fellowship
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AIRMAIL

March 12, 1946

Dear Mr. Still: It is a pleasure to be resuming our correspondence which was interrupted by my three years in the Army.

The jurying season is upon us again, and I am hopeful that you will be able to serve as musical composition judge again this year. Only two men are applying in this field, Mark Fax and Frank Fields. As yet, I do not have manuscripts from them, and will hold off all arrangements until I hear from you.

All of us hope that you can find the time to help us out again this year.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:RFL

Mr. William Grant Still
3670 Cimarron Street
Los Angeles 7, California

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