

Name **Melvin Beaunorus Tolson** Field: **Creative Writing**  
**Professor of Creative Literature, Langston University, Oklahoma**

Plan of Work **For the two-year period of the fellowship, I should like to do the followings: (1) complete a novel dealing with the odyssey of a Pullman porter; (2) revise an epic on Harlem; (3) and begin work on a tetralogy covering four generations of Negroes in Africa and the New World.**

**Requests grant for two years from date of award.**

Personal Data **Born Hoberly, Missouri, February 1902** Age: **46**  
**Married, five dependents** Draft Status:

Undergraduate Work **Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, A.B., 1923**

Graduate Work **Columbia University, A.M., 1933**

#### Accomplishments

#### Experience:

League of American Writers; seven times vice-president of the Southern Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts; managing editor of The Oracle. "The Harlem Renaissance", research project, Columbia University; "Rendezvous with America", book of poems, Dodd, Mead & Co.; "Libretto for Liberia", as poet laureate for Liberian Centennial; contributor to the Atlantic Monthly, Common Ground, Phylon, New York Herald-Tribune, the Arts Quarterly, Sonnets, Crown Anthology, Current History, The Negro Caravan, etc.; At Pennsylvania university, edited the Lincolonian, became class poet, won such prizes as the Elizabeth Train, Obdyke, Randall, Parnley and Delta Rho in English and debate. At Wiley College in 1923 coached teams for the first interracial debates in the South and on the Pacific coast. His debaters were national champions for ten years. Appointed by Governor Allred as a representative to the San Diego International Exposition in 1935; author of two full-length plays: Southern Front and The Mosses of Beale Street; founder of the Log Cabin Theatre; columnist for the Washington Tribune; member of the National Honor Roll in Race Relations, of the Schomburg Collection of N. Y. Public Library. 4-year Scholarship to Lincoln University, 1919-23; Omega Scholarship in Creative Literature, 1939, \$500; Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to Columbia, 1932, \$1500.

#### Accomplishments:

#### Scholarships

#### References:

#### References

Harry Hansen, New York World-Telegram  
 P. L. Prattis, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Mary Lou Chamberlain, Harvard, Mass.

#### Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed  
 From Applicant  
 From Fund

AMOUNT GRANTED

Sent to Committee

