

COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL FELLOWS

Personal Appraisals by Edwin R. Embree

1900?

I am giving my personal appraisals of a number of the Fellows appointed under our present program. These opinions probably would not be shared by other members of the Fellowship Committee. I am risking the disapproval of my colleagues simply to give the Trustees something more lively and personal than the factual statements that appear in the official records. My comments may at least set a "base for disagreement".

NEGRO FELLOWSThose whose achievements seem to me most clearly established

Allison Davis, anthropology
 Langston Hughes, creative writing
 Arna Bontemps, " "
 James E. LuValle, chemistry
 William H. Dean, economics
 Abram L. Harris, "
 Jacob L. Reddix, "
 Giles A. Hubert, "
 Thomas N. Roberts "
 Lorenzo D. Turner, language and literature
 William Grant Still, fine arts - music
 Ira DeA. Reid, sociology

Those who seem to me mediocre or worse

J. G. St. Clair Drake, anthropology
 Frank Marshall Davis, creative writing
 Guichard B. Parris, history
 Emilio A. Lanier, language and literature
 Reed E. Peggram, " " "
 Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., political science
 Mary Morton, psychology

Brilliant youngsters about whom it is too early to make final judgements

Herman R. Branson, biology
 Mahlon Clifton Rhaney, "
 Charles T. Davis, language and literature
 Margaret J. Wormley, " " "
 (daughter of E. E. Just)
 David H. Blackwell, mathematics
 Jeremiah Certaine, "
 Cornelius L. Golightly, philosophy and religion

Not brilliant, but solid plodders

Walter M. Booker, biology
 Thomas H. Bembry, chemistry
 Ulysses S. Brooks, "
 John Hope II, economics
 H. C. Trenholm, education

"Shots in the dark" is still about all that can be said of such appointments as Clyde Winkfield, the pianist, and the painters Charles Alston and Jacob Lawrence. The art jury, which is made available to us by the Guggenheim Foundation, believe these young painters have great promise, but such early hopes are often disappointed. In the case of Winkfield, the question is whether a fellowship is justified to a mere performer, however good. Musical composition, such as that of William Grant Still, is clearly creative. Performance is a much more routine matter, and its ultimate development is much harder to judge. However, we have taken such satisfaction in the success of Miss Marian Anderson that we are still willing to consider singers or players when their qualifications seem far above the ordinary.

F. S. Belcher, Jr., Anna M. Cooke, and Shirley Graham were all at the Yale School of Drama at the same time, made excellent records in their work, and seemed to make equally fine impressions on the Yale community, which is very conservative in its racial attitudes.

W. Schieffelin Claytor still represents a problem. He is unquestionably one of the most brilliant on our lists, but his mathematical talents are too specialized to fit any openings that have yet appeared.

Of the 232 Fellows, only two have died, both Negroes:
 Dewey Jones and David W. Cannon.

WHITE FELLOWSThose whose achievements seem to me most clearly established

James G. Maddox, economics
 Walter E. Sewell, education
 Herschel Brickell, history
 C. Vann Woodward, "
 Ralph E. McGill, journalism
 James S. Pope, "
 Robert P. Walton, biology
 Tom Lea, fine arts - painting
 H. C. Brearley, sociology
 T. Lynn Smith, "

Those who seem to me mediocre or worse

L. Paris Brown, sociology
 Ellene Ransom, language and literature
 Robert M. Hodges, journalism
 Gould Beech, " *UWA - says his &*
 Chess Abernathy, "

Brilliant youngsters

Edward A. McLellan, education
 Wilton Paul Ledet, history
 J. Carlyle Sitterson, "
 James W. Rabun, "
 Paul Foreman, sociology
 John W. Kendrick, economics

Not brilliant, but solid plodders

Ina Corinne Brown, anthropology
 James H. Easterby, history
 Mayor D. Mobley, education
 Goodrich C. White, "
 Hope Tisdale, sociology

Interesting and unusual appointments

Lillian E. Smith and Paula Snelling, editors of the North Georgia Review, who applied for a joint fellowship to study and visit institutions in order to continue more efficiently their brilliant review and critique of southern life and letters.

Tarleton Collier, a man older than we usually consider, an important labor leader in the South for many years, who has just completed an interesting study of southern life in fiction called "Fire in the Sky".

John M. Lyle, our one attempt to help in the development of a business man. Not an entirely successful effort. He has not been able to make the visits he desired to British financial institutions, and it is not clear what further study or experience will be helpful.

The Reverend Wiley C. Newman, who represents an attempt to cultivate a "practising preacher". This has not worked out yet since Mr. Newman has not felt it opportune to leave his parish.

Tennyson Saugée, a brilliant young Indian who, for lack of a better category, is listed under "white Southerners".

Edwin A. Davis and William R. Hogan, scholars and archivists of Louisiana, who were given a joint fellowship to enable them to edit and publish a monumental historical work, the diary of a free Negro of Natchez, Mississippi.

May Justus, a rural teacher who sticks to her two-room school and who on our fellowship brought out three books for young children and is now completing a full-length novel.

Albert E. Carter, who has been given a thorough acquaintance with Latin America. He will doubtless continue for many years to interpret that area to the American South through his newspaper connections. A report on his study, under the title "Battlefield South", is under publication by Bobbs-Merrill.

Harmon Caldwell and Rufus Harris, who were chosen because of their potential influence as presidents of important southern universities. Neither has yet been able to leave his busy post long enough to study or travel. If we are to help in the development of college presidents, we'll probably have to catch them before they get on the job.

In at least two pairs of cases there has been interesting inter-racial cooperation between our Fellows. Lewis Copeland and Harry J. Walker made a joint study of the community of Durham, North Carolina, and following his fellowship Copeland, a white man, has become assistant professor of sociology at Fisk University. Robert P. Walton and Thomas H. Bembry have worked together and published papers together on chemical problems involved in marihuana.

In one of the Fellowship Committee meetings a question arose as to the proportion of grants we are making to women. "I can tell you without looking up the records", said Henry Moe, "fourteen per cent of the

grants will be found to be going to women. That's the way it always turns out". Our grants during this five-year period have included 25 Negro women and 13 white women. These 38 women are 16 per cent of the 232 total Fellows, just two per cent above Henry Moe's "norm".

There is an interesting "matrimonial correlation" among our Negro awards. Five of the feminine Fellows are wives of Fellows. On the other hand, no white Fellow is married to any one on our lists. In fact, only one of the thirteen white women Fellows (Mrs. Hagood) has ever been married, and she is divorced.