

173  
1937

Name Cook, Will Mercer  
244 Chestnut Street, Atlanta

(1903) Negro   
White Southerner

Position Chairman of Department, and  
Professor of French, Atlanta University

Language and Literature  
Special Field Modern Languages  
Group French

College Amherst College, A. B., 1925.

University Brown University, 1930-31 M. A. University of Paris, 1925-26, 1934-35.  
Ph. D. from Brown, June, 1936.

Plan of Work:

To continue my study of the Negro in French literature in Paris, Nantes, Martinique and Guadeloupe. To try to arrange teacher and student exchanges between the Negroes of these two colonies and American Negro colleges. Wish to study at the University of Paris for one year. (Sorbonne)

Action of Fellowship Committee:

Granted \$2,000 for one year at University of Paris.



Simpson Fellowship, Amherst College to University of Paris, \$1800. University Junior Fellow, Brown University, \$1,000. Rosenwald Fund grant of \$300 1931. General Education Board, for study in Paris, approximately \$1,000.

---

Sailed for Paris in February of 1938. Enrolled for second semester at Sorbonne. Did series of articles at request of M. Gide on the American for VENDREDI. Left France in July for French West Indies. Preparing manuscript for volume of essays on important Negro Frenchmen, 18, 19, and 20 centuries.

1945: Supervisor, English Teaching Project, U. S. Embassy, Port<sup>t</sup>-au-Prince, Haiti.

FISK  
  
UNIVERSITY

COOK, WILL MERCER

PROFESSIONAL CAREER SINCE FELLOWSHIP

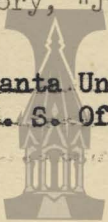
9/21/39 Mr. Cook returned to his post at Atlanta University on completing his foreign study. Continues his book reviewing and the writing of articles for magazines. Progress on his book, "French Negro Authors," is slow owing to heavy teaching duties. As the result of his stay in Paris in 1937-38, Atlanta University had its first French Negro exchange student in 1938-39.

8/9/40 Appointed by the State Department as exchange professor to Latin-American republics. (Atlanta University Bulletin, July, 1940)

9/24/40 Is president of the Atlanta University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; on editorial board of Phylon and the Journal of Negro History.

10/28/41 Article in Journal of Negro History, "Julien Raimond", awarded \$100 prize.

10/26/43 Year's leave of absence from Atlanta University to supervise English teaching project in Haiti, sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education and the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

  
FISK  
UNIVERSITY

COOK, WILL MERCER

PUBLICATIONS

"Would You Like a French Island?" December, 1939, The Crisis.

"Guadeloupe Loses Its First Negro Governor" Opportunity, April, 1939

"Longfellow for the French Class", French Review, December, 1939 pp.135-140

"The Life and Writings of Louis T. Houat", Journal of Negro History, April, 1939

"The Literary Contribution of the French West Indian Negro", Journal of Negro  
History, October, 1940, pp. 520-530

"Race Problem in Paris and the French West Indies". Journal of Negro Education,  
October, 1939.

"Julien Raimond", The Journal of Negro History, Vol. XXVI, April, 1941. No. 2

"Auguste Lacaussade", Phylon, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1941.

Five French Negro Authors, Associated Publishers, 1943.



19390

WILL MERCER COOK

36

Professor of French, Atlanta University

French language and literature

Interesting project: to write a book  
in French on sociology of the Negro.

But I think we have done  
enough for this man

He is already a bit arrogant  
and there is a project - not a  
fellowship - my sense of the word

No

*Amherst fund*  
*Mrs*

X  
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

(34)

Name Will Mercer Cook  
Address 244 Chestnut St., Atlanta, Georgia  
Position Professor of French, Atlanta Univ. \$3600

Negro   
White Southerner

Plan of Work

Special Field French  
Group

To continue my study of the Negro in French literature in Paris, Nantes, Martinique and Guadeloupe. To try to arrange teacher and student exchanges between the Negroes of these two colonies and American Negro colleges.

Place of study: University of Paris (1 year), assurance of admittance.

Continue in same position.

Digest of Application

Born 1903. Married, 1 child. Amherst College, 1920-1925, AB. Brown University, 1930-1931, MA. University of Paris, 1925-26, 1934-35. Phi Beta Kappa.

*Ph.D. at Brown*

Simpson Fellowship, Amherst College to Univ. of Paris, \$1800. Univ. Junior Fellow, Brown Univ., \$1000. Rosenwald Fund, \$300. General Education Board, for study at Paris, approximately \$1000.

A & T College, Greensboro, N. C., French teacher, \$1800. Howard University, French teacher, \$1900 to \$2900. Atlanta University, same, \$3600.

PhD thesis, "French Travellers in the U. S., 1840-1870."

Over

Applicant's References 2/25/37

Other References

Prof. Horatio Smith, Columbia University, New York City  
President Mordecai Johnson, Howard University, Washington, D. C.  
Miss Florence Read, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia  
Prof. Geoffrey Atkinson, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

Budget Summary

Action of Committee

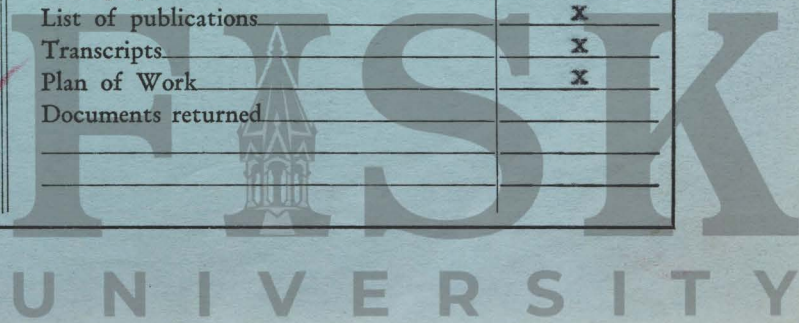
*Granted \$3000 4/12/37*

Total amount needed \$ 2450  
From applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
From Fund \$ 2450

PROCEDURE

Granted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Application received	2/25/37	Documents submitted:	
acknowledged	2/25/37	Photograph	X
Previous		List of publications	X
Index Card		Transcripts	X
Digest	<i>✓</i>	Plan of Work	X
Submitted to Committee	<i>✓</i>	Documents returned	



Permanent address: 1402 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland

Publications: Le Noir, American Book Co., 1934. Articles and book reviews in Opportunity, The Crisis and Journal of Negro History.

*Leave for Martinique July 10 - 1938*

**FISK**  
  
**UNIVERSITY**