

FELLOWSHIPS

Belcher, Fannin

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45 Dickerman Street
New Haven, Connecticut
October 7, 1939

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Mr. George Reynolds
Director for Fellowships
Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

In accordance with your request, I am enclosing a brief report of my progress since receiving the renewal of my Fellowship. I hope it will meet with your approval.

From all indications, the work this year is going to be even more interesting and enlightening than last year's. If only time would pause a moment in its flight!

Best of good wishes to you and grateful appreciation for your continued interest and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Fannin S. Belcher

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A SHORT REPORT OF MY PROGRESS

One year's work at the Drama School of Yale University has been completed with honor. No incompletes, no failures, and good grades in all subjects! Numbered among the highlights are three items: 1) Mr. Nicoll's (Director of the Drama School) approval of and active interest in my exhaustive study, "The Negro: His Theatre and His Critics". I understand now that my work in this field was mentioned to one of the Foundations which was planning a similar project. 2) The inclusion of one of my plays on the list from which student productions for this year will be chosen. 3) The success of the fourth session of the West Virginia State College Summer Theatre. Although this was outside the year of study, the contributions which the year had made could be noticed.

On the basis of the grades for the first year and by recommendation of the faculty, I have been accepted into the Yale Graduate School as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Dramatic History and Criticism. There is a faint possibility (the minimum requirement is usually three years) that the degree might be conferred upon me this June. In fact the possibility is so faint as a result of the curricula arrangement, I can but work and hope.

Since the subject of the book upon which I am still working has now been accepted as my dissertation topic, publication plans are very indefinite. Enlargement of the prospectus has opened new fields of investigation. In addition, final decisions have been restricted by the detention of Mr. Nicoll in England. Recent magazine articles published, however, include "Negro Musical Shows, Quo

Vadis" in the fall issue of the Arts Quarterly; "Our Negro Drama" in the October issue of the Opportunity Magazine. In preparation, by request, are "The Drama Critics", "Negro Versions of the Classics" and "The War Theme in American Fiction". The Columbia Workshop has been sent a radio play and the Cleveland Players hold a play script.

Of the school year just beginning, I can write little other than that my work is much more advanced and is composed of Drama and Graduate courses. At the present moment I am also kept busy tabulating the responses to the questionnaire I sent to the two hundred accredited Negro high schools in connection with a phase of my study on "Drama in the Curricula".

The second year of my Rosenwald Fellowship promises to be an enriching one. I shall try to make the most of it.