

6/43

MEMORANDUM TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

As is to be expected, the war's effects are more evident in the Fellowship program than in any other area of the Fund's activities. Since the current group of applications, both in their quantity and quality, probably foreshadow the future of the program, I am presenting this memorandum for the Committee's information. I am also including notes on the course of the fellowship program since the last meeting at Hampton Institute in April, 1942.

Current Applications

It is only natural that the number and calibre of applicants are inferior to other years. Only 250 applications were received this year, as against 406 in 1942 - a decline of 70 per cent over the number received in 1937, the first year of the program. There is a marked decline in the number of white southern applications, an increase in the proportion of women applicants ( from about 28 per cent to 50 per cent), and a rise in the average age of applicants from about 28 last year to 34 at present.

In spite of the lessening of the general quality, applicants in several fields are unusually strong this year. In religion, for the first time, we have a really distinguished group of men for consideration. The Art Jury regards both the white and Negro painters as exceptional. And the white creative writers, as was true of last year, are composed of



younger writers of talent and social promise. Sociology has taken a slump, and the Committee will doubtless be gratified by the fewer applications in education.

Although the number of digests presented to the Committee is smaller (157) than formerly, the proportion of digested applications to the total number received is higher. Several considerations made the director lean toward lavishness this year.

1. The decline in quality and quantity made it seem wise to present the Committee with a fuller panorama for making comparisons.

2. The military and civilian man and woman power drafts will obviously make it impossible for many awards to be taken up. The Committee may want to draw up a list of alternate awards, as was done last year, in the case of the scholarship aid grants, to care for this contingency.

3. Some cases which are obviously not fellowship material are presented as matters of general interest - unusual occupations, odd fields of interest, etc. Unless an application is digested it is not retained in the Fund's files, and since these files are used to answer employment requests, and in a variety of other ways, there is an advantage in adding to them people we may want to follow in other contexts.

4. At a rump meeting of the Committee in Philadelphia last July (Drs. Alexander and Johnson, Mr. Embree and the director present), it was decided that, in view of the inevitable shrinkage in the number of applications, the Committee should consider the advisability of appointing on a grant-in-aid basis, older persons who would not normally qualify for fellowships but for whom a year's subsidy might mean the differ-

ence between stagnation or being brought back into the main stream of creative endeavor. No publicity was envisaged in connection with such awards. It was also suggested that with the Fund's widening interest in race relations that likely candidates in this field, regardless of age, color, or sectional identification might be considered by the Committee. Several such applications are to be found in the current roster of candidates.

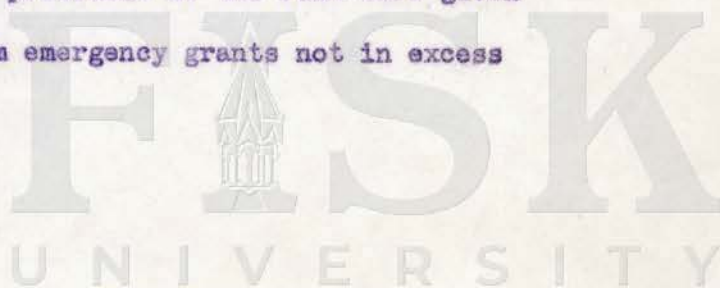
#### Scholarship Aid Candidates

Thirteen white candidates from 8 southern schools, and 51 Negro candidates from 21 schools have made application. The list is largely feminine, and it is doubtful if any of the young men, unless seriously maimed, could accept grants, even if appointed. Some new schools were added to the program this year, and a good many schools, notably in the white group, withdrew for lack of candidates. All of these have been invited to remain in the program and to submit candidates when it becomes possible. The quality of these college senior applicants is higher each year. This year's group of white girls is markedly superior to those of 1942.

As they did last year, Lillian Smith and Paula Snelling are attempting to visit as many campuses as possible in order to get personal interviews, and Miss Smith will meet with the Committee in April to make recommendations.

#### Extensions Made Since Last Meeting

The director for Fellowships and the president of the Fund were given authority by the Committee to make interim emergency grants not in excess



of \$300 to current and past Fellows. In September, 1942 the Committee voted to raise this figure to \$600. Requests above this amount are brought to the full Committee for consideration.

Negro

Walter Booker	\$ 75.00
Gordon Parks	300.00
Edmonia White Grant	200.00
Clinton Oliver	600.00
Samuel Westerfield (2 extensions)	800.00
Shirley Graham	300.00
Arna Bontemps	300.00
Lorenzo Turner	500.00
	<u>\$3075.00</u>

White

Edward C. Solomon	\$200.00
Ralph McGill	300.00
Otto Holloway	300.00
James E. Montgomery	600.00
Ellen Hull Neff	300.00
	<u>\$1700.00</u>

Total

\$4775.00

Fellows in the Armed Forces

Fellows who were well into their fellowship year, and whose work has been interrupted by armed service, have been notified that the unexpended balance in their fellowship will be held for them until after the war. Twelve white and three Negroes now have amounts totaling \$14,022.50.

The majority of these men are in the army. Tom Lea is a war correspondent-painter for Time and Life. John Faulk, who has made several crossings to England and Russia with the Merchant Marine, is to serve overseas with the Red Cross.

A complete list of these Fellows is given below, together with the amounts owing them:

Negro

Charles T. Davis	\$ 620	
James Walter Fisher	600	
Frederick D. Jenkins	<u>618</u>	\$ 1838.00

White

Frederick S. Barkalow, Jr.	\$1400	
John H. Faulk	1350	
Tom Lea	750	
John W. Lipscomb	125	
John N. Lyle	1350	
Raymond R. MacCurdy, Jr.	725	
Edward A. McLellan	1170	
Jesse W. Markham	300	
James K. Owen	1400	
Henry A. Page, Jr.	1020	
James W. Rabun	810	
LeRoy W. Watson, Jr.	<u>1784.50</u>	<u>\$12,184.50</u>
		<u>\$14,022.50</u>

In addition to fellowships being held for military reasons, an additional sum of \$14,432.00 is being kept in reserve for Fellows who have had to suspend fellowship work for other reasons. The majority of these Fellows are in civilian positions directly related to the war effort.

These persons and the amounts owing are:

Negro

Ada Bough Anderson (Scholarship Aid)	\$ 355 (plus tuition)	
L. Howard Bennett	507	
Charles W. Buggs	1575	
Lyonel C. Florant	1600	
Cornelius L. Golightly	300	
Robert Lloyd	1500	
Thomas N. Roberts	1875	
Mark Hanna Watkins	2600	
J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.	<u>850</u>	\$11,162.00

White

Alfred B. Bonds, Jr.	\$1350	
Herschel Brickell	1020	
Raven I. McDavid, Jr.	450	
Dan Rutledge Vining	<u>450</u>	\$ 3,270.00

\$14,432.00

Fellowship Cancellations

The Committee will remember that the director was instructed to stipulate in his letter of award that should the appointee be called into the armed forces before taking up his fellowship the grant would automatically lapse. Three such cancellations occurred, Owen Dodson, William Alexander Mitchell and Herman Spivey. Likewise, all or part of three scholarship aid grants were returned by three white southern boys who entered the army.

In addition, a successful effort was made to get men who had been granted fellowships a number of years ago and who had never taken them up, to clarify their intentions or to relinquish the funds being held in their names.

The list of cancelled fellowships and scholarship aid grants returned sums is as follows:

Fellowships

<u>Negro</u>		<u>White</u>	
Owen Dodson	\$1650	Rufus C. Harris	\$2000
Ulysses Lee	900	Ellis Hartford	150
Hugh Smythe	500	W. A. Mitchell	1500
Clarence F. Stephens	1000	Mayor D. Mobley	2000
Myron B. Townes	<u>750</u>	M. E. Thompson	500
		Leon Sensabaugh	10
		Herman Spivey	<u>2000</u>
	<u>\$4800</u>		<u>\$8160</u>

Scholarship Aid

Alvin B. Jones	\$400(Plus Tuition)	Louis Kassouf (Paid Tuition for 2 quarters)	\$ 85
		Paul Manners (Plus Tuition)	400
		Marion Rice (Paid Tuition for 2 quarters)	265
	<u>\$400</u>		<u>\$750</u>

Funds Available for Allocation

The following funds are available to the Fellowship Committee for allocation in 1943-44:

Appropriation approved by the Trustees, April, 1942	\$75,000.00
Unallocated balance of previous year's appropriation	\$10,440.20
Total funds available to Committee for allocation	\$85,440.20

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Haygood