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Univ North Carolina  
Drama

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPEL HILL

THE CAROLINA PLAYMAKERS  
FREDERICK H. KOCH, DIRECTOR

R7 Files  
December 12, 1933

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Dear Mr. Marshall:

I don't like to trouble you further, but I feel impelled at this time to remind you of our urgent need for assistance in carrying on the important extension activities in drama throughout the state, although you have not asked for specific information concerning it.

These extension activities in community drama were initiated when the work of The Carolina Playmakers was begun at Chapel Hill sixteen years ago. At that time, according to Barrett Clark, North Carolina was a "dead" state in its dramatic interest. Today there is acting and playwriting everywhere in North Carolina. At the Tenth Annual Dramatic Festival and Tournament of the state-wide Carolina Dramatic Association last spring, one hundred and forty (140) visiting actors presented thirty-eight (38) plays (ten (10) of them original) in The Playmakers Theatre. This in spite of the great depression!

This remarkable development represents the cumulation of the work of the Bureau of Community Drama, which was done largely by a full-time Field Director over a period of years. The office of Field Director was discontinued when the University budget was so drastically slashed two years ago. Since that time as much of this work as was possible has been carried on by voluntary assistance under great strain. President Graham assures us that he will restore the office just as soon as the University funds will permit. In the meantime, however, the work is terribly crippled. We have tried to carry it on as best we could under the circumstances, but at the present moment we fear we may lose the ground which has taken years of effort to gain.

We wish very much that you might restore to us over this difficult period the office of Field Director of the Bureau of Community Drama. It would be difficult to find the right person for this position for the remainder of the year, but if you could grant us an office secretary for the balance of this calendar year and a full-time Field Director for the academic year September, 1934 through June, 1935 we believe that we can save the ship in these stormy times.

Here is an estimate of the salaries required for such service:

1. A Field Director from September, 1934 to July, 1935 .....\$2500.00  
(Salary and Traveling Expenses)
2. An Office Secretary from January to July, 1934 ..... 333.00  
" " " " from September, 1934 to July, 1935..... 500.00  
\$3333.00

I hope you will forgive my enthusiasm for this work. It seems to me an integral part of the work here, and it is so much needed in our poor little towns and country neighborhoods of the South.

Yours faithfully,

*Frederick H. Koch*

Kenan Professor of Dramatic Literature.

Mr. John Marshall  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
New York City, New York