

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Fifty-two thousand two hundred dollars
RF 55178 (\$52,200), or as much thereof as may be necessary, be,
and it hereby is, appropriated to KENYON COLLEGE for
fellowships in creative writing and criticism to be
awarded by the editors of The Kenyon Review during the
period ending June 30, 1958.

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The following considerations were presented:

Humanities: Literature

Previous Interest: Assistance to The Kenyon Review began in 1944
with a grant in aid of \$7,500 to Kenyon College as emergency aid
to the work of Professor John Crowe Ransom and The Kenyon Review
during three years. Grants in aid of \$1,000 each, approved in
1944 and 1946, gave Professor Ransom the temporary assistance of
Professors Eric Bentley and Robert Penn Warren. A grant of \$22,500,
approved in April, 1947, enabled the Review to offer increased
payments to contributors during the five-year period ending June 30,
1952. A grant of \$41,400, approved in June, 1952, provided for
the award by the editors of the Review of fellowships in creative
writing and criticism, and for editorial expenses of the Review
during the three-year period ending September 30, 1955.

General Description: This proposal is the first of a renewed series
for the award of fellowships in literature in the United States
through the literary reviews.

The Kenyon Review was established by Kenyon College in 1939
as a quarterly under the editorship of John Crowe Ransom, with
Philip Blair Rice as associate editor. Though Professor Ransom
has now reached the age of retirement, by action of the Trustees

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of the College his editorship of the Review is to continue through June 30, 1958. Advisory editors continue to be Eric Bentley, Cleanth Brooks, Lionel Trilling and Robert Penn Warren, with the recent addition of Peter Taylor. Issues of the Review contain fiction, criticism, poetry, book reviews, and occasional chronicles of recent developments in the humanities. The present circulation is approximately 3,000.

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Under the terms of the earlier grant, \$4,800 annually, or a total of \$14,400, was available for general editorial expenses of the Review and the administration of fellowships; and a total of \$27,000 was provided for fellowships at stipends of \$2,000 for unmarried and \$3,000 for married fellows. This allowed for the appointment of eleven fellows during the past three years. Each year the availability of the fellowships was announced in the Review and elsewhere well in advance of their award; but in the last analysis awards depended primarily not on applications, but on the judgment of the editors as to writers whose work would gain most by a chance to devote themselves to writing at the time. In general, awards appear to have been made to writers near public recognition, including Miss Flannery O'Connor, whose recent volume of short stories, A Good Man is Hard to Find, received wide attention; R. W. B. Lewis, a critic of growing reputation; Howard Nemerov, increasingly well known for his verse and fiction; William S. Merwin, a poet of promise; Irving Howe, known for his studies of Sherwood Anderson and William Faulkner.

The present proposal is to continue the award of fellowships by The Kenyon Review during the editorship of Mr. Ransom. Experience of the last three years with literary fellowships through The Kenyon Review, The Sewanee Review, and the University of Iowa has indicated both the feasibility and the value of this pattern of operation. It seems desirable, however, to standardize both the number of fellows and their stipend rates under each of the programs, as well as the compensation to be provided in the grants to the literary reviews concerned. The new and somewhat higher

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stipend rate proposed is \$2,700 a year for unmarried fellows and \$4,000 for married fellows (fellowship funds have been calculated to allow for two unmarried and two married fellows each year). Four thousand dollars annually, i.e., roughly \$1,000 per fellowship, is proposed as a contribution to the review concerned, both as remuneration for the direct expenses involved in this program and as recognition of the fact that the continued existence and effectiveness of the review is a prerequisite without which the fellowship program would not be possible.

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Finances: A grant of \$52,200 is therefore proposed, of which \$40,200 is for approximately four fellowships per year in 1956, 1957, and 1958, and the balance of \$12,000 (at the rate of \$4,000 annually) for The Kenyon Review toward the costs of administration of the fellowships. For the latter no accounting would be required.

Future Implications: Further recommendations for grants for literary fellowships by this procedure will be subject to review three years hence.

Comment: The award of fellowships has long been recognized by the Foundation as desirable for the development of personnel in its various fields of interest. In most fields, fellowships have been awarded for advanced study or research. In literature the comparable need is for the writer to have an opportunity to practice his art, not in accordance with any given pattern but in the way which best suits his individual needs and aspirations. Thus, the proposed fellowships would involve no requirement of residence or formal study or even of supervision, though experience with earlier appointments has shown that those concerned with awards are ready to give fellows such guidance and assistance as they may ask. Furthermore, in the award of literary fellowships, there should be no single pattern of selection: hence, the proposal for a series of grants with appointments through the leading literary reviews which, while they each represent high standards

of literary judgment, show a healthy difference of literary interest and approach.

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The record of The Kenyon Review under Mr. Ransom's editorship since 1939 clearly places it among the leading reviews. While sometimes regarded as academic in tone and more concerned with criticism than with creative writing, it has always sought the work of new writers of promise and continues to be the medium by which many of them first gain a hearing. Thus its editors, from material submitted for publication, have a wide acquaintance with writers of promise. The high standards of the Review, combined with the prominence of its editors and advisory editors in the literary life of the country, give assurance that further awards will be national in range.

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