

12/13/33

236 R  
University of North Carolina  
Drama

33376

It was recommended that an appropriation of \$7,500 be made to the University of North Carolina for the support during 1934 of its creative work in American drama.

UNIVERSITY  
OF NORTH  
CAROLINA -  
CREATIVE  
WORK IN  
DRAMA

1. This proposal of aid to the development of a regional American drama through the group at the University of North Carolina, is under that part of the Humanities : program for the encouragement of creative activity in drama and other fields. General studies still in process indicate the desirability of giving assistance to a few carefully selected institutional centers of training in playwriting and production. Investigation has shown the work being carried on at the University of North Carolina by Professor Frederick H. Koch to be worthy of limited support.
2. Professor Koch's work has always been distinguished by its primary concern with folk material. As four published volumes show, the plays written and produced under his direction deal predominantly with people and situations of which his students have direct knowledge, either by their own experience or from living tradition. (This relation of the author to his material gives the plays a value as authentic records of American life. Most of the plays are simple presentations of incidents significant for the portrayal of character, and tend to interpret the people of one region rather than to accentuate regional peculiarities.
3. The response which this type of drama evokes, is evident from the results of the fifteenth year of work ending this summer. Last year the hundred and forty students in the courses on playwriting, acting, directing, and technical practice, produced fifty-nine plays, of which fifty-two were written by students. A still more general interest was apparent in the Tenth Dramatic Festival, held at Chapel Hill by the Carolina Dramatic Association, organized by Professor Koch, when one hundred and forty actors from all parts of the state competed in the presentation of thirty-eight plays, of which ten were original. The success of Professor Koch's pupil, Paul Green (author of The House of Connelly and In Abraham's Bosom), on the legitimate stage and as a member of the production staff of Paramount Players in Hollywood, suggests the extent of Professor Koch's influence.
4. The continued success of Professor Koch's work is at present endangered by the University's inability to provide for even the usual requirements. The amount suggested would be used to purchase permanent equipment

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and to employ student assistants. This latter use would be the equivalent of fellowships to provide students of special promise with a means of continuing their work.

Whereupon it was, on motion,

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DRAMA  
(Continued)

RESOLVED  
RF 33115

that the sum of Seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500), or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it is hereby, appropriated to the UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA for CREATIVE WORK IN DRAMA under the direction of Professor Frederick H. Koch, during the year beginning January 1, 1934.

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