

It was, on motion,
RESOLVED that the sum of Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), or
RF 48099 as much thereof as may be necessary in addition to
RF 45112, be, and it hereby is, appropriated to the
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, England, for awards in
literature and for administrative expenses during the
period ending December 31, 1950.

UNIVERSITY
OF
BIRMINGHAM -
LITERARY
AWARDS

The following were the considerations presented:

Humanities

Previous Interest: A grant of \$56,000 to the University of Birmingham (RF 45112) was approved by the Trustees at the meeting of December 5, 1945, for awards in literature during the calendar years 1946, 1947, 1948, and for administrative expenses, payments not to extend beyond December 31, 1949. This grant was preceded by a grant in aid of \$500 toward expenses involved in the formulation of the proposal.

General Description: As a national service, the University of Birmingham assumed administrative responsibility for awards under the 1945 grant of the Foundation to aid younger writers to resume their literary work following wartime service. This responsibility was exercised through a committee appointed by the University, with Dr. Allardyce Nicoll, Professor of English at Birmingham, as chairman. Agreement was reached that the awards should be known as the Atlantic Awards in Literature. During these three years, awards have been limited to British subjects whose work in creative writing and criticism has shown particular promise but has been interrupted by wartime service. Their purpose was to further "the best interests of English literature by providing means by which men and women of talent might devote themselves, unhampered by financial consideration, for at least a year to their own writing."

By March, 1948, 36 awards had been made in amounts ranging from £100 to £300. A small reserve is being maintained for final awards toward the end of 1948.

The Committee has now raised the question of continuation of these awards during 1949 and 1950, with the following statement:

Originally, we had believed that the flow of good applications would decline after the first year of our operations, but, rather to our surprise, we have found that... applications are now being received from so many well-qualified candidates that it seems as though our task of selection may be even more difficult in the coming months than it has been in the past. The fact is, of course, that demobilization has proceeded slowly and that consequently there is a continuous succession of young writers being released for the resumption of their civilian activities.From the reports which have been sent to us by those who have been aided by "Atlantic Awards" we feel reasonably satisfied that we have helped at least some authors of real capability who otherwise might have had their powers weakened, or killed, by pressure of economic necessity; and the fact that, even thus early, we have had such signs of the profit accruing from the awards, makes us all the more grateful to the Rockefeller Foundation for having made possible the assisting of young men and women whose talents may make them influential figures in the society of the coming years.

UNIVERSITY
OF
BIRMINGHAM -
LITERARY
AWARDS
(Continued)

The latest survey of further need for such awards proves the desirability of making some exceptions to include persons who have had no war duty. The Foundation is requested therefore to permit this freedom of choice to the committee during 1949 and 1950.

Finances: The recommendation is for a grant of \$15,000, including provision not to exceed the equivalent of \$1,200 for administrative expenses, to be used during the years 1949 and 1950 for awards to British writers in the discretion of the special committee.

Future Implications: None. There is some reason to expect that provision for further awards of this kind may be forthcoming from British sources. The committee has agreed to make proposals to private and public donors for establishing the awards on a continuing basis.

Comment: The Atlantic Awards are parallel in purpose to grants in aid made by several organizations in the United States that have funds from the Foundation. The Newberry and Huntington Libraries, the Library of Congress, and several universities administer grants for individuals under term grants of the Foundation. Reports of the results in publication are maintained in the office and books are held in the Foundation library for inspection and use.

not
in Library
as of this
date 10/7/48

9/17/48