

10/15/37

37306

AMERICAN
COUNCIL OF
LEARNED
SOCIETIES -
LINGUISTIC
ATLAS OF
NEW ENGLAND

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Seven thousand dollars (\$7,000), or as
RF 37097 much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby is,
appropriated to the AMERICAN COUNCIL of LEARNED SOCIETIES
for use over the period October 15, 1937, to December 31,
1938, towards the completion of the LINGUISTIC ATLAS of
NEW ENGLAND.

The following were the considerations presented:

Relation to Program: Humanities: While the study of spoken language is important to historical studies in American culture that are within current program, this action is recommended chiefly in order to make available for use material the gathering of which has been supported under earlier programs.

Previous Interest: From general appropriations of the Foundation to the Council a total of \$84,748 has been assigned to the preparation of the Atlas. A field worker on this project is now in England on Foundation fellowship to secure supplementary materials.

recognized?
General Description: During the years when the Council had substantial sums from the Foundation in support of projects over the entire field of humanistic studies, continued support was given by allocations to the study of American dialects. Such work in New England and in the older states of the South was rated as significant for all social and historical studies of American life. It also was realized by many university men as significant for the improvement of graduate instruction and for development of an American tradition of scholarship. Professors in universities where the methods of the Atlas could be applied most usefully to change teaching and research were given experience at Brown University and met field workers enlisted from the faculties of Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Vermont, Mount Holyoke, and other institutions. The Foundation also brought a trained worker from the University of London for development of background materials. During the seven years that the Council has supported the field work in New England and in the South, a great amount of new material has been brought to the workrooms at Brown University. Its classification is virtually complete.

The general purpose of the plan was to gather such a mass of data throughout New England that scholars could define closely

10/15/37

37307

its cultural areas of pioneer settlement, the lines of migration westward, and the history of the total population. The work was done by interview. Written records were taken on a large number of questions having to do with daily life. To secure evidence on pronunciation of common terms, the investigators used recording phonographs. After the rough classification of field records, the investigators began to chart their evidence on maps of every part of New England. Draftsmen were secured at this stage of the work. The rounding out of the analysis and recording of data on maps has now continued for a full year.

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(Continued)

The directors of the project estimate that all the work can be completed by the end of 1938. By then the dialect studies of New England will be available at Brown University for use by persons in any field of American local history. The request of the Council is for aid on the last stage of preparing materials for use and for a publication fund to issue the first of three volumes. The recommendation in the present proposal is that the Foundation aid only with the final work on preparation of the material.

Finances: The sum of \$7,000 if granted would be used during the indicated period approximately as follows:

Editorial assistance and secretaries	\$4,500
Drafting and proof work	2,500
	Total \$7,000

No recommendation is made for publication of Volume I and of an introduction. For this work \$6,000 presumably would be needed.

Future Implications: None. The officers believe that the assistance now recommended will make sufficiently available the results of the seven years' work.

Comment: From the outset of the Atlas project in 1931 the officers have made it clear that the Council could not reasonably expect grants from the Foundation towards a national program of this nature. Consequently the Council has confined its activities to New England and to surveys in the older states of the South. The Foundation has had constant report on the progress of this work. In December, 1938, materials should be available towards a final estimate of the values in the completed work for all students of social and cultural history.
