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<td><strong>Call Number</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Braithwaite, William Stanley, 1878-1962, Haynes, George Edmund, 1880-1960</td>
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WILLIAM E. HARMON AWARDS
FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT
AMONG NEGROES

OFFERED BY
THE HARMON FOUNDATION
WILLIAM E. HARMON President
SAMUEL NANCE LINDSEY Vice President
MARY MOUTTIE BRAY Director

ADMINISTERED BY
The Committee on the Church
and Race Relations
Federal Council of the Churches
of Christ in America

HERBERT C. CLARKSON Chairman
FRANK H. BLAIR Vice Chairman
WILLIAM K. T. ROBERTS Secretary

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED ON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 1938

AWARDS

SEVEN FIRST AWARDS of $100 each and a gold medal; SEVEN
SECOND AWARDS of $50 each, and a bronze medal; ONE
THIRD AWARD of $50 and a gold medal.

OFFERED BY
THE HARMON FOUNDATION
ADMINISTERED BY
The Committee on the Church and Race Relations
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

105 EAST 22nd STREET - NEW YORK CITY

Write to George E. Haynes, Secretary, for nominations or application blank.

[Signature]
February 12, 1937
POURPOSE
In accordance with the provisions of the Hamann Foundation, the Wiliam E. Hamann Awards for Distinguished Achievement Among Negroes are offered annually. These awards are designed to recognize the achievement of African-American young people in school and community service.

ELIGIBILITY
Any Negro young people who have achieved excellence in their academic or community activities are eligible for these awards. The winners are selected by a committee of educators, community leaders, and representatives of the Hamann Foundation.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS
Nominations and applications for the awards must be submitted by November 1. Each nomination should include a letter of recommendation, a copy of the applicant’s academic transcript, and a statement of the applicant’s community involvement. Applications must be postmarked by November 1.

THERE ARE SIX CATEGORIES OF AWARDS:

1. AWARD IN LITERATURE: First award $500 and a gold medal; second award $300 and a bronze medal.
2. AWARD IN MUSIC: First award $400 and a gold medal; second award $150 and a bronze medal.
3. AWARD IN ARTS: First award $400 and a gold medal; second award $100 and a bronze medal.
4. AWARD IN BUSINESS — INCLUDING INVENTION: First award $400 and a gold medal; second award $100 and a bronze medal.
5. AWARD IN SCIENCE — INCLUDING INVENTION: First award $400 and a gold medal; second award $100 and a bronze medal.
6. AWARD IN EDUCATION: First award $400 and a gold medal; second award $100 and a bronze medal.

GENERAL CONDITIONS
1. No winner will receive more than one award in any year.
2. The awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held on the dates specified by the Hamann Foundation.
3. In case of a tie for first place, the award will be divided equally among the winners.
4. No award will be made for an individual who does not meet the eligibility requirements.

The decision of the judges will be final.

The winners will be announced in the April issue of the Hamann Foundation’s newsletter.
December 27, 1927.

To the Judges of the Harmon
Award candidates in the field
of LITERATURE.
Messrs. Leach, Braithwaite, Springarn, Shaw, Bolt.

Gentlemen:

Supplementing my letter of December 23, after consultation with
the Director of the Harmon Foundation, it seems best to submit
to you the question that has been raised several times since last
year as to whether Mr. James Weldon Johnson was so well known and
had received such public recognition as to be ineligible to receive
a Harmon Award. We have taken the
position that we should leave the judges to make the decisions and
have stood by their decisions.

We did not consider that we should exercise any judgment on the ques-
tion of admitting Mr. Johnson as a candidate the second time in view of
there being no condition against a candidate who has received a second
award entering a second time. In view of the fact that he received
the second award last year and the votes for him for second award this
year, we think it incumbent on us to present this question to the judges
for their consideration in connection with their decision between him
and several writers not so well known.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes
Secretary
Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite,
243 Park Ave.,
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

I thank you heartily for your opinion you have given us on the candidates of the Harmon Awards in Literature. As soon as the opinions of the other judges are in I shall collate them and forward you full report for your further consideration.

Please let us have any expense items for cartage and postage on material.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes
Secretary.
Hammon Awards in Literature 1937

I vote for the following: -

First Award: Benjamin Brawley
Second : James Weldon Johnson
Honorable Mention: Alain Locke
  = Eric Walrond
  = Georgia Douglas Johnson
  = Arthur Huff Fausett

(Signed) HENRY GODDARD LEACH
"I think that James Weldon Johnson's 'God's Trombones' is much the most important work of Literature by an American Negro during the last year, and it seems to me to deserve first prize without question. But I can quite understand the feeling of several of the judges that the excellent scholarly work of Benjamin Brawley should be given recognition, all the more since he has never received any, and Mr. Johnson has. With this in mind, I should be willing to agree to a first prize for Mr. Brawley, second for Mr. Johnson, and honorable mention for Mr. Walrand, Mr. Locke, Mr. Fauset, and Mrs. Georgia Johnson. But I think the realities of the situation would be met more closely if Mr. Johnson received first prize and Mr. Brawley second, or if each received a full first prize (as I understand can be done); and I hope the judges may be persuaded to agree to this. I may add that I do not think mere technicalities should interfere with Mr. Walrand's getting an honorable mention if we think he deserves one."
Dear Mr. Haynes:

I greatly desire to find myself in agreement and harmony with the other judges in deciding upon a recipient of the first prize this year for distinguished literary achievement under the terms of the Harmon Award. I feel no hesitation in selecting Mr. Benjamin Brawley for the first prize.

Since this, as I understand it, is an annual award, I have no reason to doubt that several of those whose names are entered this year will receive the first prize in due order as the years go by.

I am not so certain about the second prize, and would be glad to know how other judges feel on that subject and could easily be convinced by them I am sure. My inclinations would be to award it either to Mr. R.H. Frost or to Mr. Alain Locke, Mr. James Weldon Johnson and Mr. Eric Walcond are worthy of most honorable mention.

I should take the view that the work of four or five of these candidates is good enough to justify the award of the Harmon Prize. I may also add that I think all of them might voluntarily be inclined to give the award to Mr. Benjamin Brawley this year if they were acting on the committee of judges.

A member of my staff, Mr. E. H. Snively, has been good enough to study the material independently of my effort to arrive at conclusions and he has written for me a memorandum which seems to me well worth sending to you as showing a discriminating estimate of the value and the distinctive nature of the work of the four or five candidates who are undoubtedly best worth consideration this year.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ALBERT SHAW

Mr. George E. Haynes
Harmon Foundation
105 East 33rd St., City.
REPORT ON HARRISON AWARDS IN LITERATURE

I would unhesitatingly give first place to Benjamin Brawley, as most prolific, most scholarly, most significant, and perhaps also least recognized. Such patient, careful work as this man has done is the soundest of racial progress as well as the skeleton on which may be hung later the living arts that will make the culture of the Negroes live and breathe in our times. Mr. Brawley's work is sweepingly thorough and intelligent and covers a wide range. He has presented a most convincing case, and I cannot help but wonder what would happen to the Dark Continent if these entrepreneurs of Negro culture were to return to their own land to teach their more backward brothers, or rather their less progressive brothers! Somehow I feel that there are uncrowned, unheralded kings among these people --- and that they can never come into full possession of their kingly kingdom in an alien land.

I would give R.W. Dett second place only because most of Alain Locke's work is editorial rather than creative. Dett has done a difficult job in reducing to written form the haunting melodies of the plantation Negro. The music of the blacks has penetrated the corners of the earth in recent years, and sometimes in strange ways, but Dett has crystallized and preserved an intangible beauty from the culture of the colored race and made it possible for a somewhat crude beginning to be developed into a fine art perhaps distinctive to the Negro people --- perhaps merely a new texture of high art that is more distinctive of America and the mixture of the races in the present period in a land where we try to give every man a square deal, regardless of his color, or creed, or previous handicaps. Really, the swelling voice of the arts among the Negroes is in the nature of a rich tribute to the first peoples who ever gave them free opportunity in a strange land. Mr. Dett catches a vision of this somewhere in his songs, although perhaps it may not yet be more than the soul of a thing that has failed to attain as yet its proper body.

Alain Locke is the man who edited the Harlem Number of the Survey Graphic in March, 1925. It was an outstanding piece of work of high merit which attracted very wide attention. His book, "The New Negro," merits careful reading, and no less skillful are his volumes on "Plays of Negro Life" and "Four Negro Poets."

James Weldon Johnson, already widely known as a Negro writer of note, needs no praise. "God's Trombones," is a smashing piece of poetry that at once pierces the depth of deeper mysticism and rises to the level of the gods. Mr. Johnson shows not only skill, but true poetic creative power of a high order. I have heard Negro preachers deliver such sermons as those in very disjointed and crude prose. Mr. Johnson has lifted the fine essence and high spirit of these crude Loustaltero?fit?abbrev; itinerant darky preachers into literature, while losing nothing of value to the theme nor the flavor of darky eloquence.

I do wish Eric Walrond's "Tropic Death" had been submitted in time; but it would be unfair to others who have complied with the rules to go out of the way now to study his stuff. He has a very promising future, however, and will be in line another year.

I like Bulalie Spencer's "Poil's Errand" --- a short play of vast power, I should imagine, when done by actors of sympathetic vision. However, it is slight by comparison with the work of other competitors whom I have mentioned above. But it is creative, and well constructed and tremendously significant of talent yet unmined.

I might conclude that since there are only two prizes in this field of literature, and the people I have covered are outstanding, there seems little use of going further in the study. Mr. Hayes is asking for the material, and I have told him I thought you might be able to report by Monday, when perhaps we would return the data for study by other judges.

Nov. 4, 1937.

R.K.S.
Telegram

Mr. George E. Haynes,
Secretary, The Harmony Awards,
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America,
105 East 22nd Street,
New York City.

Forth document secret. D 23. Summary of
Decisions for judges resulting from final decisions.
First, award Brany. Court set aside Brany. This
Second award Johnson. Court set aside Johnson. This
Award directs inclusion of General conditions. Inclusion
of award directly affects General conditions. Hence,
award directs inclusion of General conditions. As a result,
award directs inclusion of General conditions. As a result,
we cannot have this time. Nothing but consideration of
award direct inclusion of General conditions. As a result,
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we cannot have this time. Nothing but consideration of
award direct inclusion of General conditions. As a result,
To:  
Dr. George E. Haynes,  
Secretary, The Harmon Awards,  
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America,  
105 East 22nd Street,  
New York City.

Reply documents December 23rd summarizing decisions five judges, resulting First Award Brawley, Second Award Johnson. Cannot accept First Award Brawley direct violation General Conditions. Insist upon minority decision First Award to Eric Walrond. Agree Second Award Johnson. Refer letter December 27th: cannot see how at this time ineligibility consideration be entertained. Provision affecting situation earlier determined for current year. Confirm decision Second Award Johnson. Confirm my selection Honorable Mention Faust, Richardson, Turner. Cannot agree mention Georgia D. Johnson, Locke, Pett. Basis my objection ineligibility as determined General Conditions. Holloway by no means.

William Stanley Breithwaite

243 Park Avenue,  
Arlington Heights,  
Mass.
December 19, 1937.

Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite
243 Park Avenue
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

As this is the Christmas holidays and there may have been some delay in transmission of the Harmon Award material, I am writing to inquire if it has been shipped, and to ask for statement of expense you may have incurred for cartage and express that we may reimburse you.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes
Secretary.
December 23, 1927.

Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite
243 Park Ave.
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

I wish to express my appreciation of your note giving your thought on standards of decisions of the Harmon Awards, and will include this in my report on the awards for this year.

Cordially yours,

George E. Haynes
Secretary
December 23, 1927.

To the judges of the Harmon Award candidates in the field of LITERATURE,

Messrs. Leach, Braithwaite, Spingarn, Shaw, Holt.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed copies of the opinions of the five judges when summarized show the following results:

**First Award**
- Benjamin G. Brawley - 3 votes (Leach, Shaw, Spingarn)
- Eric Walrond - 1 vote (Braithwaite)
- Georgia D. Johnson - 1 vote (Holt)

On the matter of the first award please note the strong letter of Dr. Holt.

**Second Award**
- James Weldon Johnson - 3 votes (Braithwaite, Leach, Spingarn)
- Willis Richardson - 1 vote (Holt)
- Either R. Nathaniel Dett or Alain Locke (Dr. Shaw)

Dr. Holt proposed a second first award to Willis Richardson. This cannot be given.

**Honorable Mention**
- Arthur Huff Fauset - 4 votes (Braithwaite, Holt, Leach, Spingarn)
- Eric Walrond - 2 votes (Spingarn, Leach)
- Georgia D. Johnson - 2 votes (Spingarn, Leach)
- Alain Locke - 2 votes (Spingarn, Leach)
- James Weldon Johnson - 2 votes (Holt, Shaw)
- R. Nathaniel Dett - 1 vote (Holt)
- John W. Holloway - 1 vote (Holt)

According to the above vote we are recording Mr. Benjamin G. Brawley for the first award, but wish definite statements which we may publish as the reason the judges voted him first award. Because Mr. Eric Walrond received a vote for the first award upon the decided opinion of Mr. Braithwaite, we wish a more decisive opinion of the judges on Mr. Walrond for his volume TROPIC LEATH in comparison with Mr. James Weldon Johnson, who presented this year his book GOD'S THUMBINES, and who received a second award last year.

The conditions do not prevent a candidate from receiving a second award a second time.

Please give me immediately your decision between these two candidates for the second award.

Please inform me also if you agree for honorable mention to all the others including John W. Holloway, who was heretofore designated by only one judge. You may write me, collect.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes,
Secretary.
243 Park Avenue, 
Arlington Heights, 
Mass. 

December 19th 1927

Dr. George E. Haynes, 
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 
105 East 22nd Street, 
New York City.

My dear Dr. Haynes:-  

Today I am having returned by express the materials of the candidates for the Harmon Awards in Literature. I would appreciate a line to that effect? 

In acknowledging your letter which I received this morning may I refer to your assertion regarding the submission last year of Dr. Eric Walrond's "Tropic Death." This work was among the material for the judges' examination, but as I recall it was ruled out at the conference held at Mr. Spingarn's house because it was not published until after the date closing the submission of material. This of course, as viewed it, made the work eligible for this year's consideration. 

It brings up another point concerning unpublished and published works. In the case of this candidate submitting several manuscripts, there is one to tell which was finished within the current year unless there was a disposition to that effect. It seems to me that Arthur Huff MaudeTs pursued the right method when he submitted the manuscript of his work within the prescribed time which was not published in book form until after the closing date. 

I have re-read the General Conditions since receiving your letter this morning and Nos. One and Two, still seem vague to me in removing those restrictions which the judges discussed last year as applying against the consideration of a larger and more distinguished field of candidates. Assuming, however, that these restrictions were removed and the interpretation placed upon the "such achievement" statement in No. Two, in its relation to No. One, I was unable to find in the material submitted by Bravely, Johnson and Tett and Locke, any accomplishment during the current year of the Awards, to warrant the inclusion of their past achievements as a basis for consideration. The name of Carter Woodson should also be added. The indefinite statement of Conditions has, I believe, worked an injustice against these authors. Bravely has been a much neglected author, and his work during the past six or seven years is highly worthy of some such recognition as the Harmon Awards. 

Also I believe there should be a clear distinction between creative work and work that is critical and editorial. In your letter today you say: "In offering the awards, Mr. Harmon had in mind the stimulating character of granting recognition to those who are producing creative work and whose achievements have not yet received the wide public recognition which their high order merits." It is true that critical and editorial work can by an imaginative presentation become creative through the author's stimulation of truth and vision in the reader. Much modern biography has taken on this character; the essay flit back and across the border of it; and it is in the taste, judgment and presentation of a miscellany as in "The New Negro." or Locke. But creative work in these classes is rare; and in such an Award as the Harmon, the accepted creative branches of literature.
such as poetry, fiction and the drama, should form a classification apart from history, biography, criticism, the essay and editorial achievement. If the work Creative was omitted from the conditions, and the award made simply on the basis of literary achievement, permitting all branches of literature to compete, and the award given to the work that offers the greatest human interest and value, it would eliminate from the judges' minds a double set of values in considering the material.

Well, I didn't mean to take up so much of your time with these reflections on the awards, to which I have given much thought since completing my reading of the material.

Yours very sincerely,
December 19th 1927

Dr. George E. Haynes,
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America,
106 East 22nd Street,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Haynes:

Today I am having returned by express the materials of the candidates for the Harmon Awards in Literature. I would appreciate a line that they reached you safely.

In acknowledging your letter which I received this morning may I refer to your assertion regarding the submission last year of Mr. Eric Wainard's "Tropic Death." This work was among the material for the judges' examination, but as I recall it was ruled out at the conference held at Dr. Spingarn's house, because it was not published until after the date closing the submission of material. This of course, as I viewed it, made the work eligible for this year's consideration.

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I have re-read the General Conditions since receiving your letter this morning and Nos. One and Two, still seem vague to me in removing those restrictions which the judges discussed last year as working against the consideration of a larger and more distinguished field of candidates. Assuming, however, that the restrictions were removed and the interpretation placed upon the "such achievement" statement in No. Two, in its relation to No. One, I was unable to find in the material submitted by Frawley, Johnson, Beth and Locke, any accomplishment during the current year of the awards, to warrant any inclusion of their past achievement as a basis for consideration. The name of Carter Woodson should also be added. The indefinite statement of Conditions has, I believe, worked an injustice against these authors. Frawley has been a much neglected author, and his work during the past six or seven years is highly worthy of some such recognition as the Harmon Awards.

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editorial achievement. If the word *Creative* was omitted from the conditions, and the award made simply on the basis of literary achievement, permitting all branches of literature to compete, and the award given to the work that offers the greatest human interest and value, it would eliminate from the judges' minds a double set of values in considering the material.

Well, I didn't mean to take up so much of your time with these reflections on the Awards, to which I have given much thought since completing my reading of the material.

Yours very sincerely,

Signed - WILLIAM S. BRAITHWAITE
December 16, 1927.

Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite
243 Park Avenue
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

We have received with pleasure and appreciation your letter of December 14 giving your decision on the candidates for the Harmon Awards in Literature.

We acknowledge that the language of General Condition No. 2 allows your interpretation, but before collating the opinions of other judges to send you may I offer the understanding we have had of General Conditions Nos. 1 and 2. In Condition No. 2 the words, "such achievement," refer to the achievement described in Condition No. 1. Last year we had an additional condition which read as follows: "Awards for the first year will be limited to work completed during the twelve months ending August 1, but the achievement may include work of a candidate done in preceding years, provided that the completion of the achievement falls within the twelve months covered by the award."

It is our understanding that the condition just quoted was the one the judges objected to on the ground that it excluded consideration of some promising candidates. We accordingly eliminated that condition from the awards this year.

We have believed that if the writer is actively producing and the sum total of his achievement is regarded by the judges worthy of it, they should receive consideration.

In offering the awards, Mr. Harmon had in mind the stimulative character of granting recognition to those who are producing creative work and whose achievements had not yet received that wide public recognition which their high order merits. It has been necessary to lay down certain general requirements in order to make the basis of the awards clear, but there is no desire to require a technical application which would tend to adhere to the
Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite
Arlington Heights, Mass. ....... #2
12/15/37

letter rather than the spirit of the award.

May I call to your attention the fact from our records that last year Mr. Eric
Walroni submitted the book material, "Tropic Death." So he stands in
this regard in the same position as the four you have named and excluded from
consideration.

I am placing our understanding of the conditions before you and am sending copies
to the other judges that you may have them when you receive the collated opinions
of the judges which I sincerely hope can be forwarded to you in the next day or
two. We are hoping that it will not be necessary to have a meeting of the judges
because of the strain on their time and energy and because of the margin of time
between now and January 1st when announcements must go to the press.

* * *

Appreciating more deeply than I can express the service you have been giving us,
I remain, with cordial personal greetings,

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes
Secretary

H-J
First Award
Eric Orland for "The Death
James Miller Johnson for "God's Lament"

Honorable Mention
"Arthur" by Cassatt, for "For Tomorrow"
"Villa Richardson" for "Plays"
"Crawford Turner" for "Anti-Drug Sentiment"

Barney, 7 years
Korea
Dr. George E. Haynes, Secretary,
William E. Harmon Awards,
105 East 22nd Street,
New York City.

December 14th 1927

My dear Dr. Haynes:— I beg herewith to submit my decision for the
Awards in Literature offered by The Harmon Foundation, for Distinguished
Achievement Among Negroes. I have very carefully studied the material
and candidates submitted by your committee, and before naming the
selections for First and Second Awards, and those worthy of Honorable
Mention, I desire to call your attention to the recommendation which
Mr. Spingarn and myself urged the Foundation to consider last year,
and that was the waiving of the one year limitation which excluded
the eligibility of some very distinguished candidates. The Foundation
thought best not to waive this particular condition. At that time I
could foresee the restrictions would narrow the scope of the material
to be judged and lessen the distinction of the field of candidates.

Let me here quote from your circular from "General
Conditions," Condition No. 2: "If in any year no such achievement in
any particular field has been made of sufficient worth, in the opinion
of the judges, the award or awards for that particular field for that
year shall lapse and the money allotted shall revert to the general
trust fund of the Harmon Foundation to be credited to the general
purpose of these awards and made subject to such use in subsequent
years unless this plan is terminated by the Harmon Foundation."

In strict accordance with this condition I find
among the material submitted me for judging by four nominations that
should not have been accepted as candidates, as all (except for un
important minor items) "evidence of achievement" by these candidates
was dated back several years. And I also find that in the case of
at least two of these candidates, they were among the nominations
last year with the same materials. These candidates I refer to, are
Benjamin Brawley, Alain LeRoy Locke, Nathaniel Dett and Georgia
Douglas Johnson. The condition, as Mr. Spingarn and myself pointed
out last year, does an injustice, more especially when the candidate
is permitted to submit "evidence of achievement" in direct
violation of the Condition.

I am therefore, under your ruling of last year,
obliged to eliminate the above four candidates from consideration
in respect to the Awards.

This considerably narrows the scope of the material,
and in my opinion there are but two outstanding candidates for the
First and Second Awards.

The First Award I would give to Eric Walrond for his
book of stories "Tropic Death." The Second Award to James Weldon
Johnson for his book of verse "God's Trombones."

In making the First Award to Eric Walrond, I note
the circumstances submitted in your data relative to the failure due
to an error, in the submission of his "evidence" by August 15th, the
closing date of filing. I do not think this should affect his
eligibility. His is the most distinguished achievement by a Negro
in literature for the year.

James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones," is also a magnificent achievement, but I would not put it on the same plane as "Tropic Death," since the merit is largely one of adaptation of traditional material: symbolism and imagery already made and shaped to hand by the inspirational passion of the Negro folk preacher. Walrond's book is far more native to his own individuality; more original, and the power of his substance, and the artistic excellence of his style, is of his own intimate creation. He is emphatically my choice for the First Award.

For Honorable Mention I would name in order the following:

Arthur Huff Fauser, for "For Freedom."
Willis Richardson, for "Plays."
Lorenzo Dow Turner, for "Anti-Slavery Sentiment in American Literature Prior to 1860."

Yours very sincerely,
COPY

243 Park Avenue
Arlington Heights, Mass.

December 14, 1937.

Dr. George E. Haynes, Secretary
William E. Harmon Awards
106 East 22nd Street
New York City.

My dear Dr. Haynes:

I beg herewith to submit my decisions for the awards in Literature offered by the Harmon Foundation for Distinguished Achievement among Negroes.

I have very carefully studied the material and candidates submitted by your committee, and before naming the selections for first and second awards, and those worthy of honorable mention, I desire to call your attention to the recommendation which Mr. Springarn and myself urged the Foundation to consider last year, and that was, the waiving of the one year limitation which excluded the eligibility of some very distinguished candidates. The Foundation thought best not to waive this particular condition. At that time I could foresee the restrictions would narrow the scope of the material to be judged and lessen the distinction of the field of candidates.

Let me here quote from your circular from "General Conditions," Condition No. 2: "If in any year no such achievement in any particular field has been made of sufficient worth, in the opinion of the judges, the award or awards for that particular field for that year shall lapse and the money allotted shall revert to the general trust fund of the Harmon Foundation to be credited to the general purpose of these awards and made subject to such use in subsequent years unless this plan is terminated by the Harmon Foundation."

In strict accordance with this condition I find among the material submitted me for judging by four nominations that should not have been accepted as candidates, as all (except for unimportant minor items) "evidence of achievement" by those candidates dated back several years. And I also find that in the case of at least two of these candidates they were among the nominations last year with the same materials. These candidates I refer to are Benjamin Brawley, Alain LeRoy Locke, Nathaniel Dett and Georgia Douglas Johnson. The condition, as Dr. Springarn and myself pointed out last year, does an injustice, more especially when the candidates is permitted to submit "evidence of achievement" in direct violation of the Condition.

I am, therefore, under your ruling of last year, obliged to eliminate the above four candidates from consideration in respect to the awards. This considerably narrows the scope of the material, and in my opinion there are but two outstanding candidates for the first and second awards.

The first award I would give to Eric Walrond for his book of stories, "Tropic Death."
The second award to James Weldon Johnson for his book of verse, "God's Trombones."

In making the first award to Eric Walrond, I note the circumstances submitted in your last relative to the failure due to an error, in the submission of his "evidence" by August 15, the closing date of the filing. I do not think this should affect his eligibility. His is the most distinguished achievement by a Negro in literature for the year.
James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones," is also a magnificent achievement, but I would not put it on the same plane as "Tropic Death," since the merit is largely one of adaptation of traditional material - symbolism and imagery already made and shaped to hand by the inspirational passion of the Negro folk preacher. Walrond's book is far more native to his own individuality; more original, and the power of his substance; and the artistic excellence of his style is of his own intimate creation. He is emphatically my choice for the first award.

For honorable mention I would name in order the following:

Arthur Huff Faust, for "For Freedom."
Willie Richardson, for "Plays."
Lorenzo Dow Turner, for "Anti-Slavery Sentiment in American Literature Prior to 1860."

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)

WILLIAM STANLEY BRAITHWAITE
FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

Evangelical Church
Evangelical Synod of N. A.
Friends
Methodist Episcopal Church
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
African M. E. Church
African M. E. Zion Church
Colored M. E. Church in America
Methodist Protestant Church
Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (South)
Primitive Methodist Church
National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church
Reformed Church in America
Reformed Church in the U. S.
Reformed Episcopal Church
Seventh Day Baptist Churches
United Brethren Church
United Presbyterian Church
United Lutheran Church
(Conservative Body)

NATIONAL OFFICES, 612 UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING, 105 EAST 22d STREET, NEW YORK
Cable Address: Fedoll
Telephone: Gramercy 3473

COMMISSION ON THE CHURCH AND RACE RELATIONS

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GEORGE E. Haynes
WILL W. ALEXANDER
SECRETARIES

March 25, 1936.

Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite
243 Park Ave.
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

Please accept my acknowledgment and hearty thanks for your cordial acceptance of service as one of the judges for the William E. Harmon Awards for Distinguished Achievement.

From time to time we shall keep you informed of the progress of the awards.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Haynes
Secretary
Mr. William Stanley Braithwaites,
243 Park Ave.,
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaites:

Enclosed we are sending herewith, receipt for the material of the candidates for the Harmon Awards, which we would appreciate your signing and returning to us in the enclosed envelope. The material is being mailed to you today.

In order to save your time a committee representing the Harmon Foundation and this Commission has classified the material, after perusal, into two groups: Class A and Class B. In making these two classes this committee has not presumed to judge the material on the basis of any standards in the field of which you are a judge; this grouping has been simply by comparing the candidates and placing in Class A those who comparatively are of such standing as would call for judgment between them as to comparative excellence on such standards as you decide. Class B are those that obviously by comparison would not rank in Class A. We are submitting both classes for the examination of the judges, leaving to the judges the standards or criteria upon which the excellence of the candidates is judged under the terms and conditions named in the official leaflet, copy of which is enclosed.

We hope that you will feel at liberty to make any inquiries about any candidate either directly of persons who you may think have information you may desire or at your request we will seek for data indicated by you. We trust that you will feel free to correspond with the other judges directly, if you wish.

A few days before the close of the period for the material to be in your hands we will forward to you an express label addressed which is to be attached to the parcel and be sent by insured express at our expense to the next person, whose name we will send you. If you will kindly pay this express charge and inform us of the amount we shall be glad to refund the same, together with any other costs of handling.

Very cordially yours,

[Signature]

George E. Haynes
Secretary
FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA
INCORPORATED

Northern Baptist Convention
National Baptist Convention
Free Baptist Churches
Christian Church
Churches of God in N. A.
(General Holiness)
Congregational Churches
Disciples of Christ
Evangelical Church
Evangelical Synod of N. A.
Friends
Methodist Episcopal Church
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
African M. E. Church
African M. E. Church in America
Methodist Protestant Church
Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (South)
Primitive Methodist Church
Protestant Episcopal Church,
National Council of the (Cooperating Agency)
Reformed Church in America
Reformed Church in the U. S.
Reformed Episcopal Church
Seventh Day Baptist Churches
United Brethren Church
United Presbyterian Church
United Lutherans Church
(Consultative Body)

NATIONAL OFFICES, 612 UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING, 105 EAST 22d STREET, NEW YORK
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Telephone: Gramercy 3475

COMMISSION ON THE CHURCH AND RACE RELATIONS

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FRANK H. MANN, TREASURER

November 14, 1927.

Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite,
243 Park Avenue
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

Knowing how busy you are I hesitate to ask readjustment of the period for your examination of the material of candidates for the Hamon Awards in Literature. However, Pres. Hamilton Holt, Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., finds that November 16-28 will be inconvenient for him to examine the material as we will then he on a speaking tour, but he could do so in the period November 29-Dec. 10.

I am writing therefore to ask if you can conveniently exchange the period with him by taking dates Nov.16-28. Kindly let me have reply by return mail.

Appreciating your cooperation, I remain

Sincerely yours,

George E. Haynes
Secretary.
Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite,
243 Park Ave.,
Arlington Heights, Mass.

My dear Mr. Braithwaite:

Under separate cover we have today forwarded you by prepaid express, insured, the material of the candidates for the Harmon Award in Literature. I regret exceedingly that there has been an unavoidable delay in sending the material to you because of the change at the last minute in the decision of Dr. Holt, the judge preceding you. When he found he could not take the material at the dates he had previously accepted, I wrote and wired you in the hope that we might send it on to you immediately, but I judge by not hearing from you that you could not accept it then. We have just received it from Dr. Holt to whom it went near the close of the original period allotted to him.

If you can return us your opinion by December 15 we shall greatly appreciate it. We are going to have a very limited time to collate and verify, by returning to each judge the consensus of opinions; get the announcement ready for release to the newspapers the first week of January. In rendering your opinion will you kindly give us, in addition to the persons chosen for the first and second award, any names of those you think should receive honorable mention, as we have decided to publish those names if such are designated by the judges. Please send your decision to me in a sealed envelope.

I am enclosing copy of the general letter that has gone to the other judges explaining the classification of the material.

You will also find enclosed label for your convenience in returning the material to us. Kindly return the material to us by insured express, collect, and we will take care of the charges upon receipt of same here.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Haynes
Secretary