

MEMO

Bennington College Library

To Black Library Committee

March 6, 1973

From Librarian

Re: NRT Developments

Many Black Library titles have been received, cataloged, and bound (as needed) during NRT. Most of these are in a separate section of the New Book Shelf. We have an estimated \$1,500 of unspent funds.

Mrs. Sophy Cornwell of the Lincoln University Library did not respond to my letter of December 4th; I can only conclude that she is not interested in serving as a consultant to Bennington.

During NRT we received one new bibliography and three new books of which the bibliographies, in my judgment, would be useful guides to purchases. These are:

NYPL - No crystal stair
Banfield, Beryle - Africa in the curriculum
Foner, Eric - America's Black past
King, N. Q. - Black religion of Africa

I should gladly put in the effort of selecting titles in these bibliographies to expand our collection. The Foner book, in particular, would provide a number of titles in history.

I have a number of titles of current publications which are pertinent to the collection and which, for example, Alan Cheuse believes would be useful. I should hope we could review these for consideration.

The titles in literature seem to have been more used than other titles thus far, and I suggest we make a special effort to purchase as many of the works of these people (and critical materials about them) as are available:

Langston Hughes
Countee Cullen
James Weldon Johnson
Charles Waddell Chestnutt
Paul Lawrence Dunbar
Jean Toomer
Claude McKay
Richard Wright
James Baldwin
Ralph Ellison
LeRoi Jones
Lorraine Hainsbery
Chester Himes
Ann Petry
John A. Williams

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Periodicals are an important part of any library collection, and we need to work in this area. Magazines for libraries by Bill Katz is the most useful currently available annotated guide to periodicals for libraries. His first choices for academic libraries are:

BLACK WORLD
LIBERATOR
JOURNAL OF BLACK POETRY
JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY
EBONY
ESSENCE

From his list I would suggest that the Bennington College Library add the following on a first choice basis:

BLACK POLITICIAN
CRICKET
CRISIS
JOURNAL OF BLACK STUDIES
LIBERATOR
NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN
PHYLON

I would suggest that the Bennington College Library add the following on a second choice basis:

AIM
BIBLIOGRAPHIC SURVEY
NOMMO
JET

We should try to purchase back files of CRISIS and PHYLON. We currently receive the following Black periodicals:

AMISTAD
BLACK ENTERPRISE
BLACK PANTHER
BLACK REVIEW
BLACK SCHOLAR
BLACK THEATRE
BLACK WORLS
EBONY
JOURNAL OF BLACK POETRY
JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY

The college is applying for a federal Title II-A Library Grant for \$5,000 which will be used for materials in the broad area of American cultural minorities. I would anticipate that substantial portions of this would go to Black studies

and women's issues with the two other important areas being distinctive cultural minorities and the American Indian. Funds for this purpose are still impounded by Mr. Nixon, and I am not at all clear how generally they would be awarded if they were to be available.

A consideration of the bibliographies I have mentioned and other bibliographies would seem to me to be a basis for a demonstration of need for additional materials but we would do well to wait for further applications until the arrival on campus in the fall of Mr. Jay Wright.

Robert M. Agard