

July 25, 1972

Mr. Axel G. Rosin, President
The Scherman Foundation, Inc.
280 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Rosin:

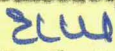
When Acting President Brown wrote in November acknowledging receipt of the Scherman Foundation's grant to build up the Bennington Library collection in subjects pertaining to Black Culture, he was able to report to you that the Library Committee and representative of the Black students had already met to discuss the most appropriate and effective use of the grant. Between November and the end of the academic year an informal committee of students and faculty members met regularly with the librarian to discuss the scope and nature of the materials to be acquired.

One of their first decisions was that it would not be wise to acquire kinds of material, such as films, which the Library does not now include. Instead, the decision was to concentrate on the purchase of books and then consider augmenting the collection of slides and recordings. After consultation with specialized book dealers and Black Studies specialists a list of 200 titles was compiled and these have now been purchased and catalogued.

The emphasis of the first selections has been toward a collection of contemporary writings by those Blacks who have been active in the Black movement and who speak with authority of direct involvement in the current search for Black consciousness. Included in the first selections is an extensive representation of the literary works of important Black writers and, to a lesser extent, books about Africa, African art, and slavery. The major task remaining is to give careful consideration to the historical perspective. For this, Blacks In America by McPherson, Holland and others (1971) will be an important guide in the selection process. Because so many of the 200 books already purchased were only available in paperbacks the expenditures to date have been less than anticipated, and \$1,000 remains in the account for the purchase of books on history, slides, and recordings.

A report on the final expenditures made possible by the grant will be sent to you in the course of the coming year. In the meantime, this brings our renewed thanks for the generous grant which has already been of great service to Bennington.

Sincerely,


Emily L. McGregor
Acting Director of Development

bc: Mr. Iseman, Mr. Agard, N.Y. Office