1955/56 REGULAR PROGRAMME

Creative Artists

U. S. A.

John BIGGERS - Painter
John Thomas DIGGERS - 3937 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas
Professor and Head, Art Dept., Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas
Born: 13/4/34

6 months fellowship in Painting awarded on 16/1/52.

The programme has taken place in Ghana and Nigeria.

From the beginning of July 57 to 10 January 1960.

REPORT - Positive comments of CLT

His book "An Artist's Study of Life in West-Africa"

Page 16 in 10's 'a little'...
2 November 1961.

Dear Mr. Biggers,

I refer to your report, "An artist study of life in West Africa", and have pleasure in informing you that our Department of Cultural Activities has found your report most impressive and of the very highest standard. I should like to congratulate you on the excellent result of your fellowship and feel you have achieved the aim of the fellowship admirably.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

I. Dandolo, Chief,
Division of Unesco Fellowships Administration,
International Exchange Service.

Mr. John T. Biggers,
Head, Art Department,
Texas Southern University,
HOUSTON, Texas
U.S.A.
U.N.E.S.C.O.

le 7 juillet 1961.

Au : Département des Activités culturelles,
      À l'attention de M. Beryl

Du : Service des Echanges internationaux.

Objet: Rapport de Mr. John T. Biggers (USA) - Artiste créateur au titre du Programme 1955/56.

M. Biggers, Américain d'origine africaine, qui a bénéficié d'une bourse en 1957, nous soumet son rapport sous forme d'un volume illustré, que veuillez trouver ci-joint.

Nous serions heureux d'avoir vos commentaires sur ce document, que vous voudrez bien nous retourner.

[Signature]
I. Bandalo
Chef,
Division de l'Administration des bourses.

To M. Bandalo.

This is an exciting manuscript produced and this
author has written this remarkable work;
- a very thorough effort & the research employed.
APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP
(Please type or print all entries)

Country or countries of study: GOLDCOAST, AFRICA

Date of application: 1st Day, 1st Month, 56 Year

PERSONAL DATA AND STUDY PLANS OF PROSPECTIVE FELLOW

Name in full: John Thomas Biggers

Present address: 3527 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas

Permanent address: 3527 Ruth Street, Houston, Texas

Emergency addresses: (Give names of nearest relatives or other emergency addresses)

Name: Joseph Biggers
Address: 616 Bernie Street, Durham, N. C.
Relationship: Brother

Name: James Biggers
Address: 114 West Lincoln Avenue, Gastonia, N. C.
Relationship: Brother

Date and place of birth: 4/13/24, Gastonia, N. C.
Citizenship: Native born American

Single, married, widowed, divorced: Married

Date of marriage: Dec. 26, 1948

Number of children: None

Present professional activities: Professor and Head Art Dept.
Texas Southern University
Houston, Texas
Annual salary: 7100.00

If you are in employment with a government agency, university or educational, cultural or other organization, what portion of your annual salary will be maintained if you receive a fellowship? NONE.

WS/063.83
EDUCATION:

Type: Secondary School:
Name of Institution: Lincoln Academy
First and last year spent there: 1937-41
Degrees: Diploma
Date: 1941

University, Faculty:
Name of Institution: Hampton Institute
First and last year spent there: 1941-43-45
Degrees: B.S.
Date: 1948

Post-University:
Name of Institution: Fenna. State Univ.
First and last year spent there: 1948-49
Degrees: M. Ed.
Date: 1948

Name of Institution: Fenna. State Univ.
First and last year spent there: 1953-54
Degrees: D. Ed.
Date: 1954

Name of Institution: Univ. Southern Calif.
First and last year spent there: 1952
Degrees: Sp. X3/C
Date: 1955

Other Training:
Name of Institution: U. S. Navy
First and last year spent there: 1943-45

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES:
Prospective fellows may be required to undergo a test in the language(s) of the country or countries of study.

LIST OF LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Spoken: X
Written: Fair

FELLOWSHIPS OR SCHOLARSHIPS HELD FOR STUDY ABROAD: NONE

Source and Sponsor: Place of Study: Period of Tenure:

EXPERIENCE:
Please give on a separate sheet a full outline of your professional experience, indicating positions held, and describing your literary or artistic production, and major distinctions.
EXPERIENCE:

Position: Graduate Teaching Fellow, Position: Art Instructor, Position: Professor, Head Art Dept.
Subjects Taught: Mural Painting, Art Education, Subjects Taught: Art History, Art Education, Subjects Taught: Composition, Painting, Sculpture, Art History, Art Education
Date: 1948-49, Date: 1949, Date: 1949-present

Awards:
1. Purchase Prize, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, 1950
2. Schliumberger Prize, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, 1951
3. Purchase Prize, Atlanta University, Georgia, 1951
4. Purchase Prize, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, 1952
5. Purchase Prize, Atlanta University, Georgia, 1953
6. Art Rental Prize, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, 1955

Commissions (Mural Painting):
1. U. S. Naval School, Hampton, Va., Chicago, 1944
2. United Transport Workers Labor Temple, C.I.O., 1946
3. Education Bldg., Penn State University, 1949
4. Home for Aged, Houston, Texas, 1952
5. Young Women's Christian Association, Houston, Texas, 1953
6. Carver High School, Napels, Texas, 1955

Exhibited:
1. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1943-44
2. Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1944
3. M. Knoedler and Company ("Texas Artist"), 1952
4. State Capitol Bldg., Austin, Texas, 1951-53
5. Two Man Show, Houston Museum Fine Arts, 1954

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
1. National Society of Mural Painters, New York
2. Committee on Art Education, Museum of Modern Art, New York
WORK PLAN:

Unesco fellowships cover a period of six months. Describe in detail the work you would propose to do if you were granted a fellowship. A clear and precise exposition of your work plan will facilitate successful arrangements in the country or countries of study and thus render the fellowship more effective.

I am interested in a research project covering certain aspects of native life in Gold Coast, Africa. The plan is as follows:

1. Gather written data on the family life in regards to the economic, social and religious development of African people.

2. Make photographic studies and sketches of certain phases of contemporary life, architecture, and other art products.

3. Draw from gathered data sketches and cartoons that will lend themselves to the development of a mural.

4. Paint a mural and make a written report including photographic reproductions of the mural and important details.

The Relevant Features of Background and Interest

As an undergraduate art student at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, Negro art expression first became meaningful to me as a means of self-expression, self-adjustment, self-identification not only with the social and economic problems of the American Negro people but also with that contribution I felt it was in their power to make in the field of art. This nurtured the urge for establishing a relationship with the cultural achievement of the African Negro people.

Reasons or Qualifications for Undertaking Studies in this Field

With respect to my reasons and qualifications for undertaking studies in this field, I can say that it has been a life-long interest to me to explore the region of history that bridges the gap between African and American culture. To me this has been a region susceptible to rich discovery. I have long thought, particularly in cultural relationships, that much can be unearthed here that can be of real value to humankind and racial understanding. My years of study in this field, my six and one-half years of teaching, my current position as head of the art department at Texas Southern University, my actual paintings of the Negro and his history, lead me to feel qualified to engage in this foreign study and research with the hope of accomplishing the desired aims and results. To this I must add
that the all-consuming urge that constantly burns within me to be able to bring out into the light for everyone what is good, what is true, what is meaningful and what may not yet be known, so that I may make my own contribution to the art and history of the Negro.

OBLIGATIONS OF FELLOW

If Unesco offers me the possibility to carry out my work programme, I agree to follow the regulations governing Unesco fellowships, and to send a report on my period of study to Unesco.

Signature of prospective fellow: John T. Biggers

IF THE CANDIDATE HOLDS A POSITION IN HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, the following official statement is required from the authorities on whom the prospective fellow's employment after expiration of the fellowship depends.

To Unesco:

This is to give assurance that, should a fellowship be granted to Name: John T. Biggers

his present position of Professor and Head of the Department of Art will remain open to him on termination of the fellowship.

Signature: Everett O. Bell

Title or Position: Assistant to President and Director of Personnel

Date and Place: January 13, 1956, Texas Southern University