

October 22, 1966

Miss Paula Suelling
Old Screamer Mountain
Clayton, Georgia

Dear Miss Suelling:

All of us here share with you the loss of our friend Miss Lillian Smith. The world would be a much better place to live in if there were more people like her. If she had to die at this time, I am glad that she was spared the knowledge of the Maddox Victory.

On March 30, 1950 Miss Smith sent us a letter saying that she would give our library her manuscript of Killers of the Dream and she said that she was considering sending Strange Fruit and her speech manuscripts.

We wrote to her on November 18, 1963 but did not receive a reply. We were told later that she was ill at that time.

We know that many of her papers were destroyed in 1957, but we are wondering what disposition will be made of the papers that do exist. We wrote in the earlier letter and we repeat that Miss Smith's papers should be in a library in Georgia and we know that no institution would treasure them more than Atlanta University.

We have in our collection the papers of such outstanding individuals as Countee Cullen, George A. Towne; an important collection of John Brown letters, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, W.E.B. DuBois and papers of the Southern Women Against Lynching Commission on Interracial Cooperation and the Southern Regional Council among others. If you consent to donate Miss Smith's papers to us I assure you they will be given the protection they deserve and will be made available to researchers interested in the brotherhood of man.

May I hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

Miles M. Jackson, Jr.
Librarian

MMJ;elb

Box 766
Clayton, Ga.
Nov. 13, 1966

Mr. Miles M. Jackson, Jr.
Librarian, Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Thank you for your good letter. I hope you will understand my delay in answering. These weeks have been very full (and very empty) ones for me: the necessity of going ahead with the job of making a living, the many chores that befall the family after a death which was preceded by months of pain and strain.

I know Miss Smith had a feeling of respect and appreciation for Atlanta University. Her many visits on your campus and in some of the homes there were meaningful to her. I'm afraid I did not know of the March 30, 1950 letter you refer to.

I must tell you that, in the early 1950's, she gave certain materials to the University of Florida (she was born in that state) and that more recently she committed much of the rest to the University of Georgia. It will be some months before I shall be free to go through her papers and make recommendations to her family and executors (I shall be one of them) regarding all this, and the complications and in some cases overlapping half-commitments she may have made over the years. It is my impression that the U. of Fla. has the Killers ms. but I may be mistaken about this. At any rate I shall keep in mind her feelings about A.U. and its President and her other friends on the campus; I hope there will be some papers which can go to your Library. I know that they will receive appropriate care there.

Her years of illness, the struggle (when there were weeks of relative health) to keep on with her writing and speaking, with various forms her commitment to the human race and its understanding of itself, left her little freedom to organize her affairs, or to weigh one obligation against another. There are many decisions which I and others involved will not be able to make with the wisdom she would have used, had her later years permitted her to set all her affairs in order. But I do want you to know that I shall keep in mind the correspondence with you, and her friendly feelings for the University.

I appreciate your writing as you did. My regards to any friends there whom you may speak to on the subject. I hope, after a few months, to be able to begin sorting things out.

Sincerely,
Paula Snelling
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