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The RF was created in 1913 to “promote the well-being of mankinf throughout the world”

A foundation, like any other individual or corporate citizen, expects to obey all relevant laws and to act within the general framework of public policy, both at home and in the foreign countries where it is active. A foundation's business is philanthropy; it devotes itself to scientific, educational, religious or other charitable purposes, rather than to profit making for private gain.

If it wishes to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes, no substantial part of its activities may consist of propaganda, or other efforts, to influence legislation, although it retains the right of petition about legislation which directly affects itself. It must refrain from participation in partisan political campaigns. If such guides as these are negative, they are nevertheless important and give clear answers to certain types of proposals which reach the Foundation each year.

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The concern to make the "best" use of charitable funds generates an endless stream of questions. Where are the large returns to mankind from the modest investments of an endowed philanthropy? What will prove of enduring rather than of transitory value, of fundamental rather than superficial importance? Which types of expenditures are likely to benefit more rather than less of mankind in the long run? Where are the roadblocks, perhaps of ignorance, which seem to bar general progress, or where the neglected but crucial tasks? These and similar questions help to explain the now familiar phrases which have become standard in the foundation field: "the extension of knowledge," "root causes," "germinal ideas," "pioneering," "the training of leadership," "building on strength," and Mr. Rockefeller's "passion for excellence." Such familiar phrases reflect the sifting process by which are discovered the ideas, the techniques, the men and the institutions which seem to offer the most promising opportunities for foundation assistance. They also explain the emphasis which is placed upon individual capacity and the encouragement of men with creative ideas. Fortunately, there are many foundations, and their judgments differ.

The promotion of well-being necessarily involves notions, expressed or implied, about the anatomy of wellbeing, Where does one find the philosophical roots of the work of The Rockefeller Foundation over the past forty three years? In Jeremy Bentham's felicific calculus, in an Idea of Progress, in some systematic political or social theory, in one or another religious approach? The men who have been responsible for the Foundation have been, of course, strongly influenced by the society and times in which they have lived and by the prevailing Ideas of nineteenth and twentieth century America. Optimism was written into the Foundation's charter, as it was into the Preamble of the American Constitution. One finds the broad humanitarianism, much of it of religious inspiration, which seeks to remove such scars upon human dignity as sickness and extreme poverty. There is respect for knowledge, faith in education, reliance upon individual capacity and individual responsibility. But the Foundation also reflects the proposition that men with different notions about ultimate issues can agree upon a wide range of practical action. Attempts to articulate a philosophy of pragmatism out of the American experience have sometimes discounted the role of strongly held beliefs about the meaning of life and the nature of reality. A more sensitive interpretation might point, on the one hand, to the consensus about daily life which can be reached by men who are deeply committed to a variety of beliefs and, on the other hand, to the agreed rules of the democratic process which are designed to permit men to pursue theoretically diverse aims in reasonable

harmony.

If the Foundation is American in background, its national commitments have been enlarged by its charter instruction to consider "mankind throughout the world." In the more than 90 countries and territories in which the officers and staff have worked at one time or another, they have encountered most of the great religious and philosophical traditions which have something to say about the nature of human well being. As have many others, they have been able to identify a number of great preferences so deeply and widely held as to approximate a consensus among mankind. Men, by and large, seem to prefer knowledge to ignorance, health to sickness, a reasonable livelihood to poverty, order to anarchy, reasonable and predictable laws to tyranny, beauty to drabness, significance to dreary routine, atoms for peace to hydrogen war. Admittedly, even such a partial list is full of complication. Elementary aspirations can get into each other's way, especially where the means for pursuing them are in short supply.

Some powerful preferences divide rather than unite, such as our preference of ourselves over others. And relative success at a particular point, say, in material prosperity, brings new and subtle problems of its own.

That there is a broad and growing consensus about ends is illustrated by the manifold activities of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. The several charters of this international system record purposes to which the Members have given formal adherence. More tangible and persuasive are the thousands of specific tasks to which men of different nationalities and cultural traditions have given their time, thought and material resources. From what men do in such cooperative action can be inferred substantial agreement about the ends they share.

The thoughtful examination of ends, a vigorous search for new and more effective means, and a sober and responsible discussion of differences offer tempting and rewarding opportunities to a foundation. To say that The Rockefeller Foundation has worked toward aims which are widely shared throughout the world does not mean that it turns only to those which can be expressed as a least common denominator, nor only to those safely anchored in the status quo. The promotion of well-being calls for change in the direction of preferred ends. If controversy occasionally arises, as it does, some of it is the inevitable accompaniment of most worthwhile efforts; some, be it said, arises because all undertakings do not come up to the hopes which launched them; some is a sign that a problem which needs attention is getting it.

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It is commonly supposed, not without reason, that the primary asset of an endowed foundation is money. Equally important is its freedom—the freedom to use money in ways which multiply

its value by creating other assets which reinforce financial support. Flexibility to concentrate resources at points of unusual need or opportunity and the capacity to persist in a particular effort for long periods of time are useful attributes of endowed philanthropy. The Report will show how each of these is utilized in the course of a given year.

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Medical Education and public health

The year 1955 has been a transitional one in medical education as well as public health. While continuity with past programs has been maintained through project support to various institutions at home and abroad, an internal review has been under way which has resulted in a number of specific concepts of future significance.

These studies have been needed especially because of the rapid change in the character of our public health problems during this decade. Infectious disease as a cause of death and disability has been undergoing a marked decline in the more advanced countries of the world. As a result,

the composition of the populations concerned is being modified markedly.

Concurrently with these changes, there has been introduced into our industrial and social complex the completely new factor of nuclear energy, which has already had a profound effect upon national and international thought. The base of development in this field in the foreseeable future will be of such a magnitude as to tax both our scientific knowledge and our technical ingenuity in insuring public safety, entirely apart from the military problems involved. Both our philosophy of medical care and our objectives in public health must be reoriented to meet the new factors that have entered upon the world scene.

The programs that the Foundation is supporting in medical education in various parts of the world are predicated on the concept that the academic structure for medical education will differ appreciably among the various cultures and national patterns that exist today. Notwithstanding these differences, which are inevitable and reasonable, all sound medical curricula are in harmony with the general thesis that medical diagnosis and therapy must rest upon modern scientific development. Not only must the medical student enter his professional training with adequate scientific preparation, but the objective character of scientific observation and the experimental approach to biomedical problems must color his entire professional life.

In the general support of medical schools in various countries, the objectives of The Rockefeller Foundation have been: to encourage the development of faculties with strong scientific orientation and a devotion to the responsibilities of teaching; to extend the scientific method into the clinical training of the student, with emphasis upon the integration of clinical disciplines and the development of a sympathetic understanding of the patient and his problems. In extending its assistance to the improvement of the quality of instruction in medicine and public health, the Foundation has recognized the inseparability of teaching and research and has encouraged the evolution of departments where the close interplay of these most fundamental aspects of academic life would have the greatest prospect of full develop-

ment.

Programs have meaning only in terms of people. One of the most essential activities of the Foundation is its provision for the advanced training of outstanding persons who may be expected to exhibit leadership in the educational systems of their respective countries. The numerous fellowships and travel grants provided contribute to the development of the professional personnel upon whom the entire expectation of a steadily improving medical care and public health practice must depend. Special studies in the United States have been supplemented on occasion by visits of the Fellow to other countries in order that he may apply

to his own problems the most relevant methods and concepts.

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## Biological and Medical Research

As has been noted elsewhere in this report, the past year saw a regrouping of the Foundation's interest in agriculture, public health and medicine, and their related biological sciences. One result was the consolidation of research activities in the fields of medicine, biology, and biochemistry. No organizational scheme can be completely logical, but there is some satisfaction in calling attention to the fact that the Foundation's long-standing interest in genetics is no longer split arbitrarily between the genetics of man and the genetics of lower animals. As a concrete example, the grants made last year to the Galton Laboratory in London and to the University of Naples for work in human genetics are listed side by side in this report

with aid for population studies on fruit flies in Brazil.

Of more far-reaching significance perhaps is the fact that the Foundation's operating program for the investigation of virus diseases has now been brought into close association with grant-making activity in microbiology and the biochemistry of macromolecules. The operating program is currently devoted almost exclusively to a study of insectborne virus diseases affecting man. Its general scope has been presented previously and recent progress is summarized in the following pages of this report. The work in the Foundation's own laboratories raises many questions which can only be solved by the application of specialized

techniques beyond the scope of any single laboratory. For example, there is increasing reason to believe that our understanding of the biology of viruses will be greatly enriched by advances in the knowledge of protein and nucleic acid structure. In previous years, the former Natural Sciences Division of the Foundation contributed a large share of its funds to laboratories engaged in such studies.

Several current additions to this series of grants are briefly described in the following sections of this report.

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Grants to outside laboratories also serve to extend the Foundation's interest in virus into other fields which cannot conveniently be pursued by its own laboratory staff.

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## General Biology

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## Agriculculture

During 1955 the agricultural program of The Rockefeller Foundation, which began with a single staff member in Mexico in 1943, became one of the five major areas of Foundation interest as a result of action by the Board of Trustees. The program in agriculture consists of operating programs, grants in aid, appropriations, and training activities directed toward improving world food supplies through international efforts in agricultural research and education.

The operating activities of the Foundation in agriculture are concentrated in Latin America with centers in Mexico, Colombia, and Chile, and extended efforts in Central America and numerous countries in South America.

These have all now become essentially a single operation as a result of the similarity of the problems involved in the improvement of basic food crops, the free exchange of information and plant and animal materials, and the regular exchange of personnel, for both the purposes of training and of exchange of information and experience. This Latin American operation has recently become even more international in scope as increasing numbers of scientists from other areas have visited the several research centers in Latin America and have received information and genetic materials for trial in their own countries. Similarly, Rockefeller Foundation personnel have visited a number of countries in Asia and Europe with resultant mutual benefits. The extension of operating activities into the Orient is now being studied by the appropriate officers of the Foundation.

The training program in agriculture is considered to be of major importance. Experience has taught that it is not always possible or desirable to limit training activities to postdoctoral or even postgraduate levels, although these do play a major role in the entire training program. On occasion it is necessary to provide training opportunities for young agricultural scientists at undergraduate levels where this is an obvious need in the area under consideration.

At the present time, the training program in agriculture includes scholarships and fellowships for formal training in the United States or abroad, in-service scholarship appointments in connection with operating centers in Latin America, and one inter-area training program involving Indonesia and the Philippine Islands.

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These include positions in agricultural institutions as professors and investigators attacking fundamental problems of crop production through biochemistry, genetics, cytology, biophysics, plant pathology, microbiology, entomology, or other related sciences.

The grants and appropriations in agriculture are directed principally toward the support of fundamental research projects of potential long-range significance to agricultural production. These may be conventional in nature in that they support genetics, parasitology, veterinary science, agricultural education, soil science, or agricultural chemistry; or they may be nonconventional in that they aid research on the utilization of solar energy for agricultural purposes, all phases of water research with agricultural implications, marine resources as potential food supplies, and so on. Some grants have been made in connection with operating programs to supplement their research activities by the support of collateral programs in agricultural extension.

In all these activities the focus is on the improvement of the quality and quantity of world food supplies. Thus, such crops as corn, wheat, rice, potatoes, beans, vegetables, and forages have been selected for major emphasis along with certain phases of animal science including poultry and dairy and beef cattle. Each activity of the entire program, whether it be in the area of operation or training or grants, is directly or indirectly designed to contribute to this overall objective. It is believed that the operating programs themselves can make significant contributions through research to the improvement of food crops in those areas in which they are located. In the long run, however, the most important results will accrue from the activities of those individuals who have had various types of training in association with the Foundation's program in agriculture, and from the results of fundamental research supported under this program. Already past trainees are assuming leadership in fundamental research projects of importance to their own countries and in the development of departments and institutions to carry on significant research activities and the training of future leaders in agricultural science.

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## The Social Sciences

The Social Sciences are are primarily concerned with the scientific study of human societies, as a whole and by segments, with all their complexities and problems and in their relation to one another. Economics, political science, and sociology are the social sciences among the aca-

demic disciplines. This trilogy, however, is nowadays usually interpreted broadly to include international relations, economic history, demography and population, along with parts of mathematics and statistics, legal and political philosophy, cultural anthropology, and geography, in order to widen comprehension, sharpen the analysis, or achieve perspective. Moreover, what ancillary approaches and techniques can be usefully applied to the study of man in society change rather rapidly because, on the one hand, new advances in related fields occur frequently and because, on the other, man's conscious concern with his own social environment keeps changing as that environment changes. The consequence is that the social sciences have at once a high rate of progress and a high rate of obsolescence.

Notwithstanding all the ramifications that the scientific study of human society has come to assume in the presentday world, the Foundation's program in the social sciences must necessarily be somewhat restricted. Not all segments of the social sciences seem to be equally germane to the problems of today's world, to be equal in the feasibility or likelihood of their making significant advances, and, finally, to be equally pertinent in their subject emphasis and geographical range to other programs of the Foundation. These considerations—along with due regard to the principle of the division of labor and the practical impossibility of being con-

cerned with everything simultaneously—have largely determined the present program in the social sciences.

In the social as in other sciences, some of the most valuable work is commonly at the periphery of the disciplines, or at the uncertain borders where they spill over into one another and rush on into theretofore unknown fields. No less important, of course, is basic work at the heart of the central problems in any discipline. Such efforts, which call for the utmost in skill, imagination, devotion, and high intellectual competence with a certain flair, are rarely motivated by a concern with immediately "practical\*\* problems. Yet the unfettered pursuit of knowledge without reference to its immediate application is central in the Western intellectual

tradition and, over the long pull, has done more than anything else to improve our human lot. Consequently extensions of fundamental theory, the development of new analytical techniques, and the synthesizing, generalizing, and integrating of theory and fact in any one social science discipline or between and among different disciplines, all have a high priority in the program of the social sciences.

The economically (and sometimes politically) less developed countries, however, nowadays claim a larger share of the attention of all of us. The program in the social sciences endeavors, therefore, to assist in the development of social scientists and social science research in these areas themselves. These countries are confronted with political, economic, and social problems which probably can only be analyzed and dealt with by trained indigenous social scientists. At the same time, however, social scientists in the more developed countries can help in this process by their own researches and by offering training facilities to their confreres from the less developed countries. The social science program is intended to assist where it can promote

both purposes. Notwithstanding the now special claims of the underdeveloped areas and the ever-present need for significant basic work in the social science disciplines, certain major problems confronting our own society seem to be so important that they cannot be omitted from even a restricted program. One such, surely, is how to preserve, vitalize, and extend the

values for which Western society traditionally has stood while at the same time assuring that it evolves and adapts to the dynamic changes which are forever arising within it and impinging upon it from without. A second is how can Western societies cope with the problem of living in peace and harmony with one another and with other societies with a non-Western tradition so that man's ingenuity, knowledge, and skills can work towards improving his spiritual and material well-being instead of their nullification. No one supposes, of course, that these congeries of problems are solvable in the sense that a problem in machine design is solvable. All the same, the only known route to their possible alleviation is through research, analysis, and reflection by human beings, among them social scientists.

These, then, are the main strands of the program in the social sciences as the officers see it for the days immediately ahead.

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## The Humanities

In the Humanities, The Rockefeller Foundation is now mainly concerned with history, philosophy, linguistics, and the arts. For the purpose of reporting, grants are listed under four major headings: Intercultural Studies; Humanistic Research; The Arts; and Special Projects.

Actually, grants which aim at intercultural understanding usually depend on historical, philosophical, and linguistic research and, except for the primacy of this aim, might as well be listed under the more general heading, Humanistic Research.

### Intercultural studies

During the last decade, interaction among the people of the world has developed at a spectacular rate. As a result, each country is host to a profusion of impressions, presumptions, and attitudes regarding other cultures, nearby and remote. How to understand, how to judge, and how to deal with different peoples require as never before knowledge of the forces and ideas at work in all parts of the world. To contribute to such knowledge is the aim of the intercultural studies supported by The Rockefeller Foundation for more than two decades.

For such studies, the major universities of the world have evident advantages in the enduring character of their effort, in their scholarly resources, in their established library services, and in the possibility of broadening and enriching their educational offering. In undertaking such studies they not only contribute to knowledge but train others for its pursuit.

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Also observable is the growth of cooperation and effective communication among universities in countries distant from each other, with the result that new knowledge and perspectives are quickly shared.

### Humanistic Research

Grants reported in this section reflect the continuing interest of the Foundation in what scholarly research in history, philosophy, and linguistics can contribute to the individual's better understanding of his past, his position in the world of thought, and his intercommunications with his fellow men.

### The arts

In the arts, the problem is somewhat different. For The Rockefeller Foundation, the aim is not patronage but assistance which will result in a broader enjoyment of the arts, and in a larger measure of public support for them after the necessarily limited period of Foundation aid.

For such an effort there appear to be few precedents. Such assistance as the arts have ordinarily received has been in the form of subsidy: in many countries, state support; in the United States, contributions to make up current deficits. The assumption seems to have been that the arts cannot survive without such subsidy. But all too rarely has an attempt been made to explore the contrary proposition, more often than not because funds to finance an experiment were lacking. Certainly, there is no over-all pattern for assistance which might help the arts to enhance their situation: the problems of each art are different, and differ further region by region and country by country. As grants reported under this heading indicate, the Foundation is still primarily concerned with how it can assist in the development of the arts in the United States, without disregard of promising opportunities elsewhere.

In the case of literature in the United States, there seems to be consensus on one strategic need, that for fellowships which may enable writers of promise, who have not yet won general recognition, to work toward its achievement. With the exigencies of publishing what they are, a writer must apparently go further in the practice of his art than formerly before his work attracts a reading public.

Different needs in different arts are illustrated by three grants in music. A strategic need in music in the United States appears to be advanced training for conductors: the feasibility of arranging it is being tested under a grant to the American Symphony Orchestra League. To offer an enjoyment of music to more people, and to achieve a larger measure of public support, performing organizations must reach a larger constituency: a grant to the Little Symphony Society of Berkeley, California, will test the possibilities of its offering concerts in more communities of the Bay Region. Much of the larger audience for music conies as it gains young recruits: a grant to Young Audiences, Inc., will determine the extent to which its concerts in the schools can be expanded with this outcome.

Finally, an art may develop in a new location, or in a new direction. A grant to the Virginia Museum of Fine rts in Richmond will help in discovering how a state institution devoted to the arts in general can bring drama within the scope of its activities. Though drama and religion have been closely linked, the larger possibilities of religious drama seem not to have been realized in the United States: a grant to the Union Theological Seminary of New York will allow an exploration of these possibilities by students, clergymen, and others concerned with radio, television, and the theatre.

As implied, the Foundation may be said to be learning its way in the arts, with few precedents for guidance. By this same token, the grants here reported cannot be regarded as precedents for other grants, In all probability only the general principles they embody are constant. The Foundation is keenly aware of broader needs in the arts, in the United States and elsewhere—and is keenly aware of the disparity of its resources and the magnitude of those needs. It is for such reasons that the assistance of The Rockefeller Foundation in the arts must remain relatively modest, strategic rather than remedial in character, selective rather than systematically inclusive as to recipients.

The Foundation can hardly confront the apparent need of subsidy, of patronage; it can only help a few agencies in the arts to explore ways in which these seemingly persistent needs may he resolved.