-10 May 1849.

Literany Vien Immelficient. ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

W Courth

Form of Application for an Author.

2546

| Christian Name and Surname of the Applicant in words at length. | John Laurence Hornibrook |
|---|--|
| Profession, University, or other Titles. | |
| Age, Date, and Place of Birth. | Age 37 Born at Bandon, Be Bork on the 10th of Dec in the year 1861 |
| Present Residence. | 27. Bulever Road, Leytonstone |
| Whether Single or Married; and, if Married, or having been so, and having a Family, the Number, respective Ages, and Circumstances of the Children. | |
| If relieved before by the Royal Literary Fund; and if so, how often, and to what amount on each occasion? | never |
| Present Means and Sources of Income, whether from Salary, Annuity, Pension, or other kind of Provision. | No means or income whatever; Solely depending upon literary work. |
| The Amount of such Income yearly; and the actual Amount of Literary Earnings during the past year. | Carnings during last year, £245.15/- (Exclusive of losses.) |

| TITLES OF PUBLISHED WORKS, in full. To be continued, if necessary, on the 2nd page. | No. of Vols. | Size. | Place of Publication. | Date of Publication. |
|--|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| "The Shadow of a Life." | / | 3/6 | Loudon | 1888 |
| "The Shadow of a Life." "The Missing Baptain" | / | 1/- | C, | 1890: |
| "The Lucen of The Ranche" | 1 | 3/6 | - | 1890 |
| * "The Black Deluge" (Serial in | " Cto | ies") | 4 | 1897-8 |
| Principal magazine Ctories:- | | | |)* |
| "a Ingedy en 2he air" - Strau | & may | azine | Luly | 1893 |
| " An Ocean Graveyard" | 20 | | Feb | 1895 |
| "baptain Brownelm's Hunder" | 50 | | non | 4 |
| " The Black Panther" | 00 | | Sune | 1896 |
| " 2 miler. 2000". | 00 | | Dec: | 4 |
| " The Bullet Hole" (Hrow the French) " a Mystery of Svil " (2 Stories aupublished) | 80 | | 4 | |
| " a mystery of Svil " | 50 | | Lune | 1597 |
| (2 Stonies aupublished) | | | | |

In mable to Submit copies Of the paper in which this appeared.

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REGULATIONS

IN REGARD TO APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF.

I. This Form of Application must be accompanied by a separate Letter from the Applicant, stating the causes of his (or her) Distress, and any other facts relating to the nature of his (or her) Works or circumstances, which it may be considered desirable to communicate.

II. No Application for relief shall be entertained, unless the same shall have been sent in writing to the Secretary, at least seven days previous to a meeting of the General Committee; nor unless accompanied by letters from two or more respectable persons authenticating the merits of the case.

III. No relief shall be granted to any person who does not come under the following description, to be proved in such manner as shall be satisfactory to the General Committee, viz.:—

- I. Authors of some published work of approved literary merit, who shall be in want or distress: such Authors not having been previously relieved by the Society within a year of the date of the application.
- 2. Widows, Mothers, Sisters, or Orphans* of deceased Authors eligible for relief: such Widows, Mothers, Sisters, or Orphans never having been previously relieved by the Society. In such cases one grant only shall be made.

IV. All relief shall be given as a donation towards the removal of the distress of the Applicant, and not as a loan, nor for the completion of any literary work.

V. The literary claim of every new Applicant shall be affirmed by vote of the General Committee before the question of want or distress shall be considered. The Works upon which the Application is founded must therefore be submitted for examination.

* The term "Orphans" is understood to apply to children or unmarried daughters who are left destitute by the recent death of their parent.

The General Committee meet to receive Applications on the Second Wednesday in the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, October, November, and December.

By the preceding Regulations, all Applications, Books, and Documents must be delivered on or before the First Wednesday in the month, to the

SECRETARY,

7, ADELPHI TERRACE, W.C.

1st December, 1898.

27, Buliver Road Leytonstone 11th april 199

a. Llewelyn Roberto By.
Royal Literary Fund
7. adephi Zerrace
m.b.

as I am not acquainted with the precise objects of the "Royal Literary Fund", would you do me the favour of informing me whether my case would come within

ito scope?

It is simple this: For the last six or seven years I have been engaged in literary work, and am depending upon it tolely for the support of myself and family. Up to about two years ago I was doing pretty well, being a regular contributor to the "Strand Magazine", from which I had special requests for stories. Unfortunately about that time a very serious accident occurred in my house, caused by an explosion of gas. My wife was so dreatfully injured that her recovery was dispaired of. She was laid up for about seven months during which time I had several doctors and a murse in attendance; and I may mention that, in one case alone, a doctor's bill came I to £ 66.

In endersuring to meet these heavy expenses, I was considerably hampered in my works. Subsequently I joined the staff of a weekly paper ("Stories"), where I put in nine months of hard works. At the end of that time it went into liquidation; and though the proprietors were wealthy men, my necessities compelled me to exept the compromise they offered, on account of a serial I was

writing, ving - 10/0 in the £. This, to me, involved a loss of £53-18/-, besides the injury I suffered through having severed my connection with other publications. On account of these reverses I had to give a Bill of Sale to a money lender, which is now hanging over my head. In order to meet the instalments, I have frequently to sacrifice my best works, so as to seeme prompt payments. not only so, but I find that being forced to ask for payment on acceptance from the magazines, is very much against me in some cases. In a word, I am auxious to obtain temporary assistance, which would relieve me from these embarrassments, and enable me to devote myself to works. I find it impossible to do so under present circumstances you will doubtless be able to gather from the enclosed What my prospects are. I do not desire anything in the nature of a gift: simply an advance, to relief my muid from this constalit strain. It occurred to me that if the fund is not available for such a purpose, you might possibly lenow of someone to whom I might apply. your advice would the most welcome. I may add that the Editor of the "Literary World" who saw some of my works, told me some time ago that he had no doubt I could make a large income, if I could only hold on long enough. That is just the difficulty: it is well- night impossible under present circumstances. With many apologies for troubling you, with many apologies for troubling you, yours faithfully.

27, Bulwer Road Leytonstone 2 ud May 1899 The bommittee Royal Literary Fund Gentleman, In making an application for a grant from the thund, I beg to say that I have set forth the facts of my case Jully in a previous communication. I need, therefore, only enclose one or two accounts, which will Serve to show the heavy expenses I have had to meet owing to a gas explosion in my house. There is one point to which I beg leave to direct your attention. I am given to understand that

granto are principally made to writers who have either produced a work of ment in booke form, or who contribute to the bigher class magazines. Neither has been possible in my case; at least, to the extent 9 should have wished. Hampered as I am, it is absolutely essential that I should write for the magazines from which I can obtain prompt payment, though it is often against my inclinations to do so! To give an example: Story submitted to "Temple Bar" in may, was accepted in september, not published until in the shape of a story following December twelvements. Suitable for publication in Story submitted to "Harnsworth books form.

magazine" accepted and paid for within a weeks months had clapsed, I was compelled to ask for payment, and received a cheque for £13-13/. otherwise I would have had to wait for over a year. In the latter case, I receive £ 10-10/. for each story on acceptance. The difference in the time involved is also a very important consideration to one in my position. I am, therefore, practically tied down to writing for magazines which cannot be considered literary. Gircumstances also prohibit me from attempting anything

I do earnestly hope that these facts will be talsen into Consideration, and that my story in "Zemple Bar" wille be regarded as evidence that I can write for the higher class magazines, but am debarred from doing so under present circumstances. my own inclinations lie altogether in that direction. Insting you will very kindly take my case into your favourable consideration, I beg to remain, Your obedient Servant, Taxonibrook

13, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

17.4 Fmi 99

"ho the committee of Licrary Inno

Contemin Shave as Dubt, for statement. Their structe uns present cricum Carron . Chair har Avrainer han ment 6 om Met him is a conse ci Li a frant fran an Zund unight he and with at all. alone eighten months al. Sussorotand, her

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THE STRAND MAGAZINE, 8-11, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND, LONDON,

W.C

3. V. .99

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Mistradael L

(Signature of Applicant.)

[T.O.

13, Mall Road Hammersmith London, W. 30th January 1912

20 He Bonnnittee Royal Riterary Fund

Gentlemen, I begleave to lay my case before you, for your levil be able to make brind consideration, in the hope that you will be able to make me a grant from your thind. For twenty-one years I have been engaged in literary everle, and for the past seventoen years have been entirely depardent upon it for the support of myself and family. That my work was regarded as possessing ment is evidenced by the fact that it was readily accepted by such publications as "Templa Bar", "argory", "Chambers Tournal", Le., apart from the booles of mine which were published. Unfortunately, when I had every prospect of commanding a sure position in literature, à terrible accident took place at my home in Woodford, Essex, coursed by an explosion of gas. My wife was Set on fire and so dreadfully burnt that for more than six months she lay between life and death, with doctors and nurses in constant attendance. When I say that the local doctors bill alone came to Eisty quincas, some idea may be garried as to the expense. In the circumstances, it was impossible for me to continue my literary works, or indeed to write at all at Lines. I was compelled, morevor, to give a Bill of Sale on my furniture, which was all swept away when I had paid off the greater part of the amount. I I may add that my wife, who never recovered from the effects of the accident, died some fen years ago under very sad and distressing

To provide for my family and the education of my children, I was forced to abandon literature and

works for the popular Press. The long strain and anxiety - for fifteen years I have not had a rest or change - has told on me so much that I have lately had a complete nervous breakdown. Owing to the inability to write, I am confronted by a most serious position, yet I feel that a rest and freedom from asscriety would restore me, and that I might still recover in some measure the position I formerly held in literature.

Us regards my Children, I might add that my eldest daughter is engaged as a secretary and typist, but is not in a position to halfsme in any way. My son, who is now 20, has been taken over by relatives in America.

my youngest dangleter is still at school.

May repress a suicere hope that my application may meet with your favourable consideration.

I beg to Remains, Gentlemen, yours faithfully.

Dr. LAUZUN-BROWN,

(8)

297, Goswell Road, E.C.

Dec 16 = 1911.

PHONE: 4557 CENTRAL.

Huis in to Certify Chal. Mr J. T. Hornibrown. 18 male Rd. Hammers muth 5 suf-Jerug from Zurvons Overstrami, an Neuras hemai aud is at fresent. meapable of performing any Sustamied literary Composition in responsible brain work Jan Kud He is in the I fa pulonged Nest. & smich quietiese Danz um- Brown LReb LRes (Somi).

TELEPHONE, 13709, CENTRAL. 41, BEDFORD SQUARE, W.C.

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I have read the Hometroom's elones and will return them to you timerroom.

The case seems to him on the border. him rigerde biliany ment. The herel 'The Perting of the Ways' Court , I their, housely, be raid to ratify the standard. It is very dull a poor plot, and baldy untile. But the short Hory from Temple Ber' is Desidelly better end is in but, a fair magazine stay, with home tucker of humans and some good chimaphere: of there is have 8 ta? Homibwon's work on the level I then he may be considered guesped, by the is the only work of this class, it is, y comes a slender brain for his clavin and the Harris.

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90 ke my 18.12.

13, Mall Road Hammersmith 3rd Jan: 1912

Dear Sir, I have found it impossible up to the present to obtain copies of the magazines containing the Stories I wish to submit. I think it would be better, therefore, to allow the matter to stand over until next mouth, as this would give me ample time.

Thanking you for your courtesy.

Jews faithfully,

The Sacretary Royal Literary Fund.

The Editor's Office

The Educational Book & Led.

210. Temple Chambers.

Sondon, E.C.

January 17th, 1912.

The Secretary,
Royal Literary Fund,
296, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

Dear Sir,

J. L. Hornibrook. I understand that Mr. Hornibrook is an applicant to your fund for a grant either by way of pension or otherwise, and as I have had relations with him for the last twelve or thirteen years I have been asked to write to you on his behalf.

When I was General Editor to the publishing firm of Messrs. S. W, Partridge & Co., I had an opportunity of judging Mr. Hornibrook's literary work and His work as a writer of short stories I formed a very high opinion of it. had been familiar with before I had any personal dealings with him, and it seemed to me that in the various tales of his which I read in The Strand Magazine, Chambers' Journal, Temple Bar, etc., he showed a most unusual and thorough The work he did for Messrs. Partmastery of the art of the short story. ridge, excellent though it was, meritorious in its manner, and wholesome in its In the story influence, was probably not the best of which he was capable. entitled "In the Bonds of Silence", although I speak of it after a lapse of eleven years, I remember real dramatic power and a fine vigorous style of narrative. "The Parting of the Ways" was a longer tale, less dramatic in its construction, but showing a genuine insight into character, and I have reason to believe that its circulation had a influence for good; while "The Children of the Prairie" is a very charming example of literature for young people.

The Educational Book & Led. 210. Temple Chambers. London, E.C.

Although I have not personally been acquainted with Mr. Hornibrook in his home life I have every reason to know that he has had a good deal of domestic trouble, and long ago saw that he was fighting rather a hopeless battle to maintain the standard of his work in circumstances which made it difficult to It is some years ago since I personally did what produce any work ataall. little I could to help him, and only recently I heard that he was still struggling unsuccessfully to better himself and in serious danger of going under altogether on account of the break up of his health.

I have always felt that he is a capable writer who has been handicapped for lack of means, but who in happier domestic circumstances no doubt would have His Mother Mrs. Emma taken an honorable place among the writers of his day. Hornibrook, was long and favourably known both in England and America as a writer of wholesome domestic stories.

I personally believe that if any assistance could be rendered to him from your fund it might be the means of enabling a man of real talent to escape from the prospect of semi-starvation as a literary hack, with which he is faced.

As to his personal character I have no intimate knowledge, and can only say that on numerous occasions when I have met him during the last twelve years he has always seemed to me sober and willing to work, but too often mentally worried by financial troubles to be able to carry through such work as he could get.



fm. 29.1912

49, HILL STREET,
BERKELEY SQUARE, W.

Sean hur Roberts.

The two books sent on 2. ". Hominoch en very hon specimens of Their class i cannot on Resanded as leterature. The shorter one, he and for children, " interesty Conventional, foody-foody unitivité og a d'hyph of humour. the other is a goodish tony of ho menit er eriginality mitten

squale Thy with The Salvation suny,

henry tallone.

(13)

13 Mall Road Hammersmith 29th Samuary 1912

The Secretary Royal Literary Fund

Dear Sir. I have searched in vain for the volumes of the "Orgozy", "Bhombers I ommal" Le., containing the Stories I wished to Submit. I am compelled, the Stories I wished to Submit. I am compelled, therefore, to submit two stories from the "Strand Magazine" although I do not consider "Strand Magazine "although I do not consider that they possess the Samo literary merit; also that they possess the Samo literary merit; also quite a short tale from "Bhambers Immal."

Quite a short tale from "Bhambers Immal."

I have asked Mr. J. a. Hammeton to write to you on my behalf, and I understand he has done so.

Homibook

1 th: 1912

41, BEDFORD SQUARE, W.C.

TELEPHONE, 13709, CENTRAL.

Dear M. Roberts I have read the additional stories your set me and return them herwith I report to say that I cannot them to that in the above of a Genous able separt on the? Hornelsook's books there stones en Afficient to establish his claim. I wo of them are magazine stores of a quile inferior order and the third - are hibrical amellote - is allogable too slight and is but told will any Will or deliction I regent the horizon 6 have the report as I ou civilie the Hornibroom e litele unjuly and he has written to the hos corries me to be see any injunere I way porsees in his baking. Jane very til Cuttiny HHaureins

THATCHED HOUSE CLUB.

St JAMES' STREET.

S.W.

1 February. 1912

Dear Sir

I understand that my friend, Mr J.L. Hornibrook, is an applicant to you for a grant, and I have the greatest pleasure in writing on his behalf.

Mr Hornibrook has been not only a close and personal friend of mine for many years, but was also my literary god-father, and I am glad of an opportunity of stating my indebtedness to him for my success in short-story writing.

He is, moreover, the best tutor in fiction-writing that I know, and possesses the unusual faculty not only of detecting weak points but of showing lucidly how they can be amended. He has to my knowledge on several occasions generously put this talent at the disposal of others gratuitously. For instance, a lady I know had sent out a story time and again unsuccessfully. I took it to Mr Hornibrook who read it through and suggested an amendment, with the result that the story sold at once, and for a good price.

At the time Mr Hornibrook was dontributing to The Strand - his 'An Ocean Graveyard', though I have not seen it for years, remains as distinct in my memory as on the day I read it - he was in the front rank of short, story writers, and would have stayed there but for misfortune.

This is not my opimion only. I have discussed Mr
Hornibrook's work many a time with men qualified to judge - editors
of leading magazines and others - and their opinion of his merit
has been the same as mine.

The misfortune of which he was a victim was a peculiarly sad betrayal of domestic trust and though Mr Hornibrook, for the honour of his name, did not make it public, the shock partially paradysed his literary powers.

Since then he has fought gallantly to retain his old position under conditions which would have broken down many men.

For some time I have noticed with anxiety that the strain has been wearing down his health, and what I feared has now happened.

If you can assist him, you will be the means of helping back into the short-story world a writer of real literary merit, and such are needed.

You will find my name on page.61. of the Literary Year Book.
1912., and I may perhaps be permitted to add that I am chairman
of the Library Committee of the Club.

Yours truly

Mand 9: Bern

To

The Secretary

Royal Literary Fund. Vauxhall Bridge Road Hornibrook, John Laurence. John Laurence Hornibrook. B 1861. n.d. MS Archives of the Royal Literary Fund: Archives of the Royal Literary Fund 2546. World Microfilms. Nineteenth Century Collections Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/AGRITB542589886/GDCS?u=slv&sid=bookmark-GDCS&pg=3. Accessed 8 Apr. 2023.