

## September 4, 1943, letter from B.A. Botkin to Willis Laurence James

**September 4, 1943 Mr. Willis Laurence James 39 Chestnut Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia**

Dear Dr. James:

Your letter, records and copy of The Peachite came while I was on vacation. I have had no opportunity to hear all of the records but I am very much pleased with those I have heard. We are making a set of duplicates for Fort Valley State College to which I hope you will have access for transcription purposes. Unfortunately, we have no provision for any but recording projects.

I am very much interested in your water front songs. Would it be possible for me to see some of them?

We had an enthusiastic letter from Bliss Wiant, who was a Judge at the Festival. He writes as follows:

“I am anxious to receive a set of this material inasmuch as I have never before witnessed such an outpouring of spontaneous and powerful melody. We need not fear for the vitality of the negro but because of it if this is a criterion of his native urge and expression.” ( sic. )

Recently Stirling Brown read me a chapter from his forthcoming book dealing with you and the Festival at Fort Valley. It is extremely well done and you should feel happy to have inspired it.

I am writing Dr. Bond concerning the blank disks and needles which were sent to him for the use of Lewis Jones in March.

## Library of Congress

Thanking you for your cooperation and for your excellent additions to the Archive of American Folk Song, I am

Sincerely yours, B. A. Botkin Assistant in Charge Archive of American Folk Song

BAB/k