HARCOURT BROWN

PAPERS

List of Correspondence

by

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Boxed and arranged

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INTRODUCTION

The Harcourt Brown Papers contain about one-hundred letters written by Brown from Queen's University to his finance, Dorothy Stacey from September, 1926 to April, 1927 and a small batch from Queen's University to his wife, Dorothy, during September 1927 when she was in Toronto on family business. The letters provide an invaluable portrait of a professor's life at Queen's University in the late 1920's.

In addition the collection of one hundred and fifty photographs illustrate life at Queen's University and in Kingston during the same period.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Newton Price Harcourt Brown was born in Toronto on May 30, 1900, the son of Newton Harcourt and Grace Amanda (Young) Harcourt. He was educated at the University of Toronto where he received his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Modern Languages degree in 1925 and his Master of Arts degree in 1926. In 1934 he obtained the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University.

Professor Brown taught at Queen's University from 1926 to 1929, Brooklyn College, New York, 1930-1931 and the University of Rochester, 1931-1932. In 1934 to 1935 he was a Travelling Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1935 he became Professor of French and Chairman of Romance Languages at Washington University, Saint Louis. Professor Brown remained at Washington University until 1969.

He was author of Scientific Organizations in Seventeenth-Century France. His monograph in the scientific activities of the Academie de Caen, 1668-1674, was awarded the Prix Moulin of the Modern Academie Nationale des Sciences, Arts et Belles-Lettres of that city. In the same year he was named an honorary member of that body. The Government of France awarded him the Palmes academiques in 1946.

He was also author of Science and the Human Comedy and editor of The Army's Mister Brown: A family trilogy.

Professor Brown's eighteenth century Voltaire book collection was donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto in 1980.

He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Also he was a member of the Modern Language Association of America, the Modern Humanities Research Foundation, the Society for French Studies, the American Association of Teachers of French, and the American Association of University Teachers.

Professor Brown had articles published in many academic periodicals and publications including University of Toronto Quarterly, Studies in the Renaissance, Studies on Voltaire and the 18th Century, Diogenes, Isis, Journal of Higher Education, Journal of the History of Ideas, Dictionary of Scientific Biography, Revue d'Historie de la literature francais, Bulletin de la Societe d'Histoire du Protestantisme francais, Daedalus, Rendiconti of Accademia Nazionale del Lincei and the Annals of Science.

In 1927 he married Elizabeth Stacey, of Toronto. They have a daughter Jennifer (Mrs. Wilson B. Brown), of the Department of History, University of Manitoba.

Professor Brown died in Winnipeg on November 17, 1990.

PROVENANCE

The Harcourt Brown Papers were donated to the Queen's University Archives by his daughter, Jennifer S.H. Brown in 1991.

RESTRICTIONS

The Papers are open to all researchers. However, permission to obtain photocopies of the papers or prints of the photographs must be obtained in writing from Jennifer S.H. Brown.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The Papers consist of four files of correspondence. They cover the years 1926 to 1927 and contain letters from Harcourt Brown to his finance and later wife, Dorothy Stacey.

In addition there are approximately one-hundred and fifty photographs, plus negatives, of Queen's University and Kingston and district, 1926-1927.