

# Philip Ranney Brooks Memorial Room Tribute to Portland Book Connoisseur

By Geneal Cowan

In May 1941, the Philip Ranney Brooks Memorial library was donated to the University of Oregon by the late Mrs. Lester Brooks of Portland in memory of her son, a "true booklover and reader."

The Philip Ranney Brooks Memorial library is located on the third floor of the library just off the Special Collections room. The hours are from 1 to 5 Monday through Friday; and 9-12; 1-5 on Saturday. All students are welcome to visit it at these hours.

### Study Lounge

Construction of the room was financed by Mrs. Brooks and was planned as a study lounge for students. It houses approximately 2000 books which were taken from Mr. Brooks' private library and are representative of French, English and American authors.

Although not primarily collector's items, the books are complete deluxe editions bought by Mr. Brooks to be read and enjoyed.

### Some Rare Editions

Most of the books are of the nineteenth and twentieth century printings, although there are several rare editions from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century publishings. Among them are Dryden's "Fables from Boccaccio and Chaucer" published in 1822 in England. Two rather old books of Shakespeare's plays printed in 1805 are also among the collection, as well as a small Latin textbook by Martial published in 1540.

That Mr. Brooks derived much pleasure from his library is evidenced by his later life when he experienced total deafness and an infirmity which confined him to his home entirely. His library became his "world" and the late Dr. Donald M. Erb, former University president, said at the dedication of the room to the library that "He (Philip Brooks) loved his books and through them he learned to live anew."

### Art Collector

Mr. Brooks was also a connoisseur of art and five pictures were taken from his home in Portland Heights for the Memorial room. There are four portraits which have been associated with the work done in the early seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They include a portrait of Lady Jane Douglas of English nobility; her brother, Duke of Douglas; a picture of Judge Filkes of Wiltshire, England, and another English court justice. They were bought in Canada. A landscape painting hangs on the western side of the room and is thought to be of Norwegian origin.

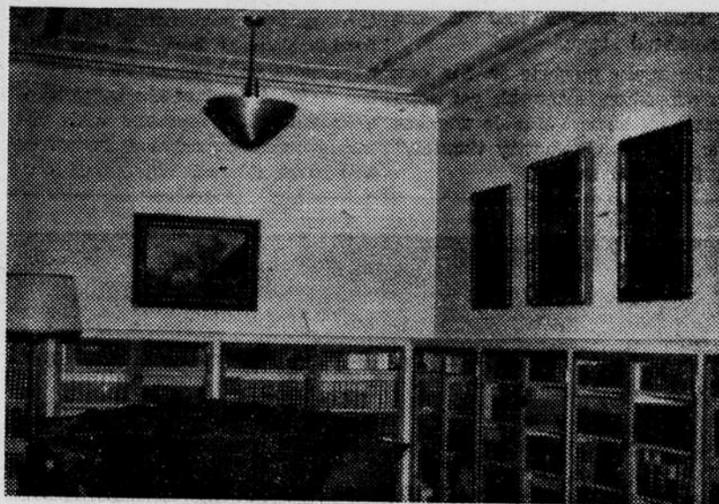
Mr. Brooks' portrait occupies the eastern wall. The picture was taken in his National Guard uniform in 1907.

### Doors from Home

Wrought iron doors taken from the Portland Heights home and designed by Mr. Brooks furnish a picturesque entrance. They are



Portrait of Philip Ranney Brooks, in whose memory the Philip Ranney Brooks Memorial Library was given to the University of Oregon. The portrait was painted in 1907 in his National Guard Uniform.



Northwest corner of the Philip Ranney Brooks Memorial Room in the library which houses over 2000 copies of English, French and American literature.

fashioned from iron woven against clear glass and mahogany.

Philip Brooks was educated in the public schools in Minneapolis and graduated from the Lawrenceville academy in New Jersey, where he excelled as a classical orator. He studied at Yale university from 1894-96, but withdrew from school at his father's insistence. He thought it was a waste of time for Philip to continue his education since he was to succeed his father in the lumber industry. His university life had acquainted him with the scholastic, however, and it greatly influenced the rest of his life in his determination to build a substantial private library and acquaint himself with a knowledge of literature and the creative arts.

Philip Brooks entered the lumber business enthusiastically, and when his father died he transferred the active interests of the Brooks-Scanlon company to Vancouver, B.C.V., from the old headquarters at Minneapolis. Fifteen years later he retired from business and built his home in Portland Heights. A lover of nature and the out-doors, he created many beautiful gardens around his home in Portland.

He had many interests among them music, drama and architecture. A hobby of his was realized in the building of the Pilot Butte inn at Ben, Oregon, described by Dr. Erb as "an architectural gem set amid a lovely garden at the junction of the old Oregon Trail

and the turbulent Deschutes River."

Philip Brooks died July 23, 1940, after a long illness at his home in Portland. He was survived by his mother, Mrs. Lester Brooks. "It was her (Mrs. Brooks') prayer," said Dr. Erb, "that the youth of Oregon may find in the use of her son's library the broadening vision which points to larger and more fruitful living."

# Drive Called Successful Despite Sign-up Shortage

The housing drive started last month by the Ten O'Clock Club of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce ended yesterday with results which Art Prialux, publicity manager for the drive, summed up as "successful in a tangible way rather than in actual rooms signed up."

The drive, however, fell far short of the 500 rooms signed up during winter term. But it accomplished two concrete objectives, Mr. Prialux said. First, it impressed upon those who opened their houses last January the necessity of continuing to rent their rooms. Also, it appraised many Eugene home-owners of the situation so that a good many single students were able to obtain rooms through their own efforts.

There is still great difficulty in getting accommodations for married veterans, Mr. Prialux stated. This situation will probably not ease until fall term when more temporary housing may be opened on the campus. At present, however, the bottom of the Eugene barrel seems to be scraped in the search for rooms for returning veterans, married or single.

President H. J. Cox of the chamber of commerce issued a final appeal Saturday for rooms. "If Eugene can just see those boys through the spring term, the worst of the problem will be over," he said. "By next fall the University expects to have much larger housing facilities."

Although the housing drive is officially over Eugene householders may still make their rooms available to the students by contacting Mrs. Alice B. MacDuff, housing secretary at Johnson hall.

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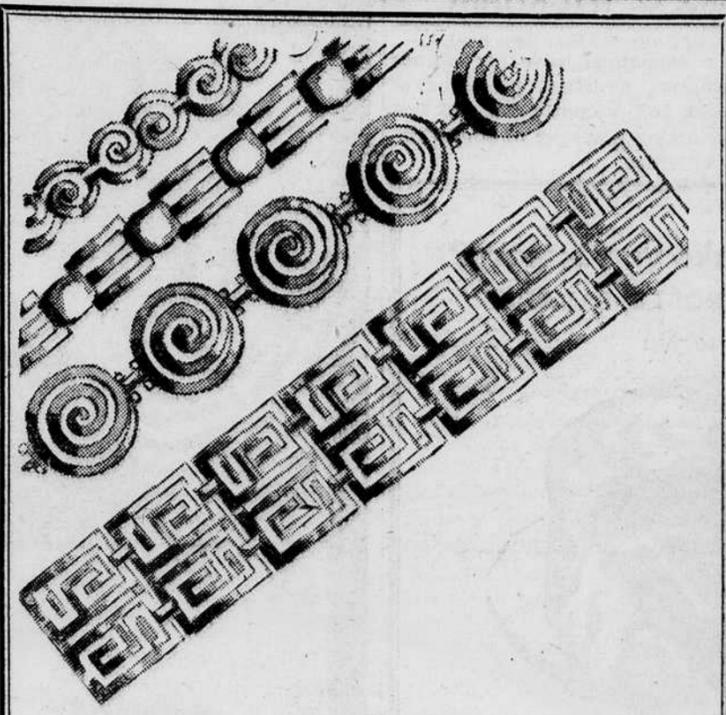
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