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Harry A. Brown Correspondence

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BROWN, Dr. Harry A.

b. Liberty, Maine, Aug. 19, 1879.
Liberty Man Co-Author Of Book in Education

JUL 26 1945

A new method of teaching in that field are advocated in a new volume that has just been announced by American Book Company, which has for one of its authors, Dr. Harry A. Brown, formerly of Liberty and still a summer resident of the old home farm on which he was born, now known as the Ordway estate where his sister, Mrs. Mary B. Ordway makes her permanent home.

The other author is Miss B. Marian Brooks, assistant in the Division of Foundations of Education, at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Brown served for a decade as superintendent of schools in Needham, Mass., and is now devoting his entire time to authorship of educational books. Previously Dr. Brown was president of the Wisconsin State Teachers' College from which he went to the presidency of the Illinois State Normal University. Before going West, he was superintendent of schools at Colebrook, N. H., and deputy commissioner of education in New Hampshire. Miss Brooks served as supervisor of music education in Needham before going to Columbia.

In this volume the authors apply for the first time to the teaching of music in the schools the new types of psychology that have developed in recent years and the principles of progressive education. The title of the book is "Music Education in the Elementary School." The subtitle is "Design for a New Music Education for a New Age." The book is the product of the authors' thought and experience for a period of years, but it was rounded into shape in 1941-1943 and exemplified in the Needham schools.
Native of Liberty Writes Notable Book On Music Education

Distinguished recognition is being accorded to a book, "Music Education in the Elementary Schools", of which a former Liberty resident, Dr. Harry A. Brown, now of Needham, Mass., and Miss B. Marian Brooks, instructor in education at Teachers' College, Columbia University, are co-authors. The volume was listed among the "Sixty Educational Books of 1946" as published in the May issue of the Journal of the National Education Association with the accompanying descriptive sentence: "The dynamic concepts of the new education applied to music education in the elementary schools".

The Brooks and Brown book was also placed by the 300 judges selecting the list, in a special section containing the best 42 books in education published in 1946, the choice having been made from among several hundred.
Dear Dr. Brown:

Recent announcement of your book, MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, interests us, not only for its material which will be helpful in our reference work, but also because you are from Maine.

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new name to Maine's literary roster, and we have immediately placed the book on our order list, so that we may have it for patrons.

We hope, also, that the Maine Author Collection may be privileged to include a copy. This collection, of about fifteen hundred volumes written by Maine people, is for permanent exhibit, and attracts many visitors and students. It is constantly expanding through the interest and generosity of our authors, and is the only place where all the works of all Maine authors are gathered together and cared for permanently.

The books are inscribed presentation volumes, the inscriptions ranging from tributes to Maine or autobiographical anecdotes to pen-and-ink sketches and bits of original verse. Whatever the inscription, it adds distinction and interest to a remarkably fascinating collection.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL to the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our good wishes for the warm reception of your book, and our cordial invitation to visit the library and see the collection when you are again in Maine.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Encl.

b. Liberty according to LJ 9.1.45
sketch appears in Leaders in Education.
February 25, 1946

My dear Mrs. Jacob:

When your letter of October 8, asking that I present an inscribed copy of MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, of which I am the joint author, the book was not published. It has now come from the press and as soon as I can get an extra copy, I shall gladly send you one. My original home is in Liberty, Maine, and I still own the old home farm in that village. I spend a part of each summer there.

Very truly yours,

Harry A. Brown

Harry A. Brown
March 26, 1946

Dr. Harry A. Brown
50 May Street
Needham, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Brown:

Your friendly response to our inquiry about MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was laid aside to await the arrival of the inscribed copy which you kindly promised the Maine Author Collection. Although the book has not yet arrived, we presume the delay is but one of the unavoidable occurrences to which we have become accustomed in the past few years! We do want you to know that we are looking forward with great pleasure to including an inscribed copy of this study in the collection.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
hmj Maine Author Collection
October 15, 1946

Dr. Harry A. Brown
50 May Street
Needham, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Brown:

Will you forgive us for seeming insistent. It is because the Maine Author Collection is the only place where all the books of all the authors of this state are gathered together and preserved permanently; and we deplore the omission of a book by a Maine writer.

We are, of course, thinking of your MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, which you so very kindly promised for inclusion in this exhibit.

That it is not on these shelves is a matter of regret to us, and we hope that it may yet come to be included with the many other volumes written by Maine people.

Sometime, at your convenience, could you let us have definite biographical information for our files? We know that you were born in Liberty, but not when. The material we have is rather sketchy, and we do like to have all available information about our authors on file -- something more personal and detailed than the usual "ho's Who item, when possible.

We trust you enjoyed a pleasant summer on the Liberty farm, and that the autumn season begins propitiously for your work.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
March 17, 1947

Dr. Harry A. Brown
50 May Street
Needham, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Brown:

With spring just around the traditional corner, you will soon be planning for vacation days, which we hope will bring you again to Maine and the Liberty farm.

You were so kind as to promise an inscribed copy of MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the Maine Author Collection. It is not yet in the collection, but we hope we may have the pleasure of placing it on the shelves. Perhaps you will find it possible to call at the library, and bring the book with you.

Our good wishes continue.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of

hmj

Maine Author Collection
May 17, 1947

My dear Mrs. Jacobs,

I am utterly and completely ashamed of myself! There is absolutely no excuse for what I have done! I have shown an utter lack of courtesy and gentlemanly conduct! I shall accept with complete agreement anything else along these lines that you want to say about me!

I refer to my utterly disreputable conduct in not sending you a copy of the book which you have so kindly asked for a number of times, and with the acme of patience in your several requests. I have never seen in my life any person endowed with the amount of patient forbearance that you possess! Perhaps that is a characteristic of Maine people!

It is no excuse whatever, but even criminals often try to make excuses for their conduct, for me to say that for a year and a half or more I have been under terrific pressure which has prevented me from doing many things nearly as bad as I have done in connection with this book. I smiled once last year when you wrote one of your very courteous letters and remarked that you assumed I had had a luxurious summer on the farm in Maine. Yes, I did go down there. I arrived at 4:00 one afternoon and I left again at 9:00 the next morning! That was the extent of my long and leisurely vacation last summer on the old home farm!

I am a working man! About two years ago, I started to write another book; and one of the several parts into which it was divided developed into a book by itself. Then the rest of the book developed into two books! Thus, for the last few months I have been finishing three books at the same time. Do you not think that that is excuse enough to prevent a person from complying with as courteous requests as I have received from you? Nearly every day before bedtime, I place certain pages where I
think that day that they belong in one of the three books, only to change my mind the next morning and to take them from that chapter in that book and place them in another chapter in another of the three books. People, I understand, have been known to lose their minds from such problems!

Well, you may not call this a good alibi, but I have done my best to excuse my disreputable conduct. The enclosed letter speaks for itself. The book will be on its way to you within a day after you receive this letter. I shall call at the Library some day before long and write something in the book.

I would greatly appreciate the favor if you would let me know when the book arrives. It will be only treating me as I deserve if you do not comply with this request in return for my own discourtesy.

If you will forgive my conduct, I will promise to send you the three forthcoming books immediately on publication without making you even write for them!

(I am sure you will know that some of this letter is "writ to be taken humorous," as Shakespeare, or Milton, or Eisenhower, or someone is alleged to have said!)

Very truly yours,

Harry A. Brown

Harry A. Brown
May 17, 1947

College Division
American Book Company
88 Lexington Avenue
New York City

Gentlemen:

I shall be pleased if you will send to Mrs. F. W. Jacobs, Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine, one copy of Brooks and Brown's Music Education in the Elementary School. This is a gift copy for the Maine Authors Collection of the State Library, and the book should have as a part of the address the words, after Mrs. Jacobs' name, "In charge of Maine Authors Collection."

I wonder if you will do me the favor to let me know when the book has been sent, in order that I may write and tell Mrs. Jacobs that the book is on its way. I shall appreciate it greatly if you will do that.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)  Harry A. Brown

Harry A. Brown
June 2, 1947

Dr. Harry A. Brown
50 May Street
Needham, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Brown:

You are forgiven! We would have to forgive you, not only because of the excellence of the plea, but also because of the disarming letter. Today the copy of MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL arrived, and we place it in the Maine Author Collection with pride, and not a little satisfaction at the achievement!

One thing more will make us completely happy: if we can persuade you to call at the library and inscribe the book. If you allow yourself a vacation of last year's length, we suppose there is no hope whatever of such a call! We trust, however, that you may find it possible to make a longer stay at the farm this year. Perhaps such a vacation would ward off the imminent loss of mind from playing put-and-take with the chapters of your books.

Anyway, we look forward to publication of the other books, and hope that you eventually find a serene solution of the difficulty.

Please accept our thanks for your kind interest in the Maine Author Collection, and for making it possible for us to include your excellent book on these shelves. Our good wishes go to you for its enduring success, and for a successful completion of the remaining volumes.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection