

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

W. Edward Brown, Professor of Greek at Lafayette College, was born on 21 March 1904 in Elbridge, New York, a village of 500 20 miles from Syracuse University. The son of Albert Edward Brown (d. February 1940) and Adaline Wall Brown (d. 18 May 1938), Brown skipped three elementary grades and entered high school in Elbridge in 1916, graduating in 1920. From 1920 to 1921, he attended Elbridge High School as a post-graduate and received a special Regents diploma in Greek 1 and 2, Advanced Latin, and Chemistry. In 1921, he enrolled in Syracuse University, receiving a B.A. degree in 1925, having achieved a straight-A average and been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. The following year, he earned an M.A. degree, also from Syracuse, with a thesis on *The Greek Epigram and Its Influence on Latin Elegy*.

Following a year as a replacement instructor in Greek and Latin at Syracuse University (1926-27), Brown began his career at Lafayette College. Hired as an Instructor of Greek, he was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1930. In 1939, he took a year's leave to do coursework for his Ph.D. at Yale University. That degree was awarded in 1941, upon presentation of a dissertation on *The Oriental Auxiliaries of the Imperial Roman Army*. At Lafayette, Brown was promoted to Associate Professor. During World War II, he served in the Army Signal Corps, attaining the rank of Major. Based at Arlington Hall, across the Potomac from Washington, D.C., he worked as a cryptanalyst, on a one-part code in French, German, and English; a two-part Japanese address code; and a Russian machine cipher. Upon his return to Lafayette in 1946, he was promoted to Professor and made Head of the newly formed Department of Languages, a combination of the Classical Department and the Department of Modern Languages—a position he held until 1959-60. In 1969, Brown was named Frank Lee and Edna Smith Professor of Greek. In 1973, at age 69, he retired to Potato Hill, Grafton, Vermont, and, in 1974, Lafayette granted him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. When Brown began teaching at Lafayette, he was a resident faculty proctor in South College; he lived in various places in Easton after that; in 1948, he purchased a house at 824 Paxinosa Avenue, College Hill. In 1990, following a short illness, Brown died in Springfield, Vermont, age 85.

Over the course of his educational and professional career, Brown (according to his *Morning Call* obituary) acquired proficiency in 27 languages, including Latin, Greek, French, German, Russian, Italian, Norwegian, and Provençal—often self-taught. At Lafayette, he taught courses in literature, language, and history, including Greek, Greek and Latin Literature in Translation, Greek and Roman History, Latin, The Classical Tradition in European Poetry, General Linguistics, Survey of European Literature, Greek Drama in English, Dante, Medieval History, Russian, Russian Literature in Translation, Byzantium and Eastern Europe, and Medieval and Modern Russia. Lafayette honored Brown with the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Award in 1957 and again in 1961 and named him the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Lecturer in 1965. He was the first recipient of the Student Government Award for superior teaching.

Brown left behind a trove of essays, translations, poems, and book-length studies, most of which he never attempted to publish. From 1948 to 1965, he published a handful of articles, including “On Beginning the Study of Greek with Homer” (1948), “I Would Have You All Speak with Tongues” (1950), “Some Hellenistic Utopias” (1955), “Land Tenure in Mycenaean Pylos” (1956), “Classics and the FL Program” (1959), “An Introduction to Mycenology” (1960), and “Sophocles’ Ajax and Homer’s Hector” (1965). After his retirement, he published *A History of Russian Literature of the Eighteenth Century* and *A History of Russian Literature of the Seventeenth Century*. In 1980, Brown published the first two volumes of his six-volume *History of Russian Literature*; these were followed in 1986 by the four additional volumes. The study was awarded the Vucinich Prize by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Just prior to his death, Brown published *The Tarantas*. Most of his writings, however, remain in these folders, never having been submitted for publication.

Brown never married; his sister, Emma Jean Winston of Grafton, Vermont (b. 24 December 1913), donated his papers to Lafayette’s Special Collections. On April 25, 1990, Albert W. Gendebien ’34, Professor of History Emeritus and College Archivist, wrote an eight-page (single-spaced) celebration of Brown, whom he describes as “the model teacher-scholar of our time.” In 2015, Jeffrey E. Fiddler ’63 gave Lafayette’s library a gift in Brown’s honor: a subscription to the Digital Loeb Classical Library.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Brown papers (6 record center boxes; 6 cubic feet) document Brown’s years on the Faculty at Lafayette College (1927-73) with folders on his course outlines, exams, and notes as well as folders on his poems, critical writings (several book-length), grammars, and translations. Box 6 also contains folders relating to his professional life. Included are memoirs by Al Gendebein ’34, Jay Parini ’70, and James Quay ’68 and a JSTOR listing of WEB’s published articles and reviews, as well as reviews of his books. Brown seldom submitted his work for publication; hence most of the items in these boxes are unpublished. Researchers interested in his writings on a particular subject, such as Russian Literature, should consult both his course files and his scholarship files.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Literature Courses

- 1 Classical Tradition 1—Epic
- 2 Classical Tradition 2—Lyric, Satire, etc.
- 3 Comparative Literature—Homer to Cervantes Outlines—Greek and Latin
- 4 Comparative Literature—Homer to Cervantes Outlines—French and German
- 5 Comparative Literature—Homer to Cervantes Outlines—Dante-Petrarch
- 6 Comparative Literature—Homer to Cervantes Outlines—Misc.
- 7 Comparative Literature—Lope De Vega to Present Outlines—Folder 1
- 8 Comparative Literature—Lope De Vega to Present Outlines—Folder 2
- 9 Comparative Literature—Lope de Vega to Present Outlines—Folder 3
- 10 Comparative Literature—Greek Drama Notes

- 11 Russian Literature—Translations and Outlines—Folder 1
- 12 Russian Literature—Translations and Outlines—Folder 2
- 13 Russian Literature—Translations and Outlines—Folder 3
- 14 Russian Literature—Translations and Outlines—Folder 4
- 15 Russian Literature—Translations and Outlines—Folder 5
- 16 Philology—Misc.
- 17 Philology—Misc.—Papyrus
- 18 Philology—Misc.—Hungarian?
- 19 Creative Centuries
- 20 Mycenaean Studies—Folder 1
- 21 Mycenaean Studies—Folder 2
- 22 Mycenaean Studies—Folder 3
- 23 Textual Criticism—Notes for a Paper or a Course

Box 2

Literature and Language Courses

- 1 Comparative Linguistics—Lectures—Folder 1
- 2 Comparative Linguistics—Lectures—Folder 2
- 3 Comparative Linguistics—Exams
- 4 Comparative Literature 1—Notes
- 5 Comparative Literature 1—Exams
- 6 Comparative Literature 2—Exams
- 7 Comparative Literature—Medieval and Modern Lectures—Folder 1
- 8 Comparative Literature—Medieval and Modern Lectures—Folder 2
- 9 Comparative Literature 3—Greek Drama—Exams
- 10 Comparative Literature 4—Russian Literature—Exams
- 11 Comparative Literature 4—Russian Literature—Readings
- 12 Comparative Literature 5—Latin Literature
- 13 Comparative Literature 6—Dante
- 14 Comparative Literature 28—Seminar in Romanticism
- 15 Fine Arts 6 Archaeology—Exams
- 16 Greek 1 and 2—Exams
- 17 Greek 2—Syllabus and Outlines—Folder 1
- 18 Greek 2—Syllabus and Outlines—Folder 2
- 19 Greek 3—Exams
- 20 Greek Instruction—Misc.—Folder 1
- 21 Greek Instruction—Misc.—Folder 2
- 22 Readings in Greek for Second Year
- 23 Greek Grammar—Draft
- 24 Latin 3 and 4—Exams
- 25 Latin 12—Exams
- 26 Latin Literature—Lectures
- 27 Russian Language—Study Notes and Exam
- 28 Comparative Literature and Latin Comprehensives

Box 3

History Courses, Dissertation, Misc. Teaching Files

- 1 History 16—Middle Ages—Lecture Outlines—1947
- 2 History 31—Greece—Syllabi and Lecture Notes—Folder 1
- 3 History 31—Greece—Syllabus and Lecture Notes—Folder 2
- 4 History 31—Greece—Exams
- 5 History 32—Rome—Lecture Notes—Folder 1
- 6 History 32—Rome—Lecture Notes—Folder 2
- 7 History 32—Rome—Syllabi and Exams
- 8 History 49—Russian and East European—Lecture Notes—Folder 1
- 9 History 49—Russian and East European—Lecture Notes—Folder 2
- 10 History 49—Russian and East European—Lecture Notes—Folder 3
- 11 History 49—Russian and East European—Lecture Notes—Folder 4
- 12 History 49—Russian and East European—Exams
- 13 History 50—Russian and East European—Syllabi, Lecture Notes, Exams
- 14 History—Russian and East European—Rise of Muscovy—Notes
- 15 History—Russian and East European—Misc. Outlines, etc.—Folder 1
- 16 History—Russian and East European—Misc. Outlines, etc.—Folder 2
- 17 Master's Thesis—*The Greek Epigram and Its Influences on Latin Elegy*
- 18 Ph.D. Dissertation—*Oriental Auxiliaries ...* (2 copies)
- 19 Dissertation Notes—Folder 1
- 20 Dissertation Notes—Folder 2
- 21 Dissertation Notes—Folder 3
- 22 Scrapbook on Students, Colleagues, College
- 23 Martin Ossad—German 27-28—1963-64
- 24 Grade Book 1972-73

Box 4

Poems, Translations, Misc. Literary Essays

- 1 Poems
- 2 The Epistles of Aristaenetos—Translation
- 3 Stepanov—Evolution and Theory of the Fable in the Years 1790 to 1810—Translation
- 4 Old Russian Literature—Translations
- 5 Chpt. VII Peasant War in Russia at the Beginning of Seventeenth Century—Translation
- 6 Tiunenev, History of the Ancient World—Greece—Translation?—Folder 1
- 7 Tiunenev, History of the Ancient World—Greece—Translation?—Folder 2
- 8 Medieval Literature—Translations
- 9 Ruin, The Mysticism of Poetry—Translation
- 10 German Poetry—Translations
- 11 Maurois, Doctor O'Grady's Return (1946)—Translation
- 12 Rozanov, F. M. Dostoevsky (Critical-Biographical Sketch)—Translation
- 13 Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum—Translation
- 14 Merezhkovsky, On the Causes of the Decline ... —Translation
- 15 Tolstoy, "Popov's Dream" and "The Portrait"—Translation
- 16 Dal, "Vakkh Sidorov Chaikin"—Translation
- 17 Aksakov, "Letters to His Family, 1844-1848"—Translation

- 18 *An Anthology of Russian Prose and Poetry*—Translation
- 19 Provençal Poets—Translations
- 20 Baltrusaitis, Legend of the Torches (plus others)—Translation
- 21 The Genre of the Novel
- 22 T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
- 23 *Faust: Part II*
- 24 Stefan George
- 25 Preface to Jean Pierre Cap’s Study of Jacques Rivière
- 26 The Trubadors—Fragments (see also “The Lives of the Trobadors” in 6.12)
- 27 Viscardi, *Le Origini: Testi Latini, Italiana, Provenzali E. Franco-Italiani*—Notes
- 28 Life of Lucien—Notes and Manuscript
- 29 Essays and Fragments—Misc.
- “The Christian Mold of Western Culture”
 - “The Meaning of Humanism”
 - “The Classical Goethe”
 - “War and the Comic Poet”
 - Misc. Fragments
- 30 Language Instruction—Essays
- “I Would Have You All Speak with Tongues”
 - “Quantity and Quality Points”
 - [“The Study of Latin and Greek”]
 - “Education: What and Why?”
 - [“Improvement in Field of Arts and Sciences”]
 - “The ‘New Look’ in Language Study at Lafayette”
 - “The Place of Foreign Language Study in the Curriculum”
 - “Numquid Lapidem Porrigemus--? The Enduring Value of Classical Studies”
- 31 Education—Essays
- “And Gladly Would He Learn, and Gladly Teach”
 - [“Reflections of WEB’s Time at Lafayette”]
 - “The Meaning of Western Civilization”
 - [“Addresses to Phi Beta Kappa”]
 - “On Beginning the Study of Greek with Homer”
 - [“Analyzing Lafayette during WEB’s Time”]—Apostles Paper, 1951
 - [“Talk for Freshman Orientation”?]
 - [“Teacher’s Role in Education”]
 - “The Problem of the Fine Arts at Lafayette”
- 32 Classical Studies—Essays
- “Hesiod, Callimachus, and the Alexandrian Love Elegy”
 - “Sword and Pen”
 - “Cryptanalysis and Archaeology”
 - “A Brief Consideration of Greek Mythology”
 - “The Satiricon as Parody”
 - “Zinaida Gippius”
 - “The Etruscans and Their Language”
 - “The Final Phase of Graeco-Roman Civilization, with Some Modern Analogues”
 - “Cohors XX Palmyrenorum”

- “Some Analogies between the Lower Roman Empire and a Modern Totalitarian State”
- “How the Greek Mind Differs from the Modern Mind”
- “Some Hellenistic Utopias”
- “New Light on Greek History”—Apostles Paper, 1955
- “Quintillian’s Views on the Art of Oratory and the Activity of the Orator”
- “I. A. Mei, Servilia Synopsi”

Box 5

Essays and Unpublished Book-Length Classical, Russian, and European Manuscripts

- 1 Classical Literature—*Dionysus in Athens: A History of Athenian Drama*—Lafayette College, 1964, Pp. 235
- 2 Classical Literature—*The Classical Tradition: A Bibliography*, Pp. 101
- 3 Classical Literature—*Elements of Greek Grammar*, Pp. 212
- 4 Russian Studies—Essays
 - “Three Russian Poetesses”
 - “Some Recent Trends in Soviet Literary Criticism”
 - “Soviet Literary Criticism”
 - “Land Travel in Nineteenth Century Russia”
 - “The Tale of the Empire of Babylon”—Apostles Paper, 1952
 - “Zinaida Hippus: What Next?”
 - “The Devil and Nikolai Gogol”
 - “Tolstoy’s Later Stories and Plays”
- Misc. Fragments
- 5 *Russian Romantic Verse in the Period of Realism—Volume 1*, Pp. 1-381—Folder 1
- 6 *Russian Romantic Verse in the Period of Realism—Volume 2*, Pp. 382-866—Folder 2
- 7 *A Russian Grammar*, Pp. ~100
- 8 *Documents on Russian History*, Pp. 1-126—Folder 1
- 9 *Documents on Russian History*, Pp. 127-237—Folder 2
- 10 *Documents on Russian History*, Pp. 238-413—Folder 3
- 11 European Literature—Essays
 - “Some Classical Episodes in Boiardo’s *Orlando*”
 - “A Forgotten Romantic: Charles Nodier”
 - “Franz Kafka”
 - “The History of the ‘Alba’”
 - “A Fourth Century Communist: St. John Chrysostom”
 - “The Republic of Ragusa”
 - “The Seventeenth Century”
 - “The Eighteenth Century Novel”
 - “Diderot and the Thought of the Eighteenth Century”
- 13 “On Irish Verse,” Pp. ~100
- 14 “The Duino Elegies of Rainer Maria Rilke,” Pp. 104

Box 6

Unpublished Book-Length European Manuscripts / Professional Files

1 *The Course of European Literature—Volume 1—The Literature of the Graeco-Roman World—Book I: Greece and the Roman Republic*, Pp. 1-422—Folder 1

2 *The Course of European Literature—Volume 2—The Literature of the Graeco-Roman World—Book II: The Roman Empire*, Pp. 423-909—Folder 2

3 *The Course of European Literature: The Early Christian World*, Pp. 110—Folder 3

4 *The Course of European Literature: The Renaissance—Volume 1—The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, Pp. 1-130—Folder 4

5 *The Course of European Literature: The Renaissance—Volume 2—The Sixteenth Century*, Pp. 131-419—Folder 5

6 Educational Career

7 Professional Career

8 Military Career

9 Autobiographical Memoirs

10 Tributes by Others

11 Catalogue of Books

12 Public Addresses at Lafayette College

 “The Poet and Freedom” (1965)

 “Sanity, Affirmation, and Art” (1966)

 “The Verification Problem: Literary Criticism” (~1970)

 “The Lives of the Trobadors”

13 Journal—Summer of 1956—Yugoslavia (+ Athens)

14 Correspondence

15 Presidential Search Committee 1957-58

16 Dr. Hutchinson

January 2016 / Prepared by June Schlueter, based on Al Gendebein’s earlier work.