



Smithsonian

Institution Archives

Robert Angus Brooks Papers, 1926-1976

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Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Robert Angus Brooks Papers
Date:	1926-1976
Identifier:	Record Unit 7304
Creator::	Brooks, Robert A. (Robert Angus), 1920-1976
Extent:	6 cu. ft. (12 document boxes) (1 oversize folder)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7304, Robert Angus Brooks Papers

Historical Note

Robert Angus Brooks (1920-1976) was born in Calcutta, India, to American parents. He attended preparatory school in Scotland at Dalhousie Castle school (1928-1934), and later at Roxbury Latin School in Massachusetts (1934-1936). He received degrees in classical philology from Harvard--B.A., 1940, M.A., 1941, Ph.D., 1949. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Air Force, and was promoted to Captain in 1945. He married Jane S. Kochmann in 1943.

After the war he was a Junior Fellow at Harvard, and later Instructor of Classics (1949-1951). From 1951 to 1965 he worked in the Boston consulting firm, Harbridge House, Inc. In 1965 he was appointed by Lyndon Johnson as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics, and served there until 1969, when he rejoined Harbridge House as its President. In 1971 he accepted the position as Under Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution where he remained until his death in 1976.

Descriptive Entry

This collection documents the different stages in Robert Brooks's education and career. Most of the material is professional in nature; there are few intimately personal letters or recordings. Much of the collection consists of business correspondence, notes, and financial records, as well as personal memorabilia, poetry and poetry translations.

Brooks's correspondence can also be found in the records of the Office of the Under Secretary, Record Unit 137. The papers of Robert A. Brooks at the Smithsonian Institution Archives can be supplemented by a collection of papers relating to his term as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics located at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, in Austin, Texas.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Museums -- Administration

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Brooks, Robert A. (Robert Angus), 1920-1976
Dalhousie Castle School
Harbridge House
Harvard University
Roxbury Latin School (Mass.)
Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Under Secretary
United States. Army
United States. Army Air Forces

Container Listing

Series 1: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1948-1976, AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Note: This series consists primarily of incoming personal correspondence. Included are letters from Robert A. Brooks' family, McGeorge Bundy, Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor, Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, and General W. C. Westmoreland. The correspondence is fairly ephemeral. Many of the letters express admiration for Brooks' poetry or concern during his illness.

Box 1

Box 1 of 12	Folder 1 A, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 2 B, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 3 Baker, Charles D., 1968, 1976
Box 1 of 12	Folder 4 Becker, Eugene M., 1969, 1971, Assistant Secretary of the Army
Box 1 of 12	Folder 5 Brooks, Alison, 1975
Box 1 of 12	Folder 6 Brooks, Camilla, undated
Box 1 of 12	Folder 7 Brooks, Mabel, 1975, undated
Box 1 of 12	Folder 8 Brooks, Milton, 1960-1961
Box 1 of 12	Folder 9 Brooks, Robert A. and Jane, Christmas letter, 1969
Box 1 of 12	Folder 10 Brooks, Roger, undated
Box 1 of 12	Folder 11 Bundy, McGeorge, 1969
Box 1 of 12	Folder 12 C-D, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 13 Cook, Coleman P., 1965, 1969
Box 1 of 12	Folder 14 F-H, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 15 K, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 16 Keller, John W., M.D., 1970. Concerns health of Robert A. Brooks.
Box 1 of 12	Folder 17 Kennedy, George, 1969-1973

Box 1 of 12	Folder 18 L, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 19 M, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 20 McNamara, Margaret (Mrs. Robert S.), undated
Box 1 of 12	Folder 21 P-R, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 22 Resor, Stanley R., 1970
Box 1 of 12	Folder 23 Ripley, S. Dillon, 1976. Written just before Brooks's death.
Box 1 of 12	Folder 24 S, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 25 Sanyour, Michael, 1969-1970
Box 1 of 12	Folder 26 T-Z, general
Box 1 of 12	Folder 27 Westmoreland, General W. C., 1969
Box 1 of 12	Folder 28 Unidentified correspondence, 1965-1976, undated

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Series 2: DALHOUSIE CASTLE SCHOOL, 1926-1935, 1960.

Note: This series includes correspondence between Dalhousie and Robert Brooks' parents, Milton and Mabel; two letters from Robert's father concerning his conduct and responsibilities as a young man; receipts and bills; Brooks' grades and papers; several editions of the school publication, the Dalhousie Chronicle; and a brief diary kept by Brooks during the spring 1934 school semester.

Box 1

Box 1 of 12	Folder 29 Dalhousie correspondence with Milton and Mabel Brooks, 1929-1935, 1960
Box 1 of 12	Folder 30 Correspondence, Milton Brooks to Robert A. Brooks, 1926-1933
Box 1 of 12	Folder 31 Dalhousie receipts and bills, 1928-1935, and undated
Box 1 of 12	Folder 32 Dalhousie school papers and reports, 1928-1934
Box 1 of 12	Folder 33 Dalhousie Chronicle, 1934-1935
Box 1 of 12	Folder 34 Robert A. Brooks diary, 1934, and miscellany

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Series 3: ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL, 1933-1944.

Note: This series consists of grade reports, letters to Milton Brooks concerning Robert's performance, newspaper clippings, programs, and other memorabilia. Also included are several editions of the Roxbury Latin School Tripod.

Box 2

Box 2 of 12	Folder 1 Roxbury Latin School grades, papers and memorabilia, 1933-1937, 1944, and undated
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Box 2 of 12	Folder 2 Roxbury Latin School Tripod, 1934-1942
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Series 4: HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 1936-1976.

Note: This series documents Robert A. Brooks' years in attendance and in association with Harvard. Included are papers relating to Brooks' admission, general guides and reports for Harvard students, and Brooks' grades and awards while at Harvard. Brooks also kept many of his exams and lecture notes from his classes in Greek, Latin, geography, history, etc., and programs, certificates and diplomas for academic and extracurricular activities, including diplomas for drama and acting. The collection contains records relating to Brooks' graduate studies and junior fellowship at Harvard; his fellowship with the American Academy in Rome during the 1940s; his employment as a professor of classics, and job opportunities refused from other universities in the late 1940s and early 1950s; his place on the Harvard Board of Overseers Committee to Visit the Department of Astronomy in the 1970s; and his doctoral thesis, "Ennius and Roman Tragedy."

Box 2

Box 2 of 12	Folder 3 Harvard admission papers and exam, 1936
Box 2 of 12	Folder 4 Harvard registers, guides and reports, 1936-1943
Box 2 of 12	Folder 5 Harvard financial records, 1936-1943
Box 2 of 12	Folder 6 Harvard grade reports and awards, 1937-1940
Box 2 of 12	Folder 7 Robert A. Brooks graded papers, Harvard, 1936-1940
Box 2 of 12	Folder 8 Robert A. Brooks exams and papers, Harvard Greek

Box 3

Box 3 of 12	Folder 1 Robert A. Brooks exams and papers, Harvard French, history and Latin
Box 3 of 12	Folder 2 Harvard examination papers and Graduate Record Exam
Box 3 of 12	Folder 3 Harvard geography lecture notes
Box 3 of 12	Folder 4 Harvard Greek lecture notes
Box 3 of 12	Folder 5 Harvard Greek lecture notes and papers
Box 3 of 12	Folder 6 Harvard Greek lecture notebook

Box 4

Box 4 of 12	Folder 1 Harvard history lecture notebook
Box 4 of 12	Folder 2 Harvard Latin lecture notes

Box 4 of 12	Folder 3 Harvard Latin lecture notebook
Box 4 of 12	Folder 4 Harvard philosophy lecture notes
Box 4 of 12	Folder 5 Harvard lecture notes, miscellaneous
Box 5	
Box 5 of 12	Folder 1 Harvard programs, certificates, memorabilia
Box 5 of 12	Folder 2 American Academy in Rome, application for scholarship and correspondence, 1940-1944, 1947, 1972, 1975
Box 5 of 12	Folder 3 Harvard graduate school and employment, 1940-1951
Box 5 of 12	Folder 4 University employment offers, 1948-1958
Box 5 of 12	Folder 5 Harvard Board of Overseers, Committee to Visit the Department of Astronomy, 1973-1976
Box 5 of 12	Folder 6 Harvard doctoral thesis, 1949

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Series 5: PAPERS RELATING TO MILITARY SERVICE, 1942-1956.

Note: This series outlines Robert A. Brooks' service in the Army Air Force. It contains several training manuals, handbooks, and intelligence school notes kept by Brooks. Most of the documents included are official papers and special orders relating to Brooks' duties and personal effects, and follow his career during the war, and in the Reserve Corps after the war. The collection also contains newspaper clippings, souvenir publications, and other memorabilia, including certificates of gratitude (one from President Harry Truman), an officer's candidate school year book, and a farewell publication for the Seventh Air Force.

Box 6

Box 6 of 12	Folder 1 Army training manuals
Box 6 of 12	Folder 2 Army Air Force Intelligence School handbooks and manuals
Box 6 of 12	Folder 3 Army Air Force Intelligence School notes, 1943
Box 6 of 12	Folder 4 Air intelligence photographs

Box 7

Box 7 of 12	Folder 1 Maps, Pacific Theater of Operations
Box 7 of 12	Folder 2 Photo intelligence manuals
Box 7 of 12	Folder 3 Photo intelligence report
Box 7 of 12	Folder 4 Medical papers
Box 7 of 12	Folder 5 Memorandum receipts
Box 7 of 12	Folder 6 Pay vouchers and allotments of pay, 1943-1945
Box 7 of 12	Folder 7 Personal and legal affairs, 1943-1946, 1956
Box 7 of 12	Folder 8 Special orders - Leave
Box 7 of 12	Folder 9 Special orders - Promotion
Box 7 of 12	Folder 10 Special orders - Transfers
Box 7 of 12	Folder 11 Discharge and separation papers
Box 7 of 12	Folder 12 Letters, commendations, certificates and diplomas
Box 7 of 12	Folder 13 Air Force Officers' Reserve Corps, 1946-1953, undated

Box 8

Box 8 of 12 Folder 1 Souvenir war publications

Box 8 of 12 Folder 2 Newspaper clippings

Box 8 of 12 Folder 3 Air Force memorabilia

Box 8 of 12 Folder 4 Officer candidate school yearbook

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Series 6: HARBRIDGE HOUSE, INC., 1951-1975.

Note: This series documents Robert A. Brooks' involvement as an employee and a stockholder in Harbridge House, Inc. Records in this collection include business letters, interoffice memoranda, board of directors' meeting agendas and notes, and stockholders' reports. Also included are Brooks' personal holdings and transactions with the company, memorabilia, and awards received.

Box 8

Box 8 of 12	Folder 5 Harbridge House, Inc. Includes letters, interoffice memoranda, board of directors meetings and notes, 1962, 1969-1972.
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Box 8 of 12	Folder 6 Harbridge House profit sharing trust
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Box 8 of 12	Folder 7 Harbridge House, Inc. Includes general financial and miscellaneous articles.
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Box 9

Box 9 of 12	Folder 1 Harbridge House, Inc. Includes stockholders' reports, 1970-1974.
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Box 9 of 12	Folder 2 Harbridge House personal stock, 1967-1975
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Box 9 of 12	Folder 3 Harbridge House, Inc. Includes personal and financial records, 1970-1972, 1975 and undated
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Box 9 of 12	Folder 4 Harbridge House, Inc. Includes newspaper clippings and awards and memorabilia.
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Series 7: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS, 1965-1971.

Note: This series consists of papers relating to Robert A. Brooks' service as Assistant Secretary of the Army. Several items of special interest are contained in the Smithsonian collection: the White House press release announcing Brooks' appointment; the invitation and procedures for Robert F. Kennedy's graveside memorial services; itineraries for Brooks' official visits to Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and the West Coast; Brooks' letter of resignation; a reflective letter written by Brooks on the mistakes made in Vietnam and the United States during his term in office; clippings and articles saved by Brooks; and an exit questionnaire about his service in the Johnson administration.

Box 9

Box 9 of 12 Folder 5 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics, 1965-1968 and undated

Box 9 of 12 Folder 6 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics, 1969, 1971

Box 9 of 12 Folder 7 Hearings before the special subcommittee on the M-16 rifle program, 1967

Box 9 of 12 Folder 8 Newspaper clippings and articles, 1965-1970, and undated

Box 9 of 12 Folder 9 Memorabilia, programs and photographs as Assistant Secretary of the Army, 1965-1970, and undated. See also description of oversize material (listed after box 13) for related items.

Box 10

Box 10 of 12 Folder 1 Evaluation of term as presidential appointee

Box 10 of 12 Folder 2 Lyndon Baines Johnson Library contribution

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Series 8: SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, 1971-1976.

Note: This series consists primarily of incoming and outgoing records, letters and memoranda, including proposals for a museum of man, and a zoo restaurant. Also included are Brooks' editing and publishing notes, and other memorabilia.

Box 10	
Box 10 of 12	Folder 3 Smithsonian Institution reports, letters and memoranda, 1972-1975, and undated
Box 10 of 12	Folder 4 Smithsonian Institution reports, letters and memoranda, 1976
Box 10 of 12	Folder 5 Smithsonian Institution editing and publication notes
Box 10 of 12	Folder 6 Smithsonian Institution articles, clippings and programs

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Series 9: MEMBERSHIPS.

Note: This series concerns Robert A. Brooks' membership in both political committees and informal clubs. Brooks served on President Nixon's Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise from 1969 to 1971. These papers consist of memoranda and publications relating to the committee's activities and findings. Brooks also served as a consultant for the Commission on Government Procurement, and included in his papers is the 1972 Congressional report from the commission. Other papers concern the Council for a Livable World, the Northeast Electronics Research and Engineering Meeting of 1969, the Washington, D.C., Cosmos Club, the Harvard Club of Boston, the American Philological Association, the Saint Andrews Society of Washington, D.C., and the Savin Hill Yacht Club.

Box 10	
Box 10 of 12	Folder 7 Memberships - Advisory Council for Minority Enterprise, 1969-1971
Box 10 of 12	Folder 8 Memberships - Commission on Government Procurement
Box 10 of 12	Folder 9 Memberships - Cosmos Club
Box 10 of 12	Folder 10 Memberships - Council for a Livable World
Box 10 of 12	Folder 11 Memberships - Harvard Club of Boston
Box 10 of 12	Folder 12 Memberships - Northeast Electronics Research and Engineering Meeting, 1969
Box 10 of 12	Folder 13 Memberships - Miscellaneous

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Series 10: DRAMA PRODUCTIONS, ARTICLES, SPEECHES, AND POETRY.

Note: This series contains notes, letters and programs relating to speeches, articles, plays and performances given, or participated in, by Robert A. Brooks. Included are staging plans for a Christmas play directed by Brooks, and articles and speeches on new company survival and the military-industrial complex. A significant part of this collection contains poetry written and translated by Brooks. Of special interest are an essay on Virgil, translations of Erich Kastner, and a poem probably written shortly before his death.

Box 10

Box 10 of 12	Folder 14 Productions and plays participated in and directed by Robert A. Brooks
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Box 11

Box 11 of 12	Folder 1 Articles and speeches, copies, notes and letters
Box 11 of 12	Folder 2 Virgil: A Collection of Critical Essays, containing R.A. Brooks essay
Box 11 of 12	Folder 3 Poetry by Robert A. Brooks
Box 11 of 12	Folder 4 Unedited collection of poems by Robert A. Brooks
Box 11 of 12	Folder 5 Reviews of Robert A. Brooks poetry and performances
Box 11 of 12	Folder 6 Robert A. Brooks poetry translations
Box 11 of 12	Folder 7 Robert A. Brooks translations of Erich Kastner poetry
Box 11 of 12	Folder 8 Poetry Society of Georgia
Box 11 of 12	Folder 9 Robert A. Brooks notes on Byron

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Series 11: MISCELLANY.

Note: This series contains various items concerning Robert A. Brooks' finances and travels. Of note are Brooks' resumes and a "Who's Who" biography, his employment inquiries and refusals before he accepted the Smithsonian position, his obituaries and several memorial tributes, and papers from his father's company in India, circa 1933.

Box 11	
Box 11 of 12	Folder 10 Personal and financial records, 1953, 1966-1970, 1974
Box 12	
Box 12 of 12	Folder 1 Automobile ownership, maintenance papers and receipts
Box 12 of 12	Folder 2 Travel papers and receipts
Box 12 of 12	Folder 3 Skisearch, Inc.
Box 12 of 12	Folder 4 The Brooks School
Box 12 of 12	Folder 5 Robert A. Brooks resume and recommendations, and Standard Form 171
Box 12 of 12	Folder 6 Employment searches and refusals, 1970-1971
Box 12 of 12	Folder 7 Independent council - Tufts-New England Medical Center, 1971
Box 12 of 12	Folder 8 Obituaries and memorials
Box 12 of 12	Folder 9 Milton Brooks letters of recommendation and personnel affairs, The Angus Company, Ltd., Calcutta, 1933
Box 12 of 12	Folder 10 Stamp collection
Box 12 of 12	Folder 11 Miscellaneous clippings, notes, memorabilia
Oversize	
Oversize	Portrait of Robert A. Brooks
Oversize	Certificate of Appointment to Advisory Council for Minority Enterprise
Oversize	Diploma from American Society of Military Engineers honoring Robert A. Brooks, 1967

Oversize

Group photos of Army Policy Board, 1966-1968. Subjects identified include Robert A. Brooks.

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