

# CAPE ANN Museum

## Library & Archives

1+ 978-283-0455 x19

library@capeannmuseum.org

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### ALFRED MANSFIELD BROOKS PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTION

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Creator:</b>        | Alfred Mansfield Brooks; Ruth Steele Brooks; various  |
| <b>Dates:</b>          | 1876-1973, unknown  |
| <b>Quantity:</b>       | 3.5 linear feet (7 manuscript containers)   |
| <b>Acquisition:</b>    | Accession #: unknown, 2165, and 2015.023 ;<br>Donated by: Alfred Mansfield Brooks and Ruth Steele Brooks  |
| <b>Identification:</b> | A27 ; Archive Collection #27  |
| <b>Citation:</b>       | [Document Title]. The Alfred Mansfield Brooks Papers and Photographs Collection, [Box #, Folder #, Item #], Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives, Gloucester, MA. |
| <b>Copyright:</b>      | Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Librarian/Archivist.  |
| <b>Language:</b>       | English   |
| <b>Finding Aid:</b>    | Peter J. Brown, 2004  |

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#### Biographical Note

AMB was born in Michigan in 1870. His mother, Abby Davis Mansfield, died soon after and his father, George Byron Brooks, entrusted the infant to his dead wife's mother, Abigail Somes (Davis) Mansfield of Gloucester. His grandmother, who was born in 1811, and his Great Aunt, Sarah (Somes) Mackay, who was born in 1789, before George Washington became President of the United States, both exerted a strong influence on the young Alfred. AMB, listening to their stories, calls them "memories of memories" which stretched from Washington to shortly after the death of President Kennedy. AMB died in Dec. 1963 age 94.

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AMB was descended from three of the city's best-known families – Davis, Somes, and Mansfield. All the families were active and extremely successful in the sea trade, but AMB took a different tack. Earning B.A. and Master's degrees at Harvard in the fine arts, Brooks also studied at the School of Architecture and Planning (an offshoot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in 1894 and 1895. Brooks became a professor of art in Indiana State University. It was then that he met his future wife, Ruth Bryce Steele. They were married in 1910.

Among his published works are: Architecture and the Allied Arts (1914); Dante, How to Know Him (1916); Great Artists and Their Works by Great Authors (1919); From Holbein to Whistler, Notes on Drawing and Engraving (1920); John Ruskin's Letters to William Ward (1922); Architecture, Our Debt to Greece and Rome (1923); Readings in Art Appreciation (1931); two early novels, The Newell Fortune (1906) and Somes House (1909), and numerous articles on the fine arts and Cape Ann history. His final published work came 11 years after his death, Gloucester Recollected. (1974)

In 1922, Brooks was appointed professor of fine arts at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. Upon his retirement in 1937, he and Ruth moved back to Gloucester and into the Brick House at 21 Middle Street. It was then that he began his second career as an observer and historian of Cape Ann and his stewardship of the Cape Ann Historical Association.

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## Acquisition Note

The Alfred Mansfield Brooks and Ruth Steele Brooks papers were left to the Cape Ann Historical Association during his tenure as a curator and President of the Association. They include material from his career as a professor of fine arts and, upon retirement, his extensive involvement with the City of Gloucester. Ruth S. Brooks has contributed numerous magazine articles and one manuscript which complemented her husband's book Gloucester Recollected.

Acquisition: Materials stored by AMB and Ruth S. Brooks

### Addendum 1

Books & Pamphlets

Accession # unknown

### Addendum 2

Books by George Brooks  
Scrapbook & book by AMB

Accession # 2165

### Addendum 3

Books in AMB's library

Accession # 2015.023

## Series Description

- I. AMB post-retirement involvement with Gloucester and the Historical Society
- II. Articles and sketch book of Ruth Steele Brooks
- III. AMB professional career as a professor of Fine Arts

An addendum of the books constitute the fourth series

- IV. Library of AMB
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## Container List

### Box #1, Series I

1. Christmas cards 1955
2. AMB journal – fund raising for White-Ellery House
3. Pamphlet, Cape Ann Scientific, Literary and Historical Ass. 1952
4. Fisheries of Cape Ann, Capt. Sylvanus Smith 1915
5. packet photos – Ellery House
6. New England Primer 1876
7. letter – The Woman's Journal 1885
8. letter – Abby Davis Mansfield 1859
9. wedding invitation AMB 1910
10. original copy – speech 1878 re: Universalist Church
11. original copy – speech 1952, AMB to Historical Society
12. original copy – speech 1953, AMB to Historical Society
13. original copy – speech 1936, tribute to Davis sisters
14. manuscript – field work at Historical Society 1973
15. partial typed manuscript, AMB, Gloucester Recollected
16. hand written pages, AMB, Gloucester Recollected

### Box #2, Series II

1. North American Review – July 1928, article “Travail in Travel”
2. notebook – Ruth S. Brooks (?)
3. sketch book – Ruth S. Brooks
4. Readers' Digest – August 1928, reprint of “Travail in Travel”
5. Die Auslese – reprint from North American Review Dec. 1928

6. School and Society – Sept. 1921, “College and Sorority”
7. School and Society – July, 1928, “The Perfect Small House”
8. Keith’s Magazine – April 1925, “The Charm of Teakwood”
9. Keith’s Magazine – Feb. 1926, “Pansies for Your Thoughts”
10. Scribner’s – Jan. 1930, “The Professor and His Wife”
11. Scribner’s – May 1925, “The Organization Complex in our Colleges”
12. (2) notebooks (students’?)
13. Receipt from Fogg Art Museum for donated painting – landscape with thatched roofs, by Charles H. Moore
14. Love letters from AMB to RSB (2) Newspaper clippings of estate.

Box #3, Series III

Notebook – sketches.  
Index – Divine Comedy  
Photos – (2)  
2 books – detailed notes on architecture  
notebook – course syllabus  
article – Indiana Univ. Alumni Quarterly

Box #4, Series I, II, III

Series I Manuscript – Gloucester Recollected  
Series II Manuscript - Gloucester Background through Hoosier Eyes  
Series III Small note books – Dante, Divine Comedy – notes by AMB

Box #5 Series III

Notebooks – translations  
Manuscript – Dante  
Manuscript – Goodly Fellowship of the Arts  
Articles – Architecture & Art  
Articles – School & Society; Ladies Home Journal  
Articles - Contact with Britain during WWII (Seeds, radio broadcast)

Box #6, Series I, III

Manuscript – Gloucester Recollected  
Manuscript – Puritan Sybarite  
Notes – Dante, Divine Comedy

Box #7, Series I

Historic photos of Gloucester  
Newspaper clippings – historical buildings

Box #8, Series I

Mixed collection of photographs of Gloucester

Alfred Mansfield Brooks

**Addendum 1**

Books & Pamphlets

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| - <i>The Faith of a Free Church</i> , Frederick W. Perkins  | D4 FF7       |
| - <i>The Pilgrim Spirit</i> , George P. Baker   | Duplicate    |
| - <i>Old South: the Romance of Early New England History</i><br>James O. Fagan                      | 270 F13      |
| - <i>Know Cape Ann</i> , Edward V. Ambler   | Duplicate    |
| - <i>Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History</i><br><i>Mollusca</i> Charles W. Johnson | 591.92 J63   |
| - <i>Harvard College Class of 1894</i>  | 378.09 H27   |
| - <i>Ancient Caves of the Great Salt Lake Region</i><br>Julian H. Steward                           | 974.0397 St3 |
| - <i>Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, 1916</i>  | D11 FF9      |
| - <i>Tercentenary of Mass. Bay Colony</i> (2 copies)  | Duplicates   |
| - <i>Univ. Pennsylvania Bulletin</i>  | D25 FF11     |

**Addendum 2**

Acc # 2165

Scrap book put together by Alfred Mansfield Brooks to A.L. Davis, 1886

*Dante how to know him*, A.M. Brooks

**Addendum 3**

Acc#2015.023

*Rasselas*, Dr. Johnson, 1842, 6" x 3.75" hardback

*The Book Hunter in Paris*, Octave Uzanne, 1893, 9.25" x 6.5"