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CARLETON BROWN, SECRETARY OF THE MODERN
LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1920–1934,
AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT 1935, ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AS
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
(BY VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)

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Resolution unanimously adopted by the Modern Language Association of America at its fifty-first annual meeting, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, on December 28, 1934:

THE Modern Language Association of America wishes to express its recognition of the distinguished work of its Secretary, Professor Carleton Brown, who retires after fifteen years of arduous and devoted service. Professor Brown's contribution to the development of our Association and to the promotion of its welfare may be partly appraised by a review of its expansion during his long secretaryship from 1920 to 1934. In 1920 the membership was 1507; it is now over 3700. In 1920 the publications of the M.L.A. printed 483 pages; they now cover over 1500 pages, printed in more compact form. In 1920 the total invested funds amounted to less than \$10,000; they now exceed \$80,000. The Monograph Series, the Revolving Fund Series, and the Rotograph Service were established through the efforts of our Secretary. The Discussion Group system was inaugurated and developed with striking increase in productivity. Large projects of research were initiated, as the Middle English Dictionary and the New Shakespeare Variorum Series. A Research Fund has been established. The Eastern and Western Divisions have been united into one truly national organization, which is administered by an Executive Council of which the Secretary is the Appointee.

To Professor Brown's guidance and leadership, to his industry and faithfulness, to his painstaking administration of every detail, the Association owes more than to any one else its immense increase in resources, service, and prestige. Our secretary has as well gladdened the heart of many a member by the cordiality of his manner in personal conference and professional correspondence. His loyal and unselfish services will be remembered with the grateful esteem which they so abundantly deserve.

ERNEST BERNBAUM,
ARTHUR BURKHARD, *Chairman*,
J. D. FITZ-GERALD,
Committee on Resolutions.

CARLETON BROWN

THE Modern Language Association of America, acting through its Executive Council, dedicates this the fiftieth volume of its *Publications* to Carleton Brown, in recognition of his services to the Association, his eminence as a scholar, and his worth as a man. Carleton Brown was born in Oberlin, Ohio, on July 15, 1869. He did his undergraduate work at Carleton College, in Northfield, Minnesota, where he was awarded the A.B. degree in 1888. Having decided to become a minister of the gospel, he entered the Andover Theological Seminary in 1890 and took there the three-year course of study. In 1894 he was ordained a Congregational minister, and until 1900 served as pastor in Minnesota and Montana. He gradually became aware, however, that scholarship was his true calling, and in 1900 gave up his pastorate and entered Harvard University as a graduate student in English.

Carleton Brown had hardly begun his graduate studies when he linked his fortunes with ours. His name appears as a member of the Modern Language Association in the *Proceedings* for 1901, and in 1903 he contributed to the *Publications* a paper on Cynewulf and Alcuin which he had read at our Baltimore meeting of 1902. To be more precise (and this *début* calls for precision), he began reading the paper at 10:10 A.M., Wednesday, December 31, in McCoy Hall. Unluckily the all too scant records of the day do not tell us how long it took him to finish the reading, but we learn that his paper was discussed by J. M. Garnett and J. W. Bright, and we gather that the new star had indeed swum into their ken. At this time Carleton Brown was still a graduate student, but by 1903 he had his Ph.D. and a Harvard instructorship, and two years later he went to Bryn Mawr as Associate in English. Thereafter his promotion was rapid: he became Associate Professor in 1907 and Professor in 1910. This is not the place to give a survey of his activities at Bryn Mawr. It will be enough to say that largely through his work and that of his students this newly founded woman's college came to be better known than most universities as a center for medieval research. In 1917 Carleton Brown left Bryn Mawr for the University of Minnesota, but returned in 1921. He entered in 1927 upon his present duties as Professor of English in New York University.

From the beginning Carleton Brown showed himself firm in the faith and fellowship upon which our Association rests. He came to our annual meetings, he took an active part in our proceedings, and before many years he won general recognition as a loyal member and a leader. His move to Minnesota in 1917 took him into the old Central Division of the Association, and brought to his attention the unhappy consequences of

our separation into eastern and western branches. We have it on good authority that the Modern Language Club of the University of Minnesota, when in 1920 it urged, among other reforms, "that the Association be no longer split into Eastern and Central Divisions but meet as a whole," followed the promptings of Carleton Brown. The five proposals of the Club¹ were voted down at the time, but since then they have nearly all been put into effect. The year 1920 stands out in our annals, however, for another reason: on March 31 of that year, at our Columbus meeting, Carleton Brown was elected Secretary of the Association. This election marks a turning-point in our history. Under our first two secretaries, Elliott and Bright, we learned to walk, in the leading-strings of Johns Hopkins; under their successors, Grandgent and Howard, we advanced to maturity, in the shadow of Harvard; when Carleton Brown took the helm, we became aware of our years and struck out for ourselves. With the new Secretary the national period of our Association had begun.

In his recent "Survey of the First Half-Century"² Carleton Brown has himself given us an admirable account of all three periods of our history. With characteristic modesty, however, he passes over in silence his own leadership as Secretary of the Association, a leadership so wise and so fruitful that we must always remain deep in his debt. At the Swarthmore meeting of 1934, when Carleton Brown retired as Secretary to become Vice President of our Association, a resolution was adopted which sets forth his services in words that we should seek in vain to better. Let us conclude, then, with a prophecy. In our history, alongside the name of Marshall Elliott, our founder, will stand the name of Carleton Brown, our upbuilder.

EDWARD C. ARMSTRONG,
KEMP MALONE, *Chairman*,
EDUARD PROKOSCH,
Committee.

¹ Published in our *Proceedings* for 1919, pp. viii-ix.

² *PMLA*, XLVIII, 1409-22.

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