

DITOR ABBOTT IN GIFT TO HAMPTON INST.: LIBRARY RECEIVES THREE ...

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Library Receives Three Oriental Rugs

Leonora E. Harron Browsing Room Enhanced
By Editor's Donation

HAMPTON INST., Va., Dec. 18—The library has recently received a very generous gift from Robert Sengstacke Abbott of Chicago of three oriental rugs for the Leonora E. Herron Browsing room. Mr. Abbott is founder and president of The Chicago Defender and president of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company and is an alumnus of Hampton Institute. When he came to Hampton last spring he visited the library and was much interested in the Browsing room and spoke of the need of rugs to make it more cheerful and homelike. This gift has added to the attractiveness of the room.

It should be remarked that Mr. Abbott is not only a most loyal alumnus of Hampton Institute, in word and attitude, but that he is constantly seeking ways by which he can help advance its interest. Not many of the thousands of persons who sit every year in the large athletic field where the institute's football games are played, are aware that Mr. Abbott made a donation of \$1,000 toward the initial expense of that spacious arena.

It is also to be recorded that he gave the \$100 prize for a contest which resulted in the writing of the Hampton Alma Mater song.

That Hampton appreciates Mr. Abbott's loyalty and success is shown by a sketch of him which appears in a little booklet recently issued by the school, in which are described the achievements of certain Hampton graduates. Under the title: "A Printer Who Founded A Business Which Stood Firm," the statement says:

"During the storm of our present depression, many business concerns went down and with them went the employment with which their workers had earned daily bread. It seems almost unthinkable that one of the establishments which weathered the fury of the storm was a business established by a Negro, a man who learned printing at Hampton Institute, gives employment to several thousand persons and carried their services while millions languished for work everywhere.

"If an artist wished to paint this picture in two panels, he might well sketch an ordinary-appearing colored student from Savannah, Ga., learning the printer's trade in school as one panel; and then show Robert S. Abbott as builder and master of a strong institution, in the second panel.

"In the broad attention attracted to Mr. Abbott's work as editor of

The Chicago Defender, the equally important contribution which he has made as the builder of a stable publishing firm in Chicago, is too often lost sight of. The present unemployment crisis is brutally direct in centering attention upon the fact that the person or firm that can provide honest employment for men and save them from dependency is a benefactor.

"A master printer; an editor holding and expressing his own convictions; a born organizer with the ability to create out of the interests which appealed to him the foundations and elements of a successful publishing plant—a stable business; this man has demonstrated again how Hampton graduates have taken to heart the Founder's thesis that the duty of the hour is to 'build up.'

"Loyal to Hampton in word and in concrete expression, Mr. Abbott has been one of its staunch friends in helping find friends and funds for its work. He was one who contributed \$1,000 toward the expenses of Hampton's athletic field a few years ago and he can be depended on to help support the work which through these who believed in Hampton gave him a chance and start in the past."

The Browsing room to which the rugs from Mr. Abbott were given, was named in memory of Miss Leonora E. Herron, a former librarian who gave many years of devoted service to the library. During this time the new library building was given by Mrs. Collis P. Huntington in memory of her husband. There are on the shelves a considerable number of books from the library of Dr. Phil Broome Brooks, a Negro physician of Washington, D. C. These books were given to the library by Dr. George Foster Peabody. The collection includes good editions of standard authors and also books of a more popular type.

There is here, also, a valuable fourth folio Shakespeare, the gift of Miss Julia Lathers.

There is space on the walls for exhibitions of pictures and the work of a number of artists has been shown. The library has a fine art collection given by the Carnegie Corporation and a large set of mounted photographs of Negro art which was exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and which was sent to a number of Negro colleges under the auspices of General Education board. The Browsing room is now open as a recreational reading room for the students.