

William Lincoln Brown, Acting Register 1930-1934; Register 1934-1936

William Lincoln Brown, born in Brewster, Mass., in 1862, was appointed chief of the Bookkeeping Division of the Copyright Office in 1907, and almost immediately thereafter, chief clerk. In 1917 he resigned from the Library service to act as disbursing officer of the American Library Association's War Service Committee. In 1920, on the termination of this service, he returned to the Copyright Office.

Mr. Brown was appointed Assistant Register of Copyrights in 1926 and Acting Register in 1930 upon the retirement of Mr. Solberg. He became the second Register of Copyrights on June 4, 1934. During his incumbency as Acting Register and Register, Congress was extremely active in proposing copyright legislation. Mr. Brown reported lucidly and at length on the Vistal, Sirovich, and Duffy bills.

The Copyright Office in 1934 joined the Departments of State and Commerce in an interdepartmental group to prepare a draft bill that would bring the United States statute on copyright into accord with the Rome revision of the Berne Convention. He also testified that year against a proposed design bill, expressing the view that the measure under consideration did not solve the problem. Mr. Brown retired on July 1, 1936, and died in February 1940.

