At the right is Dr Roy Temple House, founder and co-editor of the world's most unusual magazine, *Books Abroad*, which is the only review of the world's literature and the only magazine distributed without charge. Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16 arts-sc., long one of the able associate editors of the magazine, recently was named co-editor. Due to the depression it has been necessary for the magazine to go on a charge basis, an annual subscription price of one dollar now being asked.

The Sooner Magazine
Oklahoma's gift to the world

The world's most unusual magazine has had to change its policy. Starving days of the depression have brought about the change.

For the past five years—since its foundation, in fact—*Books Abroad*, the international quarterly of comment on foreign literature, has been distributed free of charge to those who were interested.

This quixotic procedure elicited amazement throughout the world and the warmest commendation for the University of Oklahoma not only in America but in leading articles in practically all the significant literary publications of Europe.

The magazine itself, the happy inspiration of Dr Roy Temple House, head of the modern languages department of the university, was unique. There was and is no other magazine of its kind in the world.

These two unique features at once assured the place of *Books Abroad* and the University of Oklahoma in the intellectual world. More than forty nations receive the quarterly. Probably no city the size of Norman in the United States receives as much and as varied foreign mail as a result.

Long and patient hours did Doctor House and his associates put in in creating a real magazine, a quarterly which H. L. Mencken recently described as indispensable.

It meant hours after other campus offices had closed. It meant breaking down a feeling that some Oklahomans had that it was merely the journal of the modern languages department. When Europe and South America recognized it Oklahoma as a whole began to look up to it.

Publishers became freer and more accessible. They saw to it that they were represented in the reviews by their best titles. Scholars in three hundred universities and schools in America, South America and Europe joined in bringing critical opinion to the task of sifting the good from the bad in the world's literature. The Russian soviet government volunteered its services. Libraries like the New York public library used it as the primary source for buying foreign books. Practically every important American publishing house uses the magazine as an index to possible material for English translation.

It was a hand to mouth existence. President Bizzell, vitally interested in books, gave the project his enthusiastic co-operation. The university gave the labor, private sources contributed for the payment of paper and postage. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Commission for Relief in Belgium educational foundation, both came to the aid when it seemed that the physical limit had been reached. Then Mr Aldrich Blake of Oklahoma City gave a substantial sum to the magazine. Mr Elmer Son and Mr Gus E. Payne, both of Oklahoma City, contributed, and then the first alumnus of the university, Mr Ralph Goodman, '26 arts-sc., of New York, contributed.

Co-incident with this financial help came increasing recognition by scholars throughout the world. Daniel Morinnet, most famous of French literary critics, became a contributing editor, as did Dr Friedrich Schöneman of the University of Berlin, Homero Seri's of the Centro de Estudios Históricos de Madrid, Henry Laurens, the novelist of Carcassonne, France, Benjamin M. Woodbridge, most thorough scholar on Belgian literature, of Reed college. So the list went on. The labor of editing increased. In addition to the small group of associate editors like Professors Stephen Scatori, W. A. Willibrand and Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16 arts-sc., M. A. '19, others were added in L. E. Winfrey and Maurice Halperin. Mr Kaufman who did Trojan work in his listing of books of the quarter was named co-editor with Doctor House.

It looked as though things had at last come the way of *Books Abroad*. Then came the celebrated depression.

"Rosinante is growing weak in the knees and our saddle is slipping," Doctor House was forced to announce in the October issue of the magazine, released November 6. "Our alternatives are suspension or a small charge to subscribers."

So, while remaining unique in its field, *Books Abroad* loses its unique character of being given away.