

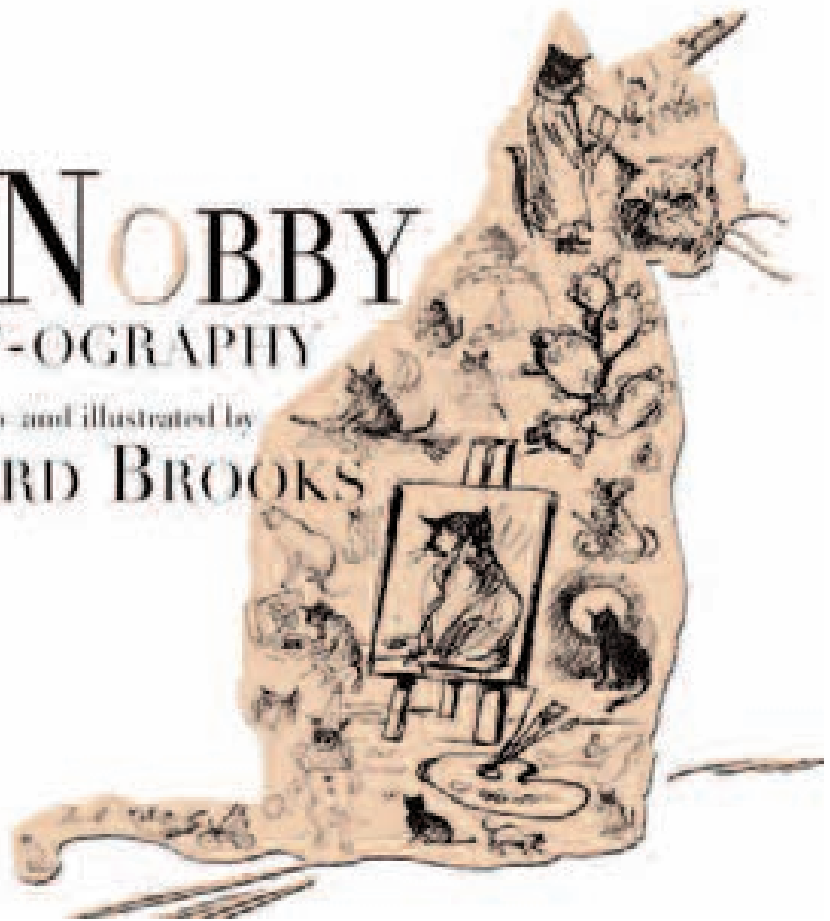
Media Information

SIR NOBBY

A CAT-OGRAPHY

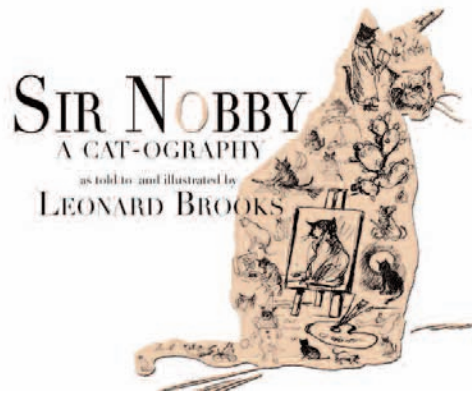
as told to- and illustrated by

LEONARD BROOKS



River City Publishing





Genre: Animals / Children's fiction

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About River City Publishing

Like the nearby Alabama River that flows through the heart of the South, literature sustains us, transports us outside of ourselves, and brings us home. River City Publishing, a literary press located in Montgomery, Alabama, is dedicated to discovering the books that do just that.

Carolyn Newman
Publisher

A Synopsis

Sir Nobby is an aristocat. He is a noble Siamese. He is very proud. He's no ordinary cat. Found on a ranch outside the Mexican city of Tampico, his new master takes him home to the art colony of San Miguel de Allende in the central highlands of Mexico. Here, he becomes Sir Nobby and begins adventures that take him into some rough barrios. Not a scaredy cat, Sir Nobby tells an exciting story. While he is no kiss-and-tell cat, he does not shy away from the details of his life as a computer cat; an artist cat whose work gains world-wide attention; a bird watcher cat; and a feline philosopher.

Sir Nobby, as you see, is a true Renaissance cat.

In these candid memoirs (which he related to his famous master, artist Leonard Brooks) Nobby lives through an emotional rollercoaster. From his early days on the coast near Tampico to the big and beautiful garden of his new home, he meets many friends—including Scruffy the Scrap Cat, the lovely Whiskers, the funny Payaso, and poor Florence and her lovable friend Tabby. There is even Samantha the Bombshell, a California cat who is quite a slinky sweetheart. Sir Nobby tells his unique story: from pathos to humor to self-fulfillment, all with a distinct “*meow-talk*” accent.



Q & A

Q1: Señor Brooks

Hi Nobby! I know you don't like being called Sir anymore. I want to ask you some questions about your book, which is going to be published for cat-lovers. Are you still happy about it?

A1: Sir Nobby

Meow, meow. I don't want to really say. You know I have changed a lot and don't want to be a "Sir" anymore. But I liked writing it when I did and to see the drawings the Senor had done of me. I hope cat-lovers will like it.

Q2: Señor Brooks

When did you first get the idea of writing a book?

A2: Sir Nobby

It was when I was trying to learn "people talk" and heard people talking about their pet cats. I wanted to put them straight about us.

Q3: Señor Brooks

Did you like the drawings the Senor was doing of you so often?

A3: Sir Nobby

Oh yes! And some of the photos people took of me. I am after all, a good-looking cat and people always want to photograph me.

Q4: Señor Brooks

Do you still play the piano or the violin and all those things you did when you were Sir Nobby?

A4: Sir Nobby

No. I've written about the way I feel now. I'm enjoying just being a nice "pussy cat". The cat friends I have wonder why I am not so "snooty" with them and try and be pleasant and don't chase them from the garden.

Q5: Señor Brooks

People have noticed your changed character. You never used to greet them by jumping up on their laps and being stroked - why did you do that?

A5: Sir Nobby

I think I wrote a bit about that. I am less arrogant after I saw poor old Scruffy alone and covered with burrs and hungry. I thought how lucky I was and not a poor ignored Siamese cat.



Q6: Señor Brooks

I notice you go walking and are being nice to Samantha and Florence who are garden cats and not Siamese cats - do you like that? You used to chase them away!

A6: Sir Nobby

Yes I did! But even if they are not Siamese but black and white or mixed colors I realize they are cats like I am, not “aristo-cats” but good cats and I should be kind with them.

Q7: Señor Brooks

Do you miss the computer and sending emails?

A7: Sir Nobby

No. I expect there will be many when the book is out but I am not a computer cat anymore. The Señor can answer them and send out my regards to my readers.

Q8: Señor Brooks

Will you write more someday if people want to hear more from you about your life in Mexico?

A8: Sir Nobby

No way! Perhaps the Señor will write something. I know he'll do more drawings of me and he can show those.

Q9: Señor Brooks

Anything you want to say to your readers?

A9: Sir Nobby

Yes! Please feed us on time and keep our litter boxes clean and keep patting us and stroking our ears often.

Q10: Señor Brooks

Do you think cats go to heaven when they are with their masters again?

A10: Sir Nobby

I hope so! We love each other so much and should be able to go through the gates together – when the time comes. We will miss each other so much. Or perhaps there is just a cat heaven where we will meet all our old cat friends.



Interview with Leonard Brooks by Sir Nobby

about his book entitled: *Sir Nobby: A Cat-ography*
A cat's tale of his life in Mexico in an artist's home

Q1: Sir Nobby

When you visited your friends in Tampico why did you want to take me back to San Miguel de Allende?

A1: Señor Brooks

I saw this Siamese cat watching me do a watercolor and he came over and started to drink out of my jar of water. He jumped on my lap and started purring. He followed me back to my room. I wanted him in SMA.

Q2: Sir Nobby

How did you bring me back to San Miguel?

A2: Señor Brooks

I placed you in a basket and brought you back to San Miguel by private plane

Q3: Sir Nobby

You are always painting and drawing. How many drawings have you done of me over the many years?

A3: Señor Brooks

Probably hundreds of quick sketches and some finished paintings in oil or gouache.

Q4: Sir Nobby

You are such an affectionate master. Did you have pets when you were younger?

A4: Señor Brooks

I always had pets. I had a white rabbit when I was a boy.

Q5: Sir Nobby

Of all the cat friends that I have, do you have any favorites?

A5: Señor Brooks

I had another Siamese. He became quite famous when they made a reproduction in the Graphic Art Society in New York called "Cat and Flowers". It sold hundreds of reproductions. He died from a tumor in his side. Most of my pets have been dogs.

Q6: Sir Nobby

I love to hear music filling the house. How many years have you played the violin?



A6: Señor Brooks

I have played the violin for many years. I love chamber music. I never thought a cat would like the violin!

Q7: Sir Nobby

You have written so many books and articles in your lifetime. Will you ever write your autobiography?

A7: Señor Brooks

I have written a lot of my memoirs. Jack Virtue wrote "*Leonard and Reva Brooks: Artists in Exile in San Miguel de Allende*" but she never knew Nobby.

Q8: Sir Nobby

Why did you choose to leave Canada and live in Mexico?

A8: Señor Brooks

I had been a war artist in the Royal Canadian Navy and painted for the government on all kinds of ships in convoys in England and the channel. They are in the War Museum in Ottawa.

Q9: Sir Nobby

Of all the places you have visited and painted in Mexico, which is your favorite?

A9: Señor Brooks

I have no favorite – San Miguel has changed. There are many cars on the streets, many grand new houses and the "gringos" have found out what a lovely Mexican village it is – or used to be to live and work as an artist and writer.





About the Author

Leonard Brooks is a 95-year-old Canadian artist who has lived in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, since the 1940s. As an official Canadian Naval war artist in World War II, Brooks was highly praised for his work. Recognized worldwide as a premier painter, he has had numerous one-man shows at the Bellas Artes de Nacional in Mexico City and at top galleries and museums in Canada and the United States. The author of eight books on art, Brooks has received praise for his clear delineations of various styles of painting. The director of the McLaughlin Gallery in Ontario wrote that his books “were so well written they’re really fun. It’s very unusual for an artist to be that versatile.” His works hang in many of the world’s most prestigious galleries.



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