

History of Reading News

Vol. IX No. 2

Spring 1986

IRA PRESENTS SIG-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM

Then and Now: Readers Writing

For the first time in the eleven year history of our group, the International Reading Association (IRA) has accepted a symposium proposal sponsored by the History of Reading SIG. The proposal was submitted to the IRA at the behest of the SIG at its business meeting last year. The symposium, titled "Then and Now: Readers Writing in the Elementary Classroom," will take place on Thursday, April 17, 1986, 1:00-3:45 p.m., at Salon A, Hilton Hotel, Philadelphia, at the IRA's 31st annual convention.

Richard L. Venezky, University of Delaware, will chair the meeting. E. Jennifer Monaghan, Brooklyn College of CUNY, will speak on "Readers Learning to Write in the Writing Schools of Colonial Boston." Richard E. Hodges, University of Puget Sound and president of the History of Reading SIG, will discuss "Spelling Instruction Then and Now: What Happens in School." Barbara von Bracht Donsky, Oyster Bay Cove, NY, will follow with a talk on "Composition Instruction: Textbook Priorities and Recommendations, 1900-1960." Anne Campbell, National Assessment of Educational Progress, will then present her and Ina V.S. Mullis' paper on "Fourth-Grade Writing Achievement and Instruction, 1974-1984: NAEP's Report Card," and Susan Sowers, Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia, will discuss "The Process-Conference Approach to Teaching Writing: Why It Works."

SIG Presents Annual Program

The History of Reading Special Interest Group will hold its own annual program and business meeting at the Philadelphia IRA convention on Wednesday, April 16, 1986, 2:00-4:45 p.m., in Room 233, Civic Center. David W. Moore, University of Northern Iowa, is the meeting's organizer and chair.

Karen Hanus, University of Northern Iowa, will begin the presentations with her paper on "The Contribution of a History of Reading." Janet A. Miller, Northern Kentucky University, and A. Garr Cranney, Brigham Young University, will then present their "History of Reading: Research and Resources." David Dunning, University of Illinois, will discuss the roots and early development of standardized reading tests. Finally, Earl F. Hanson, Northern Illinois University, and Nancy Mavrogenes, Chicago Public Schools, will talk on "Enchantment in Children's Literature: The Legacy of the Brothers Grimm and Randolph Caldecott, 1786-1986." Miriam Balmuth, Hunter College of CUNY, will be the discussant.

A business meeting will follow, chaired by SIG president Richard E. Hodges, University of Puget Sound.



An Update of Nila B. Smith's Book

A session will be devoted to the new edition of Nila B. Smith's *American Reading Instruction* (last published in 1965) on Tuesday, April 15, 1986, from 3:45-4:45 p.m., at Room 213, Civic Center. H. Alan Robinson, Hofstra University, will discuss the additional chapter he has just completed for the new edition, in which he reviews American reading instruction from mid-1965 to mid-1985. Brother Leonard Courtney, Saint Mary's College, Winona, will comment on his introduction to the book. The session will be chaired by former SIG president Miriam Balmuth, Hunter College of CUNY.

RRQ Invites Submission of History Research

The new editors of the *Reading Research Quarterly* (the research publication of the International Reading Association) have issued a call for historical research. Philip B. Gough is the editor succeeding S. Jay Samuels and P. David Pearsons on the *RRQ* masthead. Gough and his associate editors James V. Hoffman, Connie Juel, and Diane L. Schallert have recently disclosed to their readers some of their editorial values. One of them is methodological diversity: "...we will welcome historical studies, a form of research too seldom found in this journal..." The editors are also looking to publish commentaries—"papers that challenge conventional wisdom, offer original insights or perspectives, or address old ideas in novel ways." *Reading Research Quarterly* 21 (1986): 5. (Gough, Hoffman and Pearsons are all SIG members.)

Manuscripts and correspondence should be directed to Philip B. Gough, Editor, *Reading Research Quarterly*, Education Building 406, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. Five copies of manuscripts should be sent; APA style should be used. An Instruction for Authors guide is available

NEWS FROM SIG MEMBERS

Miriam Balmuth, Hunter College of CUNY, organized and chaired a session for an "invitational strand" on the history of reading at the annual conference of the New York State Reading Association in November 1985. She is currently co-organizing and cochairing, with Earl F. Hanson, a session on the history of reading around the world at the World Congress of Reading to be held in London, July 26-August 2, 1986. Balmuth is the author of *The Roots of Phonics: A Historical Introduction* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982).

Jane M. Bingham, Oakland University, is "interested in how societal and philosophical concepts of the child influence reading materials and practices." Her book (with Grayce Scholt), *Fifteen Centuries of Children's Literature: A Chronological Guide to British and American Works in Historical Context* was published by Greenwood in 1980. Bingham has collections of early children's periodicals, Blacks in picture books, and foreign language children's literature. She is currently researching the treatment of Blacks in children's picture books.

Stephen Botein, Michigan State University, is the author of "Mr. Zenger's Malice and Falshood": Six Issues of the *New York Weekly Journal, 1733-34* (Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Association, 1985). Botein notes that the publication is available from the American Antiquarian Society or the University Press of Virginia.

Greg Brooks, National Foundation for Educational Research (England), is coeditor, with A.K. Pugh, of *Studies in the History of Reading* (Reading, U.K.: Centre for the Teaching of Reading, University of Reading School of Education, and United Kingdom Reading Association, 1984). Brooks' interests include the history of the teaching of silent reading to beginners; the psychological and linguistic influences on Bloomfield's method of teaching reading; oral and silent reading in Shakespeare's plays; and the history, from 1749 on, of the question of phonological coding in silent reading.

The research interest of **Stephan F. Brumberg**, Brooklyn College of CUNY, is "the place of reading in English language acquisition among immigrant students." Brumberg's "Tales Out of School: Reports of East European Jewish Immigrants in New York City Schools, 1893-1917," appeared in *Issues in Education 2* (Fall 1984): 91-109. Brumberg's book, titled *Going to America, Going to School: The Jewish-Immigrant Public School Encounter in Turn-of-the-Century New York City*, has just been published by Praeger.

Terry Bullock, University of Cincinnati, writes: "My current interests are in the areas of developmental reading instruction and the quality and quantity of reading instruction in secondary schools. In the future, I plan to investigate historical roots of developmental education."

Robert C. Calfee, Stanford University, reports that "a significant element in Project READ, a school-based staff

development program for improving instruction in literacy, consists in providing teachers with an understanding of the historical evolution of the English language and English writing. Teachers' initial reaction is often apathetic or even negative—"How will this help me on Monday?" Over the long haul, teachers realize that this background helps make sense of English orthography." Calfee and Drum provide background on this topic in their "Research on Teaching Reading" in M. Wittrock, ed., *Handbook of Research on Teaching* (1986)

A paper by **Jeanne S. Chall**, Harvard Graduate School of Education, titled "Readability: The Early Years," presented at the International Reading Association in 1984, will be published shortly in a volume on readability edited by S. Jay Samuels and Beverly Zakaluk. It is a review and analysis of research and applications in readability during the early 1900s.

A. Garr Cranney, Brigham Young University, has a paper, "Noah Webster and William Holmes McGuffey: The Men and Their Contributions to Reading," in *Resources in Education* (ERIC document Ed 239 232). His and Susan Grover's article, "The Rise and Demise of the Deseret Alphabet 1850-1877," has appeared in *Proceedings of the Deseret Language and Linguistic Society—Ninth Annual Symposium* (Provo, UT: BYU Printing Services), pp. 99-105. Cranney's "newest interest is getting oral histories from retired authorities in the college reading field."

Cathy N. Davidson, Michigan State University, has three books scheduled to be published by Oxford University Press on September 1, 1986: her *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America* and her editions, with an introduction, of *Charlotte Temple* and of *The Coquette*.

A book by **William J. Gilmore**, Stockton State College, titled *Reading Becomes a 'Necessity of Life': Material and Cultural Life in Rural New England, 1780-1835* (University of Tennessee Press) will be out in late 1986 or early 1987. Gilmore is now working on *The Booktrade in America to 1877: A Research Bibliography*, which is under contract with Garland for a 1987 release. He is also researching the history of reading in America to 1877 for a book later.

Harvey J. Graff, University of Texas at Dallas, has three books forthcoming: in 1986, *The Legacies of Literacy: Continuities and Contradictions in Western Society and Culture* (Indiana University Press); in 1987, coedited with Robert Arno, *National Literacy Campaigns in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (Plenum); and *Literacy Past and Present* (Falmer). Graff has current articles in *Historical Social Research*, 1985; *Interchange*, 1986; and *History of Education Quarterly*, 1986. "Although major research at the moment focuses on the social history of growing up, interest in the history of literacy remains keen."

An overseas children's literature program conducted by **Earl F. Hanson**, Northern Illinois University, will include the Brothers Grimm bicentennial celebration in Germany. "Come, Let Us Celebrate," an article by Hanson which

focuses on some historical aspects of children's literature in England and Germany, will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Children's Reading Round Table Bulletin*.

Jane M. Hornburger, Brooklyn College of CUNY, writes: "I have pursued the area of critical thinking/reading for five years. Critical thinking, prized by the ancient Greeks, was furthered by Dewey's theory of reflective thinking and was a major tenet of progressive education. E. Dale and B. Bloom moved the process into modern times through hierarchical questioning and problem solving. I have made presentations on the topic on state, national, and international levels." Hornburger's most recent interest involves the history and development of college reading laboratories in the U.S. and Canada.

Carl F. Kaestle, University of Wisconsin-Madison, reports that he is "working on a social history of the American reading public from 1880-1980." Related publications are: "The History of Literacy and the History of Readers," in Edmund Gordon, ed., *Review of Research in Education* 12 (1985), and, with Lawrence C. Stedman, "The Test Score Decline Is Over: Now What?" *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 1985, pp. 204-210.

Nancy Mavrogenes, Chicago Board of Education, finished her dissertation on the work of William S. Gray in June 1985 at the University of Chicago. She is currently working on papers on the illustrations of Randolph Caldecott for the 1986 IRA convention, and on the history of teaching reading in Greece for the 1986 World Congress of Reading.

The main interest of **Ian Michael**, University of London Institute of Education, is "the history of the teaching of English (including reading) as a first language in Britain and America." His book, *The Teaching of English from the Sixteenth Century to 1870* (Cambridge University Press), will be out in winter 1986. Michael's paper, "Seventeenth Century Teachers' Views on Reading and Spelling," will be published in the proceedings of the second Colloquium on the History of Reading, which took place in Manchester, England, in November 1985.

Janet A. Miller, Northern Kentucky University, is currently working on an article on the teaching of reading in Cincinnati during the late 19th century. She is also working on an edited book of readings on the history of reading instruction, with E. Jennifer Monaghan. Miller is analyzing data collected through a survey of universities regarding the teaching of the history of reading in reading education programs. This will be presented at the IRA in April and an article will be written on the same topic in collaboration with A. Garr Cranney, Brigham Young University.

E. Jennifer Monaghan, Brooklyn College of CUNY, presented a paper titled "'Able and Willing to Read': Literacy and the Indians of Colonial Martha's Vineyard," at the second Colloquium on the History of Reading held in Manchester, England, in November 1985. The paper will be published in the colloquium's proceedings. With Margaret M. Waters,



For membership information write:

International Reading Association, 800 Barksdale Road,
PO Box 8139, Newark, Delaware 19714-8139, USA.

Brooklyn College of CUNY, she was coorganizer of a conference titled "Exploring Our Heritage: Undertaking Research in the History of Reading," held at Brooklyn College in February 1986. She is the author of *A Common Heritage: Noah Webster's Blue-Back Speller* (Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1983).

David W. Moore, University of Northern Iowa, writes: "The paper I presented at the 1984 SIG meeting in Atlanta will be published in the *Elementary School Journal*, vol. 86, no. 5." (The paper is titled "Laura Zirbes and Progressive Reading Instruction.") Moore is currently working with Karen Hanus on a paper titled "The Contribution of a History of Reading." In addition, Sharon Moore and he are working on "Reasons for the Persistence of the Recitation."

An article by **Marguerite C. Radencich**, Dade County Public Schools, Miami, has just appeared in a publication of the International Reading Association. It is titled "Two Centuries of U.S. Magazines for Youth," *Journal of Reading* 29 (March 1986): 495-505.

Noelene Reeves, Australian Reading Association, is presently researching the history of teaching reading in Australia, using Western Australia as a case study of the development of a literate society. She produces the newsletter for the Special Interest Group, History of Reading in Australia, Australian Reading Association. Reeves' articles include: "Teaching Convicts to Read in Colonial Australia," *Australian Journal of Reading* 6, 2 (1983); "How Literate is Literate? Changing Views of Literacy in Australia," *Australian Journal of Reading* 8, 2 (1985); and "X is His Mark: Convict Literacy 1850-69," *Westerley* (Sept. 1985). Reeves writes, "I have a collection of Australian school readers jointly owned with Thelma Bassell-Browne, W.A. College of Advanced Education."

The current interests of **Corine Reich**, Randolph High School, "include collecting old-time school readers and visiting restored homes of authors." Reich recommends the homes of Edgar A. Poe, located in the Bronx (New York), Philadelphia and Baltimore. The "House of Seven Gables" is located in Salem, MA. "Hawthorne's famous novels were written at his home which provides an excellent tour...Over the past several

News from SIG Members (continued)

years." continues Reich, "I have also visited the homes of Mark Twain, Harriet Stowe and Noah Webster." All of these are located in or near Hartford, CT.

H. Alan Robinson, Hofstra University, has just completed an additional chapter in the new edition of Nila B. Smith's *American Reading Instruction*, in which he reviews American reading instruction from the middle of 1965 to the middle of 1985. The book will be presented at the International Reading Association convention in Philadelphia, April 1986.

Richard Robinson, University of Missouri, is researching the early teaching of reading and training of reading teachers with an emphasis on England (1400s-1700s), and the "early work on comprehension particularly that which was done in America." Robinson has a collection of approximately 500 children's readers.

Alice D. Schreyer, Rutgers University Library, presented a paper, "Copyright and Books in 19th-Century America," at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School Conference on The Book in 19th-Century America, October 1985. (It will be published in 1986.) Schreyer's *The History of Books: A Guide to Selected Resources in the Library of Congress* (Washington, DC: Library of Congress), is in the press. She is teaching a course on "the History of the Book" at the Rare Book School, Columbia University, NY, July 21-25, 1986.

Edward W. Stevens, Jr., Ohio University, has had several articles on literacy published: "Literacy and the Worth of Liberty," *Historical Social Research* 34 (April 1985): 65-81; "Wealth and Literary Culture in the Old American West," *Social Science History Journal* 5 (Fall 1981): 417-43; and "Relationships of Social Library Membership, Wealth and Literary Culture in Early Ohio," *History of Library Quarterly* 16 (Fall 1981): 574-94. Stevens' "Illiterate Americans and Nineteenth-Century Courts: The Meanings of Literacy" appeared in Daniel Resnick, ed., *Literacy in Historical Perspective* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1983). With Lee Soltow, Stevens is the author of *The Rise of Mass Literacy and the Common School in the United States, A Socioeconomic Analysis to 1870* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

Richard L. Venezky, University of Delaware, has two papers in the press: "Steps Towards a Modern History of Reading Instruction," in *Review of Research in Education*, vol. 13, edited by Ernie Rothkopf; and "Primers, Spellers, Readers and Speakers: A History of the Basal Reader," in a special issue of the *Elementary School Journal* on "The Basal Reader in American Reading Instruction," edited by James V. Hoffman and Nancy Roser.

Laurie Walker, University of Lethbridge, Canada, has received a \$32,000 research grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Canada) for a three-year project "on the history of grammar teaching in Canadian Schools, 1800-1986." Walker's paper, "Grammar Teaching in Alberta

1905-1985," was published in the *English Quarterly* 13 (Fall 1985): 24-34.

Judith M. Walter, New York City Technical College of CUNY, presented a paper titled "Who's Interviewing Whom? Doing Research with Retired Professionals," at a conference held at Brooklyn College, "Exploring our Heritage: Undertaking Research in the History of Reading," February 1986.

Margaret M. Waters, Brooklyn College of CUNY, is "currently researching Catholic reading textbooks used in schools the first half of the 19th century, and continuing research on Mathew Carey's role in publishing texts for use in the schools. I am especially interested in the influence of Irish educational practices on the education of Irish-Americans and the influence of nationalism and then nativism as political forces in the schools of the times." Waters was coorganizer of a conference held at Brooklyn College, February 1986, on undertaking research in the history of reading.

AAS WILL HOST SEMINAR IN JUNE ON HISTORY OF THE BOOK

The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) is holding a second summer seminar from June 14-24, 1986, through its Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. The theme of this seminar is "The American Common Reader: Printing, Entrepreneurship, and Cultural Change, 1759-1840." For the second time, Stephen Botein, Michigan State University, will lead the seminar, and the faculty will again include David D. Hall, Boston University. Seminar participants will be housed on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, within walking distance of the AAS. The deadline for applications is March 21, 1986; write John B. Hench, Associate Director for Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609; tel. (617) 752-5813 or 755-5521.

History of Reading SIG Membership Information

The History of Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association was founded in 1975. The purpose of the group, as stated in its constitution, is "to encourage historical research in the field of reading and literacy; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information about the history of reading and reading instruction; and to promote the development of a body of historical knowledge about reading and literacy."

Membership is restricted to members of the International Reading Association. Non-IRA members may receive the newsletter, but may not stand for office or vote. Dues are currently \$7.50 a year for both IRA members and non-IRA members, payable to the History of Reading-SIG. All dues should be sent to the SIG Treasurer, Janet Miller, UPO Box 99, NKU Campus Station, Highland Heights, KY 41076.

News items should be sent to E. Jennifer Monaghan, editor, *History of Reading News*, Department of Educational Services, Brooklyn College of CUNY, Brooklyn, NY 11210.