

# SIMPLIFIED SPELLING SOCIETY NEWS SHEET 4

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EDITOR: George O'Halloran.

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## Cost of this NEWS SHEET

This NEWS SHEET has cost about 40p. per copy to produce and post. It would be a service to the Society if Members made a donation accordingly. The sum, large or small, will be placed in a separate account to help finance future publications. Please send your contribution to the Honorary Secretary.

Depending on the success of this appeal future publications may become more worthy of the Society in format and appearance.

[Most pages had one of the following exhortations at the bottom.]

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO REFORM BY ATTENDING YOUR CONFERENCE

TAKE YOUR FULL PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIETY BY ATTENDING OUR CONFERENCE.

THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP AT OUR FIRST CONFERENCE

IF ONLY HALF OF THE MEMBERS ON THIS LIST WERE TO ATTEND FOR ONLY HALF OF OUR CONFERENCE, THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

BOOK ONLY FOR OUR CONFERENCE

HELP TO ESTABLISH THE SOCIETY AS A CREDIBLE INFLUENCE FOR REFORM BY ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

AN EARLY BOOKING FOR THE CONFERENCE WILL HELP OUR PLANNING

# 1. EDITORIAL

I had been expecting to produce this NEWS SHEET in journal form (32 pages, spine stapled, 8" x 5") as a first step towards a printed journal. Unfortunately in the rush of other work (Conference, etc.) I forgot to tell Mr Smith about this when commissioning [his excellent article](#) (which appears elsewhere herein) and so when he went to the trouble of bringing it to me beautifully typed on a duplicating 'skin' in our older layout I felt we would have to have just one more issue on A4.

Our next issue will be in journal form and perhaps also in print. I have found a printer whose prices seem reasonable and going into real print, if only to test the market for our type of publication, seems to me to be something we should do as soon as possible. Our next step ought, perhaps, to be the circulation of copies of NEWS SHEET around university, and other, libraries with an invitation to subscribe on a regular basis.

If we are successful in building up a reasonable circulation in this way, we might take the final obvious step of tentatively test-marketing to the public. This might be done by putting out a number of copies to booksellers and other vendors in selected areas on a sale or return basis. If this were not successful we should not have lost very much. If it were to be successful we should have greatly increased the influence of the Society in the field of education and reform. We should not, of course, try this until the groundwork has been most carefully done.

And there would be a great deal to do. We should need to establish a policy for NEWS SHEET. This should have regard to the kind of material we should publish; whether we should accept advertising to help out with production costs, if so what kind of advertising; what kind of charges for it; should we have an editorial board; if so, should this board control the contents of the journal or should it merely assist the editor when he asks for help; on what kind of things should the editor seek help; if there is to be an editorial board how should it be chosen; should it be elected or selected; if selected who should do the selection — the members? the Committee? the editor himself? There are many other things also. It is necessary that the journal should remain answerable in some way to the Society and not become an independent entity answerable to none. How is this best achieved? by electing the editor annually? by having him (or her) as an elected officer of the Society and so subject to supervision by the Committee and consequently of the members? or how?

I would appreciate greatly suggestions from Members about this. There will be time to discuss all these things without haste at the Conference and so ensure we do not make decisions bad because they were hasty. I am sure we all look forward to hearing what all Members have to say about this at the Conference.

In addition to the [names mentioned in 'Society News'](#) I have just heard from Mr Tom Gourdie, M.B.E., the eminent calligrapher, and from Miss Beatrix Tudor-Hart that they will be presenting papers at the Conference. Miss Tudor-Hart, formerly of the Reading Research Institute of the University of London, will need no introduction to our Members. Mr Gourdie's paper will deal with co-relating alphabets for the teaching of reading and writing. Mr Gourdie tells me that he will also be happy to give practical lessons in handwriting to conference members who may wish for them.

Mr Gourdie's generous offer reminds me that Miss Marjorie Chaplin has also offered to give practical help with apparatus making and also recreational art to conference members. We hope that conference members, especially 'social' members, will avail themselves of Miss Chaplin's kindness. Miss Chaplin can offer help, and instruction, in painting in oils and water colours, lettering with pen and brush, lino-cutting, etc. She has been 'hung' in a number of exhibitions.

There are still a few vacant spaces on the programme for papers dealing with topics related to the teaching of reading and writing. If you have ideas you think are good why not share them with others?

Mr Ken Jones, inventor of COLOUR STORY will be giving a paper at the conference.

## 2. SOCIETY NEWS

At a Committee Meeting held on 1st March the Committee decided to advise the A.G.M. to pass a resolution doubling the current subscription rates to the Society. If the A.G.M. accepts, this means the annual subscription will become £2.00 — not an excessive sum when one considers how costs of paper, postage, etc. have risen. At the same meeting the Committee also decided to advise the A.G.M. to waive the payment of subscriptions by Members who have retired from employment and who are living on the state retirement pension. Such members should apply in a confidential letter to the Secretary who will place their names on the new confidential Free List for Senior Members. Such Senior Members retain all the duties and rights of membership.

This meeting also approved the expenditure of £250.00 from funds already voted by the A.G.M. to meet the preliminary expenses of the Conference.

(If the Conference is adequately supported by Members, this amount will be recovered). The Committee also decided that "In future copies of the agenda for Committee and other meetings of the Society must be registered (in the Minute book) side by side with the Minutes of the meeting to which they refer". This practice has now been started.

A subsequent Committee Meeting held on 5th April on behalf of the Society passed a vote of deepest sympathy with the family, relatives and associates of the late Professor Harold Orton, late Mr Kingsley Read and late Miss P.H.L. Van Dijk. There is an [obituary for Mr Kingsley Read](#) elsewhere in the NEWS SHEET. We hope to publish an obituary for Professor Orton in NEWS SHEET 5. We should be grateful for an obituary for Miss Van Dijk.

This meeting began discussions on the appointment of new Trustees. Only one of the former four trustees still survives and, with Prof. Orton's death, the need for new appointments has become urgent. No definite proposals had been made formally, Members of the Committee felt the need for clearer information and so the meeting was adjourned until April 12th.

At the resumed meeting on 12th April copies of the Society's trust deed and other relevant documents were produced. A number of resolutions were passed whose cumulative effect is that a number of gentlemen were approved as suitable to be trustees of the Society and their names have been put forward to the general membership of the Society for ratification. There is a [polling paper](#) elsewhere in this NEWS SHEET and members are requested to use it to record their opinions.

The arrangements for the Conference are well under way. A number of eminent scholars, among whom are Prof. Downing, Prof. Daniels, Dr D.G. Scragg, have already agreed even at this early date to present papers so that we will be able to offer a nutritious and stimulating intellectual pabulum together with congenial companionship in comfortable surroundings. Please book early. It will help with our arrangements. This is the first ever conference held by the Society and its success will add greatly to our influence.

### 3. ELECTIONS 1975

The election of officers and Committee members will take place by secret postal ballot under the constitution in 1975. We are hoping that the Electoral Reform Society will, as they did last year, undertake to conduct the election.

Nominations are needed for a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Education Secretary, Financial Secretary, Publications Secretary, Records Secretary and six Committee Members.

There are four Committee members who should continue in office until the elections in 1976. These are Miss B.M.S.T. Darley, Messrs. O'Halloran, J.R. Orange and R.E. Hayley.

We have not been able to contact R.E. Hayley for some time. All letters addressed to him had been returned. Unless he contacts me before 30th June, I propose to ask the committee to suspend him formally from office and the A.G.M. to confirm the suspension. This would create another vacancy for a committee member for one year. Such suspension would not mean anything to Mr Hayley's detriment — merely that he is not available as a functioning committee member. I should be glad of the views of members on this.

Nominations for these offices, properly seconded and accompanied by a note from the nominee stating that he is willing to accept office, should reach me not later than 30th June. The envelope should contain only the items mentioned in this paragraph and should be marked outside on the top left hand corner with the words NOMINATION FOR OFFICE.

The results of the election will be formally announced at the Conference and published in the first NEWS SHEET after the Conference.

### 4. LIST OF MEMBERS

The following is a list of members who are entitled to vote at this year's election. Only one member wished not to have his name included in it. The names of any new members joining between now and the date of the election will be published in NEWS SHEET. We should be grateful to readers who may point out errors or omissions from the list.

[Address details have been omitted]

Prof. J Algeo, USA.	Mr R.Mayhew, Calif, USA
Mrs B.D. Askew, Yorks.	Prof. J.E. Merritt, Milton Keynes
Mrs M.P. Asquith, Yorks.	The Rt.Hon. The Lord Merthyr of Senqhnenydd, P.C.
Dr E.A. Betts, USA.	Mr C. Milburn, Lincoln.
Mrs E.M. Binns, Cheshire.	Mr J.E.P. Mordaunt, Devon.
Mr A.R. Brown, London.	Mr Donald Moyle, Lancs.
Mr G.S. Bryden, Edinburgh	Mr H.M. Mustapha, Univ of Essex, Colchester.
Bund fur vereinfachte rechtschreibung, Switzerland.	Mr G. O'Halloran, London
Mr A.Cashdan, UKRA, Milton Keynes.	Mrs E. O'Hara, Co Durham.
Miss M.Chaplin, Brighton.	Mr C.W. Orange, Bristol.
Mr L. Collins, Yorks.	Mr J.R. Orange, London.

<p>Mrs Collins, Yorks.  Mr S.T. Cradick, Essex.  Mr Ralph Cropper, Kent.  Miss M. Cross, Northants.  Miss B.M.S.T. Darley, London.  Mr W.J.F. Davies, Hants.  Mr Leo. G. Davies, Calif., USA.  Mrs G. Dekker, Yorks.  Mr J.S. Dekker, Yorks.  Mr W. Bryan Dockrell, Edinburgh.  Prof. John Downing, Canada  Mr Raymond Elser, NJ, USA.  Mrs Eustace, Guildford.  Mr C.E.C. Eustace, London.  Mr S.S. Eustace, London.  Mr L.R. Fennelly, IOW.  Dr Percy Freer, Rondebosch, South Africa.  Mr Stanley Gibbs, Middx.  Mr C.I.C. Harrison-Wallace, Sussex.  Mr R.E. Hayley, London.  Mr Alan Hobson, Caernarvon.  Mr J.Kenneth Jones, London  Mr G.H. Landsborough, Middx.  Mr K.H. Lavender, Kent.  Mr R.J. Lawler, London.  Mr A.P. Lawson, London.  Dr W.R. Lee, Middx.  Miss V.M. Lengyel, Essex.  Mr J. Fergus McBride, Edinburgh.  Mr Michael McCallion, London.  Mr D.J. McCann, Swindon.  Mrs P. McKeown, Bristol.  The Rt. Hon. The Lord Maybray-King, P.C.,  Southampton</p>	<p>Mrs R.B. Orange, London.  Mr V.P. Paulsen, Calif, USA.  Mr G. Rae, London.  Mrs G. M. Rolls-Willson, Surrey.  Mr W.J. Reed, Kent.  Mr V.G.T. Rosewel1, Wimbledon.  Mr A.E. Rupert, Ontario, Canada.  Mrs J.M. Shelley, Surrey.  Mr E. Smith, Kent.  Prof. D.H. Stott, Ontario, Canada.  Dr A Tauber, NY, USA.  Mr M. Taylor, Hants.  Mr K. Tillema, Ontario, Canada.  Mr Newell Tune, Calif, USA.  Mrs J.A. Turner, Yorks.  Mr Maurice Varney, Worcs.  Prof. G Verboven SUCL, Belgium.  Mrs E.J. White, Yorks.  Mr H.S. Wilkinson, Yorks.  Mrs D.Wilkinson, Yorks.  Mr J. Windsor Lewis, Leeds.  Mr Peter Wright, Stockport.  Dr Arne Zettersten, London.  Dr The Hon. D. Everingham, MHR, Australia.  Mr W.Latham, Yorks.  Mrs V. Yule, Victoria, Australia.  Mr Robert L. Carvell, Wisconsin, USA.  Kerry Monahan, NJ, USA.  Dr Bryan Williams, Chichester.  Mr D.W. Latham, Yorks.  Mrs Dorothy Hewling, Exeter.  Mr A.R.G. Burrows, Velez-Malaga, Spain.  Mr D.I. Masson, Leeds.</p>
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## STOP PRESS

I have just heard from Prof. Albert Mazurkiewicz that he will present a paper at the Conference. Mr A. Rondthaler, President of International Typeface Corporation, New York, also is preparing a paper on "Computerised Transliteration".

## 5. Internal Open Juncture

It is generally recognized that the difference between the pronunciation of <nitrate> and <night rate> is the internal open juncture in the latter. This means simply that the speaker feels a break in <night rate> and uses the allophone of /t/ he would normally use at the end of a word instead of the allophone he would normally use before /r/.

These words could be distinguished instead by defining a /tr/ phoneme. To abolish the concept of internal open juncture, one would need to define as a unit phoneme not only /tr/, but /dr/, /pl/, and countless others. The typographic difficulties of such a practice are evident. More important, it would violate an axiom fundamental to science:- the most economical theory that fits the facts is the best.

The word <kittenish> is commonly written in phonetic notation as ['kitɳiʃ], with a syllabic [ɳ] distinct from [n] in <catnip> ['katnip]. The [ɳ] in <kittenish> is syllabic, however, because the speaker feels that [iʃ] is a suffix added to ['kitɳ]. He feels a break, or internal open juncture, between ['kitɳ] and [iʃ].

Recognizing this open juncture, one will find no word in the English language that has syllabic [ɳ] in a context where nonsyllabic [n] could occur. Thus it is clear that syllabic [ɳ] is a member of the /n/ phoneme, and <kittenish> is better analysed as /kitn+isc/, where the stress marks /' / for primary stress, /- / for secondary stress, and /+ / for weak stress are placed at the open juncture preceding the indicated stress. (The reasons for analysing /ʃ/ as /sc/ are beyond the scope of this paper.)

In some positions [i] and [j] have complementary distribution:- [pin], <yell>[jel]. In other positions there is diaphonic variation, some speakers saying ['mi:diəl] while others say ['mi:diəl]. In the ending of <holier> most speakers have [i], but in <failure> every speaker has [j]. This contrast arises because in <holier> the speaker feels open juncture between the root and the suffix. Thus [i] and [j] have complementary distribution and should be assigned to the same phoneme /i/. <Failure> and <holier> can be analysed as /feilir/ and /howli+r/.

A parallel case is [u] and [w]. The distribution of these related sounds is complementary, with diaphonic variation in <usual>. Therefore they should be assigned to the same phoneme, which be represented by /w/. <Usual> is analysed as /iwziwal/, <wood> as /wwd/.

<Least> can be defined as /liist/ if <holiest> is analysed as howli+ist/. <Yiddish> must be excluded as a foreign word, and several ephemeral cant words must be ignored.

Similarly <boot> can be defined as /bwwt/, noting that /ww/ exhibits two allophones, the <oo> of <boot> and the <wo> of <wolf>. The first allophone always follows close juncture or precedes a voiced spirant or (if an example existed) open juncture. The second allophone appears otherwise. Again foreign words and cant words must be excluded.

The contrast between the medial consonant clusters of <homestead> and <Hampstead> is the contrast of open and close juncture. The [p] or [ʔ] often heard in <Hampstead> is a regular feature of close juncture in this consonant cluster and would be redundant in a phonematic description. The same is true of the consonant clusters in <empty, pumpkin, chamfer, warmth, glimpse, redemption>/emti, pumkin, camfr, wormθ glims, re'demsian/.

The sound represented by <ng> in <sing> has a distribution analogous to /mb, nd/ rather than /m, n/, and it would be desirable if this sound could be derived from a phonologic cluster such as /ng/. The <ng> contrasts in <singer: finger> and <wineglass: wingless> offer no difficulty if the role of internal open juncture in these words is understood:- /sing+r, fingr, wain-glas, wing+les/.

Somebody from the Midlands would rime <finger> and <singer>, and it might be asked whether he has no internal open juncture in <singer>. Whatever the accent, /sing+r/ phonologically has internal open juncture. There is no phonetic realization in the Midlands accent because /ng/ is always phonetically the same [Gg], whether before close juncture as in <finger> or before open juncture as in <sing>, <singer>.

### Conclusion

Proper attention to internal open juncture allows greater economy of description than has been usual in phonematic transcription. The distribution of phonemes becomes more regular. The inventory of phonemes is greatly reduced and for the spelling reformer the contest between digraphs and new letters becomes largely irrelevant. Departures from traditional practice can be with the following examples. For Comparison, a conventional phonetic notation and New Spelling are also given.

Conventional Orthography	Phonologic Transcription	Phonetic Transcription	New Spelling
night rate	nait-reit	'nait-reit	niet raet
nitrate	naitreit	'naitreit	nietraet
singer	sing+r	'siGə(r)	singer
finger	fingr	'fiGgə(r)	fingger
wineglass	wain-glas	'wainga:s	wienglas
wingless	wing+les	'wiGlis	wingles
homestead	howm-sted	'howm,sted	hoemsted
Hampstead	hamsted	'ham(p)stid	Hampsted
bottoming	botm+ng	'botəmiG	botoming
utmost	utmast	'ʌtmest	utmoest
kittenish	kitn+isc	'kitɲiʃ	kitenish
catnip	katnip	'katnip	katnip
coddling	kodl+ing	'kodliG	kodling
codling	kodling	'kodliG	kodling
mustering	mustr+ing	'mʌstəriG	mustering
string	string	striG	string
tarry (adj.)	tar+i	'tɑ:ri	tary
tarry (verb)	tari	'tari	tarry
furrier (adj.)	fur+ir	'fə;riə(r)	furyer
furrier (noun)	furir	'fʌriə(r)	furryer
holier	howli+r	'howlie(r)	hoelyer
failure	feilir	'feiljə(r)	faeluer
holiest	ho? •1 li+ist	'howliist	ho elyes t
least	liist	li:st	leest
lawful	law+ful	'lɔ:ful	laufool
Chalfont	cawfant	'tʃa:fənt	Chaafont

## 6. CONTRIBUTIONS TO 'NEWS SHEET'

We have now reached the stage where we ought to be able to keep NEWS SHEET stocked with contributed articles. We have many members whose widespread knowledge and experience would be of interest and benefit to our readers and we look to these to provide us with interesting material to publish. We will, of course, be willing to print good items written by non-members also. We cannot, unfortunately, pay for articles but we will be happy to send free additional copies of NEWS SHEET to authors who wish to have them.

Articles will be preferred which have some bearing on spelling reform, the teaching of reading and writing, the design of orthographies and also on linguistics, phonetics, phonology, etc. Descriptions of personal experiences in these fields would also be welcomed.

Articles may be as eruditely written as Edward Smith's "Internal Open Juncture" in this issue or as topically written as the unsigned item "Spelling Reform: the Shape of Things to Come" in NEWS SHEET 3. Authors should, however, remember that the majority of the members of the Society are not academic phoneticians, trained teachers nor specialist linguists. If, therefore, writers wish to use technical terms which are not in common knowledge they should take care to explain them, preferably (as Mr Smith has done) inside the text of the article — although footnotes may in some cases be acceptable.

We are not able to reproduce a special script nor lettering which we feel that the most phonetic transcription New Spelling of the 1948 edition is quite suitable. Authors who particularly wish to have their work reproduced in a special script would have to send us their work suitably paged and set out in a medium from which we could have it printed. The only such medium we can use for the next issue or so will be ordinary waxed duplicating 'skins'. Mr Smith sent us beautifully typed 'skins' for his article in this issue.

Later, we hope to be able to reproduce by some kind of offset process when an ordinary typescript will serve. But we will give plenty of notice when this is to happen.

At present the editor is taking responsibility for accepting articles for publication but has invited two members of the committee with special knowledge to assist him with advice in their own fields on articles about which he may be doubtful or which may have been the subject of a disagreement. It would be pretentious to talk about an editorial board at this stage of our development but if members with special knowledge would volunteer to be advisers this would be very helpful. In the interval we invite all our members — and others who feel they have something relevant to say — to bombard us with articles for publication!



## **7. OBITUARY: KINGSLEY READ, 1887–1975**

When Kingsley Read joined the Society not long before his death he had already made his reputation in the field of spelling reform and had behind him a long and fruitful career. He entered the Birmingham School of Art in 1903 and an intensive study of lettering there and later became joined to a growing interest in phonetics. These together led to his entering, along with 476 others, into the Shaw alphabet competition. He shared the prize money with three other contestants but six months later Shaw's executor appointed Read as sole responsible designer. He spent four years testing correspondence in the Shaw alphabet. He later produced a 'Junior Quicksript' and a 'Senior Quicksript'.

In spite of the fact that 13,000 library copies of Shaw's 'Androcles and the Lion' were printed in the Shaw Alphabet and sent out free of charge to libraries all over the world, Education Authorities and, indeed, the general public showed little interest. Read became convinced that Shaw's concept could be pushed no further. He came to the conclusion that an enlargement of the Roman alphabet was the only promising means to reform English spelling. During his last years he set to work again and produced such an alphabet — the 'Spel'. He joined the Society to get it better known and, if it had not been for his death, might well have presented a paper on it at our conference this year.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE: FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear George,

You are a fantastic worker. It is amazing that you have been able to accomplish so much in so little time. You put us all to shame and deserve every support we can give you.

Everything you mention in your letter has my (grateful) approval. Go ahead with everything.

What a splendid idea to ask Prince Philip to be our Patron. You can be sure I will do whatever the Society decides I should do about this.

I will try to find ways of getting publicity for the Conference.

Just now I am in the hectic phase of packing up for a sabbatical year. I leave here on 4th May and will be away from Victoria for more than one year. In May I shall be lecturing at various places in Canada and the U.S.A., including the annual convention of I.R.A. at New York City. I shall arrive in England on 1st June. My address there will be 312 Kingfisher Drive, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. It will be my H.Q. for about 5 months. But I will not be there continuously because I have to make trips to many other countries from my centre at Reading.

In the next few days I will try to send off some communications designed to produce publicity for the S.S.S. Conference.

With warmest regards.

Yours sincerely,  
John Downing,  
Professor.

(Please help our President, to help us to get better publicity for our conference. Ed.)

## 9. PUBLICITY

We need all the publicity we can get for our First International Conference and Summer School in the last week of August this year. Publicity for the Conference is, of course, also publicity for the Society. Almost every Member of the Society could do a great deal to help. Letters to the press, local as well as national, attract a good deal of attention and often produce excellent results. I know this well from often repeated experience. When I was General Secretary of the i.t.a. Foundation we made a great deal of use of writing to the press on topics where we could find some connection with i.t.a. or a connected subject. Recent editions of the Times Educational Supplement, Teachers' World, etc. show that supporters of i.t.a. are again rallying round with supportive letters to the press. Much of the spread of i.t.a. was due to skilful use of the correspondence columns of the press. In general the press feels kindly to education and will usually give, at least, space to any reform which promises to help the quality of education.

To show what I mean a recent letter (below) by our Chairman was published in the Guardian.

"Sir, — Few would quarrel with Dr Eileen Byrne's view that universal literacy should be given the highest priority. But in a time when resources are scarce there is an alternative to redeploying money spent on lower priorities. Let us instead strip English spelling of the inconsistencies that insult the child's sense of reason.

If English were spelt as simply as modern Dutch, reading and writing could be taught effortlessly and successfully.

Yours faithfully, Edward Smith,  
Chairman.  
Simplified Spelling Society,

The result of this publication was five enquiries for membership of the Society!

I do not have the resources which the i.t.a. Foundation has for this kind of useful publicity but if only a few members of the Society were to take a more active part in propaganda we should do very well without such resources. A letter, or other item, published in any journal or newspaper must bring some benefit. Local newspapers, trade journals, society journals, church news letters etc. are easier to get published in than national newspapers and often, because of their intimacy, produce a very good effect. May I call on YOU to try a letter to your local paper to get some publicity for our Conference? It doesn't matter where you are — it could always stimulate interest.

If you don't want to try your strength on the press there are always other things you can do to help with publicity. You could, for example, send out some of our leaflets specially produced on the Society's stationery to four or five chosen targets. You might for example send one to your local school and ask the Head if it could be put on the staff notice board. You might send one to the Secretary of the Students Union at your local technical school, college of technology, college of education, university college, etc. We will be happy to send you some leaflets if you write and ask for some. A few minutes of your time could help greatly to make the Conference a success.

## 10. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

We are still on the look-out for good papers for presentation at our FIRST CONFERENCE. Papers should, in general, be capable of being read in 30 minutes or less, but we would be happy to allocate extra time to very interesting or important work. The following are some ideas which could inspire important papers. Could you speak on any of them — or on any other?

### A. The Development of Written Communication

How the following work

- (a) IDEOGRAPHS: Egyptian hieroglyphs, Chinese, Modern ideographs (traffic signs, Blissymbolics, etc.)
- (b) SYLLABARIES: Japanese, Vai, Mandinka, others.
- (c) ALPHABETS:
  - (i) Modern; in British Isles (Irish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic)
  - (ii) Ancient; in British Isles, (Runes, Ogham, Anglo-Saxon, Old & Middle English)
  - (iii) Omitting Vowels (Arabic, Hebrew, Speedwriting, Shorthand)

### B. (d) History and Development of the letters of our alphabet

- (e) History of English Spelling
- (f) Defects in English spelling — Where we went wrong, how and why
- (g) Consequences of these defects in human and economic terms
- (h) Reformed systems (by their inventors, etc.)
- (i) Transitional systems (Colour Story, i.t.a. DMS etc.)
- (j) The Teaching of Reading — approaches and methods

### C. (k) The Difficulties children have in beginning; at later stages; in spelling

- (l) Reading failure; reading difficulties clinic; Individualised materials; Preparation of materials; techniques in illustration and lettering, painting, lino-cuts, etc. (Expert instruction: will be available)

### D. (m) Reformed and new orthographies; causes and effects of reform (Dutch, German, Irish etc.)

- (n) Experiments in Simplified Spelling and results
- (o) Interpretation of Latin and other inscriptions

We think the list above is exhaustive but, if there is any topic omitted upon which you are knowledgeable and on which you would wish to present a paper, we will be happy to consider it.

Anyone who wishes to present a 'paper should obtain a copy of 'NOTES ON PRESENTING A PAPER' from: Conference Secretary,

## 11. BOOK REVIEWS

"A history of English spelling" by D.G. Scragg, Manchester University Press; boards, 9" x 5?", 130 pages, £2.20 net.

This book gives a concise account of how English spelling as we know it today has developed over the years since the Anglo-Saxons began to use the Roman alphabet. Dr. Scragg traces the effect of French and Latin conventions on our spelling and shows how the reforming proclivities of sixteenth century schoolmasters produced that appalling crop of heterographic homophones (pale/pail; hear/here, etc.) which bedevil the early efforts of young children in our schools. The last chapter deals with changing fashions in spelling and should be read by all spelling reformers. In spite of its erudition this is a book which is easy to read. I could not put it down until I had finished it. I am told by Dr. Scragg that the book is intended as a temporary filling of an obvious gap until a more substantial account appears. I do not agree with him. I do not think a more substantial account could make the appeal that this book must make to the general reader, to teachers and students of English but I do hope that, when a more substantial account appears, it will be written by Dr. Scragg. Highly recommended. G.O'H.

## 12. ORTHOGRAPHIC REFORM by Leo G. Davis

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

What would math be if numerals were as fickle as our letters? Conversely, what would initial literacy be if our letters were as stable as numerals? Lands having basically fonetik alfabet do not hav reading problems not even reading teachers, per se, — just ALFABET teachers! Obviously a fonetik alfabet is imperative to most-fluent literacy, in any language: — therefore the erratic irregularity of our spelling is the major factor contributing to our reading failures, — as well as the only contributing factor over which educators have direct control. They have absolute control over the orthografy they teach, — otherwise they couldnt have perpetuated so much confusion in that field. Thus orthografik reform offers the only solution to our reading problem, — anything else is but a temporary improvisation for living with the malady), — rather than a permanent innovation for PREVENTING it!

A common world tongue is imperative to the international understanding necessary to world-wide cooperation, prosperity, and related peace. English is already the de facto international language and only its erratic orthografy is impeding its acquisition as such. As the world's secondary language, English will eventually be used mostly between non-anglos, — therefore it should be tailored to the foreign majority. The anglo minority is fortunate that its mother tongue has become the dominant world tongue, — therefore *they should gladly bow to the foreign majority* with regard to its orthografy. It's even their moral duty to do so!

Tests have shown that children, who first learn to read via basically fonetik orthografy, have very little trouble learning to read the traditional. Thus, it follows that a literate adult would have even less difficulty learning to read the simplified, — therefore there is no logic in teaching anybody to SPELL traditionally, — especially in inter-language studies.

Our dictionaries do not tell us how we SHOULD spell. They merely record how most of us WERE spelling, when that edition went to press. When John Public changes his spelling habits, the dictionaries, eventually, follow his lead. Thus "common usage" is final authority in this field, — therefore educators have just as much authority to implement simplified spelling as they have to implement the "new math" some years back.

Altho most people are in favor of basic reform they are averse to radical change, — therefore *the new orthograpy must be a compromise* between the erratic and the ideal. The best we can logically hope for is basically fonetik spellings for major phonemes, only. Inasmuch as any-and-all rational systems would delete useless silent letters, and keep the letters from "pinch-hitting" for each other without dependable rule, one rational proposal would be just about as good as any other. It is not a matter of perfection, but a question of *which system would be most acceptable to the most people*, — public support being more important than technicalities. But, in order to make a prudent choice, we should make comparativ study of the various proposals. Thus it is suggested that all academic journals feature "readers write" columns for pro and con discussion of all aspects of reform.

Then, when the discussions subside, call for a *readers referendum* via clip-out mail-in ballots: — and subsequently declare the most popular to be academically acceptable for general use, — *at the option of the writer*, — whether pupil, teacher, layman, journalist, or author. Thus, we would have an indefinite period of optional spellings, during which *the proqressive author would offer as much, or as little* of the new orthograpy as he thinks school administrators might consider. In turn progressive text-book boards would have a variety of revolutionary texts from which to choose, — where they now have no choice of orthograpy. Under such a permissive policy, the irregularities would gradually become obsolete, while the preferred forms become standard thru common usage. POINT:- *The average educator is more apt to endorse* (vote for) a system for some unidentified "other fellow" to use *voluntarily*, than he is to get involved in a programed change-over.

### **13. SUGGESTION FOR LEAFLET NEEDED BY SSS. From Mrs. J. Shelley** Simplified Spelling

Do you know?

That the short 'e' sound as in 'pet' is written in at least 16 different ways? e.g. pet, head, leisure, leopard, many, said, says, friend, bury, guest, debt, ledge, cheque, cleanse, phlegm, ate

That the long 'e' sound as in 'meet' is written in 20 different ways? e.g. meet, meat, key, quay, mosquito, vehicle, weir, anaemia, belief, debris, amoeba, geese, leaves, league, these, seize, people, marine, intrigue, siege.

The long 'a' sound is written in 21 different ways; the long 'o' in 16 ways; the long 'oo' as in moon in 21 ways; and the list can be continued on and on.

If we write the letter 'a' it represents different sounds in the words: at, all, ask, age, about, many, was, area and cottage.

We teach young children that an 'e' on the end of a word makes a vowel say its own name, but what about: — have, give, live, gone, done, come?

It is all a great illogical muddle, and results in a great deal of money being spent to teach reading. More important, our spelling does immeasurable harm to an enormous number of children. It is a scandal that so little is done to press for its reform.

*How could spelling be reformed?*

It can be done without adding any extra letters at all, e.g. the *long* a, e, i, o and u sounds could always be written ae, ee, ie, oe and ue. For the purpose of teaching reading these could temporarily be linked by a tie, e.g. maed, hie, foen, shie.

On the other hand, we could add just one new character for the unstressed vowel, (which gives many people spelling problems). For this the international phonetic character of 'ə' could be used, and words spelt:- brekfəst, Jurmən, partikuelər.

*Has any other country ever reformed its spelling?*

Yes, Russia has, and Holland, Norway, Turkey and Czecho-Slovakia. Spelling has also been simplified in Sweden and Finland. Reading failure as we know it doesn't exist in these countries.

*What makes us hesitate with English Spelling Reform?*

We suggest that the main reasons are:-

1. Apathy — together with the attitude, "I've had to master it, why shouldn't they?" Also, to be a good speller is a status symbol. We should lose that'
2. We don't like the look of it. Admittedly. But this wears off. Succeeding generations won't dislike the appearance.
3. Etymological grounds. When these are examined they cannot be very strong, e.g.
  - 1) The old Anglo-Saxon words were written down after the Norman conquest by French-speaking scribes!
  - 2) Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton all spelt phonetically; but 16th and 17th century scholars (the Latinisers) changed the spelling of many words to make words, as they thought, reveal their classical origin, but they made many mistakes.

The old spelling would still be there for any who wished to study it.

*For the Foreign Student*

English is a difficult language to learn. We could make it one of the easiest. And with that there is the likelihood of it becoming an International Language.

*We must not* remain so apathetic to the need for reform. The bright child

Our spelling *must* be reformed. If you would like to know more, the following books may be purchased through The Simplified Spelling Society —

Ripman W & Archer 'New Spelling' 1948 Pitman Press.

Reed W.J. 'Spelling Reform and Our Schools' 1959 SSS

## **14. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY**

It is my intention to propose to a poll of the Members (after discussion at the A.G.M.) the financial structure suggested in NEWS SHEET 2 as the financial structure of the Society. This suggested structure begins with the item 'The Society's Finances' on page 4 of NEWS SHEET 2 and goes on throughout pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of NEWS SHEET 2.

Members who wish to comment or to suggest changes are asked to do so as soon as possible and not later than June 30th. Envelopes should be marked 'Financial Structure' on their top left hand corner and should contain nothing else.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Will Members who wish to raise motions at the A.G.M. please let us know as soon as possible? We should like to know early so that we may be able to construct a rational programme. Motions should be set out in the exact wording to be proposed and should be properly seconded. Envelopes should be marked "A.G.M. Motion" in the top left hand corner and should contain nothing other than the motion. Such motions should reach us not later than May 31st.

## **POLL: TRUSTEES FOR THE SOCIETY**

In accordance with Section 13 of the Constitution the Committee has approved the following to be custodial trustees of the Society's investments, namely: Mr. R. Cropper, Mr. A.C. Dalgleish, Mr. S. Gibbs and Mr. M. Harrison, and now puts their names forward to the Members for ratification. Four trustees are needed. If you wish to vote for all or any of these gentlemen, please put the word "YES" in the box after their names. If you wish to vote against all or any of these gentlemen, please put the word "NO" in the box after his name. A simple majority of those voting is sufficient for election.

POLL 2/1975 VOTING PAPER

TRUSTEES: ELECTION OF

Mr. R. Cropper

Mr. A.C. Dalgleish

Mr. S. Gibb

Mr. M. Harrison

Signed

Date

Please detach your voting paper at the dots and return this portion so as to reach me not later than 20th May 1975.

N.B. A custodial trustee does not have authority to change or dispose of any of the Society's investments without the consent of a majority of the members of the Society.

## 15. Letter from Leo G Davis

To: Mr. George O'Halloran, Sec, Simplified Spelling Society.

Re the NEWS LETTER, just received:- AS I SEE IT, — Two journals sounds great:- the NEWS LETTER for SSS business, only, — and an OPEN FORUM for free distribution. But there is no "sale" for such a journal: — we are lucky if Jon Public even reads what we GIV him!

I see no point in further research to prove the value of spelling reform. We already know that lands having basically fonetik alphabets have few reading failures: — that all such tests as "i-t-a" have proved that basically fonetik primary orthography is a short-cut to t-o: — that it takes 4 times as long to learn "rite, write, right, wright" as it does to learn only "rite": — and that eliminating useless silent letters would save about 10% in printing expenses. If Douting Tomas can't see those obvious facts, he's hopeless!

We cannot give Old English, — or any other dialect, any consideration, — because distinctive spellings for each dialect would be a step toward MORE languages, contrary to world need for linguistic unity. Neither Q nor X has been confusing enough to justify distorting familiar patterns contrary to most-fluent transition.

The IPA would not be practical, — because too many of the symbols have NON-English symbols.

Further, I doubt there being ANY bona fide literature in IPA orthography, — no general subject matter.

A new alphabet, such as Shaw's, is too radical, — worse than the IPA! The fact that Orientals are switching to fonetik alphabetical orthography, as fast as progressives can over-ride conservatives, proves the folly of ideograms. The new orthography must be a compromise between the erratic and the ideal. Thus we must stay within the various patterns (fonts) of the Anglo-roman symbols, — and their established values.

As for "New Spelling". — Spelling the U-diphthong backwards to the way it is pronounced is ridiculous: It should be "neu" or "nyu". The UE sequence should be used as a digraph, as in "blue", — to offer such as "trueth, tueth" in perfect harmony with "faeth, teeth, teeth, boeth". Thus OO is an imposter in any role.

As for WHO chooses the new system: — After due pro and con forum discussion, there should be a "readers referendum" via clip-out mail-in ballots, — and subsequent acceptance of the most popular for general use, — at the option of the individual reader, — whether pupil, teacher, layman, journalist, or textbook author. Then sit back and "let Nature take her course". Inasmuch as

Thus it is high time we "endorse" a given system to guide voluntary reform. Lindgren's "SR-1" and/or subsequent one-letter program is but an idle gesture, — because reform is for the children of tomorrow, — rather than for today's adults who have mastered t-o. He is shooting at the wrong target!

I cannot feature any crusader for spelling reform wanting to work incognito. I'd have every member listed, — with MAILING address, because there are too many "angles" that must be analyzed to confine discussions to periodicals.

There would be little point in proving how quickly current literates can learn to read the SIMPLIFIED spelling — because it couldn't possibly come into general use fast enough to frustrate anyone who has mastered t-o. POINT: — The new spellings should be introduced at the primary level *only*, — and leave it to the rational spellers to extend it to other grades, as they become educators and/or text-



book authors. Thus we wud hav an indefinit period of "optional" spellings during which the preferred forms wud gradually becom standard thru "common usage", which is final authority in this field. Reform COULD be just that simpl! Why not try it? What hav we to lose?

Inasmuch as primary lesson material lends itself redily to foto-offset printing, revised texts shudn't cost any more than any "next edition". And there is no reason the change-over shud not be made on a "replacement" basis as the old texts ar consumed. The old books cud be shuffld around so that every one in the class wud be using the same texts.

In respons to yur call for proposals for study, I am sending, under separat cover, six of my publications, — all using small lower-case capitals wher NUE SPELLING uses digrafs. I wud appreciate yur general reaction to the over-all system, — which is a bit different in places, — for publication in my quarterly.

Thanks,  
(signed) Leo G. Davis.