

broaden the geography of their collecting when Charles' assignments required nationwide travel. The value of this collection was recognized early on, as scholars, like University of Delaware's Richard Venezky, microfilmed dozens of the primers to include in his microfilm collection of American primers.

One of my charges in the exhibition process was to work on the physical display of the books. It was at this point that our relationship with the Spencer Research Library began. Spencer librarians, who frequently mounted exhibitions, taught us how to produce a professional looking exhibit. We learned to make our own support wedges, exhibition cradles, and butterfly book mounts (which can cost as much as \$298.95 if purchased). We became experts at the use of Mylar strips to keep books open to example pages and learned to "listen to the book" so as not to damage bindings. Various presentation options were modeled for us with our books so we could efficiently set up an exhibition with 74 items. Finally we learned to wrap the valuable books for shipping, since they traveled from New York to Kansas to California and back again.

The exhibition, titled *Writing the Past: Teaching Reading in Colonial America and the United States, 1640-1940* was mounted and deemed a success. A monograph with the same title was distributed at the exhibition and is currently published by the International Reading Association.

Shortly after the San Diego Conference, the Monaghans decided that retirement warranted smaller accommodations and fewer books. It was time to find a new home for the collection and their association with Spencer librarians made it a natural fit. The collection was gratefully accepted by KU since it complimented and extended the Spencer Library's substantial holdings in similar fields. The University of Kansas feted the Monaghans in a ceremony during the spring of 2001. Another exhibition was mounted at that time, titled "Young American Readers." It was a combination of volumes from both the Monaghan and Spencer collection. This display, with text and digitized images of materials can be viewed on the Spencer website at <http://spencer.lib.ku.edu>

The Kenneth Spencer Research Library is the regional history, archive, and rare books and manuscripts library of the University of Kansas. The staff welcomes all who wish to consult the collections. Librarians, archivists, and allied staff are available to help all who visit the Spencer Library on site or online. Now KU can better support historical research and hopefully, future SIG members.

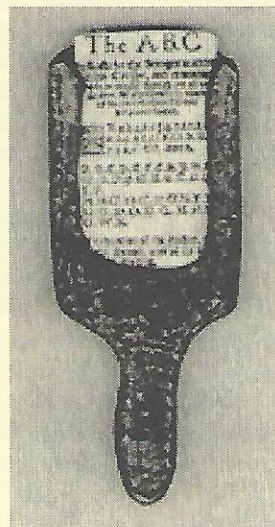


Image of a Hornbook from the Charles and E. Jennifer Monaghan Collection at the University of Kansas

IN MEMORY OF JEANNETTE VEACH

Jeannette Veatch passed away in Phoenix, AZ on April 18, 2002 after a brief illness. Dr. Veatch was known for her work, as early as the 1930's, in Individualized Reading Instruction and her strong and vocal opposition to the use of basal readers. A few weeks before her death at 92, she was excited about conducting workshops for Maricopa College reading tutors in the America Reads program.

Jeannette Veatch was a pioneer in bringing children's literature and support for self-selection of materials into classrooms. She was argumentative but always passionate about kids' right to read and teachers' rights to teach.



Jeannette Veatch at her 90th Birthday Party