

THE READING HALL OF FAME A history

This history of the first decade of the Reading Hall of Fame was written by H. Alan Robinson, its first historian, Alan was a past-President of RHoF. He was also past-President of IRA and an amateur historian. By posting this history on the Virtual Reading Hall of Fame website we make a piece of reading history available to all those interested. The archives Alan refers to were maintained at IRA headquarters by Ed Fry and are being updated by Ken and Yetta Goodman, co historians with the aid of IRA staff, Clavell Jones and librarian. Ken Goodman has edited and done some rearranging of Alan's text. *KSG*

This summarized history of the Reading Hall of Fame is intended to serve as a brief picture of the members and their activities during its first decade (1973-May 5, 1983). The intention is to continue the summary up to the present. All the information has been summarized* from the Reading Hall of Fame Archives which are now being organized and will be preserved at the Ralph C. Staiger Archives and Library at the Headquarters Building of the International Reading Association at Newark, Delaware.¹

PART I

THE READING HALL OF FAME: A SUMMARY OF ITS FIRST DECADE-- 1973-May 5, 1983

The Reading Hall of Fame (RHF) began in 1973 as Project Innovation's "Reading Hall of Fame." It appears to have been the brainchild of Russell N. Cassel, then editor of the now defunct journal, Reading Improvement. He wrote to **Emmett Betts, Donald Durrell, Helen Robinson, and Nila B. Smith** indicating that the editorial board of Reading Improvement chose them to be the first members of the RHF. In checking with Gerald Glass and Alden Moe--members of the editorial board in 1973 along with such people as Emmett Betts, Paul McKee, and Walter Pauk (to mention a few)--they could not remember ever being asked to approve such a group or to recommend members. So, unless memories failed the members of the editorial board, Dr. Cassel was the originator of the Reading Hall of Fame.

It is evident that Betts, Durrell, Robinson, and Smith accepted their roles as charter members for, in response to Cassel's letter of August 30, 1973, they agreed to nominate four additional reading leaders to the RHF; Cassel asked **Helen Robinson** to be responsible for affecting "the majority agreement process." A note on his letter in Helen's handwriting suggests that this is when she became President/Secretary, "really by default."

In 1974, six guidelines were generated, apparently by Helen Robinson, and then adopted for the selection of new members:

- "1. Living, retired or near retirement, but active in some aspects of the reading field.
2. Well-known and respected by people in the profession.
3. Publications include research (articles, pamphlets, books, etc.) dealing with reading.

¹ It is planned for this summarized history to be organized in six parts: Part I. Summary. Part II. Roster of members. Part III. List of Presidents/Secretaries. Part IV. List of professional meetings. Part V. Bylaws. Part VI. Duties of Officers. At this time the report consists of the first four parts through May 5, 1983.

4. Has held positions of responsibility in the field of reading
- 5 .Has contributed to professional activities in such ways as speaking, organizing programs, and helping teachers.
- 6 . A well-known teacher who has prepared many leaders in the reading field."

The four new 1974 members were **Albert J. Harris, Constance McCullough, Paul McKee, and Gertrude Whipple**. McKee died prior to induction so the group elected five members in 1975: **Guy L. Bond, Guy T. Buswell, Edgar Dale, George D. Spache, and Miles Tinker**. A certificate of membership--to be much discussed--was generated by the charter members, printed by Cassel, and presented to new members. The certificate read:

Reading Hall of Fame Project Innovation

Be It Known

has been elected as a
Diplomate in the
Reading Hall of Fame
 by the present members
 for exceptionally outstanding contributions in the area
 of reading instruction and for continued professional
 leadership which has served to foster
 reading improvement in many persons.

(Signed by the President/Secretary and the editor of Project Innovation.)

Cassel and his editorial board (?) listed five principal purposes for the RHF:

- 1) To identify those programs or concepts in the field of reading improvement that are worthy of such recognition.
- (2) To make use of the most qualified persons available in the area of reading to name worthwhile programs in reading improvement.
- (3) To give credibility and professional status to select reading programs by identifying the most outstanding ones available.
- 4) To assist school administrators and interested personnel **in** finding worthwhile programs related to reading improvement.
- 5) To cause continuous evaluation and comparative assessment of reading efforts and developments as a vehicle to further improvements in the area.

Cassel proposed several projects for the reluctant (as indicated by Helen Robinson) group to undertake. They finally agreed to write articles for the issue of Reading Improvement which celebrated the bicentennial of the United States (1776-1976), with Helen² as guest editor. At that same time, in a letter to Helen Robinson, Cassel indicated the hope that the group would "control and perpetuate itself independent of outside intervention."

Helen remained President/Secretary until June 1, 1976 when Constance McCullough was elected for the next two years. On February 28, 1976 Helen wrote to Connie informing her of her election and

² Alan Robinson was Helen Robinson's junior colleague at the University of Chicago. It was custom there to refer to each other by last names, ie Miss Robinson, Mr Gray. They never used Dr. or Prof. in oral references and never first names in front of students. So this reference to Helen Robinson by her first name show a degree of informality among RHoF members unusual for the time.KSG

indicating that Emmett Betts suggested a meeting of the members at the upcoming IRA convention in Anaheim, California. She asked Connie to follow through since her husband, Fred Jobe, had suffered a stroke and she would be unable to attend. She recommended that the agenda should include a consideration of the number of members to be elected annually as well as the concept "of posthumous membership for some of the great people in the field." She suggested further that such membership "would not fit into the purposes set forth inside the back cover of Reading Improvement, so they might need reconsideration." Helen also indicated that she would ask members to send Connie \$3.00 each for dues (there had been no dues up to that point) and that Connie might later decide if this were enough money to carry on the organization whose activities had not been funded previously.

In a newsletter to the membership, Connie reported the 1976 election of **A. Sterl Artley, Marion Monroe, and Paul Witty**.³ (Paul died prior to election and was replaced by **Nancy Larrick** who was next in line on the list of nominees.) All members were invited to the meeting in Anaheim; seven of the 15 members attended: Artley, Bert Harris, McCullough, Monroe, Spache, Tinker, and Whipple, plus Cassel.

A charter member, who could not attend the Anaheim meeting, wrote Connie a letter questioning the existence of "our Self-Selected Reading Hall of Fame" and went on to say that "the certificate of membership resembles a supermarket Wheaties coupon." The charter member suggested electing "to membership the people who have had a superior place in research or service." The letter writer felt that an organization of senior scholars was needed.

At this **first meeting of the RHF on May 14, 1976**, Cassel distributed copies of the Spring 1976 issue of Reading Improvement containing an editorial by Helen Robinson and articles by Durrell, Buswell, Whipple, Tinker, McCullough, Dale, Bond, Betts, Bert Harris, Helen Robinson, and Spache, in that order. In addition, the 1974 guidelines for membership were listed in that issue of Reading Improvement. Along with a memo to the membership in which Connie listed the guidelines, she stated the following: "Now that the criteria are listed in the Bicentennial Issue, I suppose we must hold to them in the coming election for 1977. ...But we should be concerned about lower limits of Fame, as one of our members was when he wrote, 'How much will we scrape the bottom of the bucket to come up with four members each year?'" Connie noted that she thought she "heard a scrape when I was elected, and agree that this is a matter deserving of our attention, lest meaningful and complimentary become unmeaningful and uncomplimentary."⁴

Connie's May 30th minutes of the Anaheim meeting indicated the following actions: (1) gave thanks to Cassel "for his initiation of the organization and for his encouragement toward self-direction;" (2) supplanted the five original purposes with a single statement of a goal: "**The goal of Project Innovation's Reading Hall of Fame is to contribute from its experiences to further improvements in reading instruction;**" (3) signified the way to achieve the goal is by "exerting its influence, such as presenting co-sponsored meetings in the annual conventions of related organizations, having the substance of the papers prepared for those meetings disseminated through ERIC, indicating needed research and promising trends of the past which have possibilities for the future of reading, facing current issues in reading and discussing them in open fora;" (4) approved sending "a news item [written by Connie] to IRA for its Reading Today and magazines, to inform the IRA membership of the existence of this organization, its purpose, membership policy, and autonomous operation;" (5) sanctioned sending a proposal (to be organized by Spache) for a place on IRA's program in Miami next spring (the request entitled "Current Issues in Reading" would provide a two-hour block allowing for participation of "five members of a panel, five other members in comment from the floor, and the audience); (6) retained Helen Robinson's six guidelines for selection of new members; (7) and agreed to add two new members each year.

At the same meeting the idea of posthumous membership was discussed and rejected, although the members did feel that some method should be found of recognizing "the outstanding contributors of the past."

³ Paul Witty was the first of several subsequent members to die the year he was elected. That was probably because of the advanced age at election of RHoF members. The in joke of the RHoF is that the average age is deceased. KSG

⁴ It's curious that from the beginning there has on the one hand been self-consciousness among RHoF members that they were self-anointed and on the other hand reluctance to bestow the honor of membership on too many others.

Connie, in her inimitable style, said that "some of us questioned whether the pioneers would have welcomed us to membership." The membership asked the President/Secretary to send them the names of those who had received IRA's Certificate of Merit as possible candidates to consider in future elections as well as to explore the development of a more suitable certificate of RHF membership. They also suggested that the initiation of new members should consist of more than welcoming them--perhaps presentation of the certificates. Connie added that there was yet no resolution of the question regarding including membership for people outside the United States who had been nominated but none so far elected.

Connie dutifully sent a news release to IRA publications and included an invitation for IRA members to nominate members to Project Innovation's Reading Hall of Fame (PIRHF). One responder (September 8, 1976), apparently a teacher of reading in Ohio, felt that the qualifications for nomination was "a 'stacked deck' for college professors of reading." In response (September 12), Connie pointed out that the PIRHF, as envisioned by "the Editors of Reading Improvement...should be a group of people long in the profession and broadly influential and knowledgeable in it and still capable of intellectual leadership in it, to be given voice together." She indicated to the letter writer, that despite his comment, she was sorry he seemed to have no one to nominate.

In her September 26th report to the membership, Connie reviewed the Anaheim meeting and added that Dr. Cassel had agreed to advertise the Miami meeting in Reading Improvement. Connie suggested that "whether we wish to continue this connection in this way is a question we should probably consider in Miami." In December of 1976 and January of 1977 Connie reported the election of **Gertrude Hildreth** and **Russell Stauffer** to the RHF as well as the election of A. Sterl Artley as President/Secretary-Elect with a term beginning June 1, 1978 to extend through May 31, 1980.

In March of 1977 Connie sent members agenda items for the Reading Hall of Fame business meeting in Miami and invited members to dinner and attendance at the professional meeting co-sponsored with IRA. She reported on activities of the members submitted to her by members. [Here and in subsequent reports about members I have included only publications and national awards when reported by members. Members through the years reported many other activities and honors which may be found in the archives. Obviously members had many other honors and publications which they did not report to the RHF presidents/secretaries and which, of course, are not then reported here.] Among the many activities, the following publications were listed: "Phonics Revisited by Sterl Artley in Language Arts, February, 1977; Edgar Dale's The Living Word Vocabulary, Dome, Inc.; Sound Start (Borg Warner) by Don Durrell and Helen Murphy; Nancy Larrick's "Hey, Mom, Who Put the Television in the Closet?" in English Education, Fall, 1976. In addition, she announced the deaths of Nila Banton Smith and Miles A. Tinker as well as a noted non-member, Luther Gilbert.

The first professional presentation of the RHF, "Current Issues in Reading," was presented on May 4, 1977 at the IRA Convention in Miami. The meeting, chaired by Connie McCullough, featured Artley, Durrell, Bert Harris, McCullough, and Spache presenting their views of a specific issue. Following the hour and a quarter of presentations, Betts, Dale, Helen Robinson, and Whipple reacted. Questions were then welcomed from the floor. Connie reported that "the room was jammed. People sat on the floor and stood along the walls. I understand that about 200 others were turned away."

At the May 6th business meeting, the following decisions were made: (1) establish a committee consisting of Bert Harris, McCullough, and Stauffer to confer with Ralph Staiger concerning the relationship between IRA and the RHF; (2) strike references to Project Innovation in any RHF correspondence; (3) prepare RHF stationery and increase the dues, if necessary, to cover expenses; and (4) have Edgar Dale examine the present membership certificate and suggest a new one. In addition, Artley was to chair a RHF program for the Houston IRA Convention (open to all convention attendees) on critical issues with Dale speaking on Judging the News Media, Larrick talking about The Impact of TV and Other Mass Media on Reading, and Stauffer making a presentation about Reading Comprehension; the discussants were to be Artley and McCullough. McCullough was also asked to confer with Ronald Mitchell of IRA on the length of the meeting (possibly two and a half hours), the size of the room (seating about 1,000), and the co-sponsored relationship. McCullough was also to confer with Staiger on the possible publication of a monograph on pioneers in reading. A suggestion was made that in Houston the business meeting, a luncheon, and the professional meeting should be held on the same day.

Although there were indications earlier, it became evident in June of 1977 that there were significant differences between members of the RHF and Dr. Cassel. In a June 9th response to two letters from Connie

McCullough, Cassel stated that he was "more and more convinced that our Reading Hall of Fame is not yet ready to go it alone; certainly not based on the IMAGE I have in mind." Connie replied to his letter on June 15th (with copies to members) thanking him for his letter "regarding the maturity of the Reading Hall of Fame and the desirability of pursuing the significance of the status of 'diplomat'" reflected in the membership certificate. She indicated that "the contents" of his "interesting letter deserve[d] more than a quick answer, and they shall certainly get it." In responses from members of the RHF to Cassel's letter and McCullough's response, the following two excerpts from letters seem to reflect the group's feelings:

I strongly oppose his DIPLOMATE CONCEPT as well as the proposal that the Reading Hall of Fame "continue to work with PROJECT INNOVATION to a more mature status." The present membership of the Reading Hall of Fame consists of mature people with fine organizational experience as well as achievement in the field of reading. Such a group is eminently qualified to "combat the world." I think it is inconceivable that this group of people would wish to continue in an organization that is not completely autonomous.

.....
I think the sooner we can break away from Cassel, the better. As Betts said, "You know that (the PIRHF) was only a publicity stunt anyway." As for me, I don't want to be allied with the Reading Improvement magazine.

With the assistance of Edgar Dale, a new certificate was prepared which read:

READING HALL OF FAME

has been elected to membership for outstanding contributions to the field of reading instruction and for continuing leadership in the improvement of reading.

Date: _____

President/Secretary, Reading Hall of Fame

Connie wrote to Dr. Cassel, who had recommended next year's program for the RHF, indicating that the program was already planned. She also stated that public participation in suggesting nominees for membership "only complicates our balloting and our burden of correspondence. The only people whose names survived to the second ballot were those suggested by the members. Still another decision was that we should design and print our own certificates, and this is now being done." "I think you need feel no anxiety for its [RHF] effectiveness. From now on, you should expect moments of satisfaction with what you have started with such insight into the needs of the profession."

On June 22, 1977 Connie McCullough took a step alluded to in the past but not yet initiated. She asked President/SecretaryElect A. Sterl Artley "to take the leadership in framing a document" that would encompass procedures and policies for the RHF "to be discussed and put up to the total membership; discussion in Houston, total membership by mail ballot afterwards." Sterl responded by accepting and saying "in a sense it will be drawing up a constitution--right?" Connie agreed and suggested that Sterl might want Helen Robinson and Edgar Dale to review his draft. On the same date she asked reading pioneer Guy T. Buswell to suggest names and contributions of other reading pioneers who might be 'elected' posthumously to be added to and to verify a list being compiled by RHF members.

A March 20th, 1978 letter to the membership from McCullough included recent publications of members: Russ Stauffer's Diagnosis, Correction, and Prevention of Reading Disabilities (with Abrams and Pukulski)--Harper Row, 1978; "Reading, Language, and Learning," by Magdalen Vernon in Harvard Educational Review (August 1977) and her co-editorship of The Development of Cognitive Processes (Academic Press, 1976; John Carroll and Russ Stauffer's contributions of papers to John Guthrie's Cognition, Curriculum, and Comprehension (IRA, 1977).

Connie reported in the spring of 1978 that **Mary C. Austin, John B. Carroll, Eve Malmquist, William D. Sheldon, and Magdalen D. Vernon** had been elected to membership. This was obviously a departure from earlier decisions to elect four, and then two people a year, and reflected an unstated (in archival materials) decision that people outside the United States could be elected.

Connie also stated that Albert J. Harris had been elected President/Secretary-Elect to take office at the annual meeting in 1979. (Although there was no mention of why in the archival material, it seems that Artley's two-year term was reduced to one year and all future president/secretary terms have been for one year from one IRA Convention to the next.) Connie also reported on the death of Gertrude Whipple, August 9, 1977.

Connie announced the agenda for the RHF business meeting on May 4, 1978 at the IRA Convention in Houston. Members present at the meeting were Artley, Austin, Bond, Dale Bert Harris, Larrick, McCullough, Spache, and Stauffer. Because "liabilities" (\$270.31) exceeded "assets" (\$239.54)," Connie asked the membership for a dues rise from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per year; the increase was accepted by the group. Edgar Dale welcomed new members and presented them, as well as past members, with the new certificate.

Connie reported that after investigating a possible relationship with IRA, there would be no affiliation for IRA does not affiliate "with organizations of closed membership." However, co-sponsored meetings were encouraged.⁵ Albert Harris was asked to plan a symposium in Atlanta at the 1979 IRA Convention. Sterl Artley presented by-laws which were revised slightly and then approved. (See Part V of this report.) It was then resolved "that membership be held to a maximum of 25, with four members to be elected" for 1979.

The business meeting was followed by the professional meeting open to all at the IRA convention.

In a memo following the Houston meeting, newly-elected President/Secretary Artley asked members to keep him informed of what they were doing so he could report activities in "our infrequent newsletters." He also asked for ideas for RHF activities but cautioned that our funds were nonexistent. In a January 1979 newsletter, he informed the group of the election to membership of **Jeanne Chall, Theodore Harris, Leland Jacobs, and Helen Murphy** as well of the election of Nancy Larrick as President/Secretary-Elect. The newsletter also included anecdotes from a variety of members as well as a note about visual problems he was encountering. Nancy Larrick reported articles in Today's Education and Learning. Jack Carroll listed a host of publications during 1978 and projected for 1979. Guy Bond reported a revision of his professional book with his daughter as co-author. Edgar Dale and Jeanne Chall were in the midst of revising the DaleChall Readability Formula. Mrs. Emmett Betts, with a short note from Emmett, explained his inactivity due to a long siege of illnesses.

The next month, in another newsletter, Sterl reported on the program and meeting to be held in Atlanta to be chaired by Albert Harris on Vital Issues in Reading Instruction. (The specifics of that meeting as well as all other meetings, from this point on, are listed in Part IV of this report.) In this same newsletter President/Secretary Artley cited quotes from a January 28 letter from Connie McCullough reporting on her problems resulting from an intra-cerebral hematoma leaving her with a number of coordination problems including a loss of peripheral vision. She observed that the experience permitted her to "know more about the frustrations of a child having to concentrate on all the skills at once, having mastered none completely." Sterl expressed a deep understanding since a visual problem had left him with "one functional eye for near-point seeing. I can appreciate now the value of stereopsis."

In the minutes of the April 26, 1979 business meeting in Atlanta, Artley turned over the organization's balance of \$5.80 to incoming President/Secretary Albert Harris "who expressed appreciation that the organization is at least in the black." At the meeting, a revision in the newly-written bylaws (reported

⁵ This issue of the relationship of the RHoF to IRA has always been confused even in the minds of some members. The group has always met at IRA conferences and held its main public sessions as co-sponsored sessions at IRA. A number of Past Presidents and Executive Directors of IRA have been RHoF members. At present RHoF pays IRA to manage its mailings and archives and the Secretary of RhoF is Alan Farstrup, currently Executive Director of IRA.

in Part V of this report) was voted on and accepted. One of the original membership criteria stated that nominees should be "living, retired or near retirement, but active in some aspects of the reading field." It was changed to read, "living, and with a minimum of at least twenty-five years of active involvement in work in reading."

On May 8, 1979, President/Secretary Albert J. Harris summarized the business meeting of April 26 ("attended by 10 members and three wives") in a newsletter to the membership and reported that 800 people attended the RHF's professional meeting at IRA. In his November newsletter, Harris announced the finalization of the 1980 program at IRA and included activities of the membership. Among the interesting activities were the following: Emmett Betts had made a good recovery and had written a paper published in the Winter 1979 issue of the Spelling Progress Bulletin; John Carroll received the AERA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education in April 1979; Don Durrell had a paper in the November 1979 issue of the Journal of Reading; Albert Harris had articles in the May 1979 issues of the Journal of Learning Disabilities and The Science of Reading (Japan), the October 1979 issue of the Journal of Reading and the November 1979 issue of The Reading Teacher. Bert included a note from Connie McCullough in which she announced, joyfully, the finding of a type of mirror which enabled her to regain peripheral vision.

President/Secretary Albert Harris used his January 1980 newsletter to announce the election of Mary Austin to President/Secretary-Elect and **Marion Jenkinson** and **Ralph Staiger** as new members. He also announced, with deep sympathy, the death of Nancy Larrick Crosby's husband, Alec. In the same newsletter, he presented a by-law change suggested by himself and Sterl Artley. The change, for Article V, Section III, was to replace the current Hare system of counting ballots with "those candidates with the most votes shall be elected, to the number specified annually. In case of a tie, the candidate with the higher number of first and second place votes shall be elected." The amendment was to be voted upon at the May 1980 business meeting.

In the same newsletter, Harris reported the publication by IRA of Inchworm, Inchworm: Persistent Problems in Reading Education, edited by Connie and including papers by six RHF members: A. Sterl Artley, Edgar Dale, Albert J. Harris, Nancy Larrick, George Spache, and Russell Stauffer. Harris also listed the following publications by members: a paper by Jeanne Chall in the Nov./Dec. issue of Language Arts; an article by himself in the January 1980 issue of The Reading Teacher; and a paper by Nancy Larrick in the

December 1979 issue of the Journal of Reading. In April, Harris confirmed the co-sponsored meeting with IRA at St. Louis and stated that Bill Sheldon had to withdraw as a discussant for health reasons. He also reported that the series, "Readings that Made a Difference" in the Journal of Reading included articles by Dale, Durrell, A. Harris, Larrick, Malmquist, and Helen Robinson.

As her last duty as president/secretary-elect, Nancy Larrick took the minutes of the May 8, 1980 business meeting in St. Louis. She reported that the meeting was held following a luncheon meeting and that the following members were present: Artley, Austin, Chall, Bert Harris, Ted Harris, Jacobs, Jenkinson, Larrick, McCullough, Murphy, Spache, and Staiger. New members Marion Jenkinson and Ralph Staiger were presented with membership certificates by Bert Harris. For 1979-80, income was \$348.80 and expenses were \$277.08, leaving a balance of \$71.72. Dues were voted to remain at \$8.00 per year. The by-law change recommended above, having to do with the method of counting ballots, was approved. (See Part V of this report.) Members also voted to extend the membership from 25 to 30 and to admit no more than two annually for the time being. It was resolved that members would only be nominated by present members, but that considerable effort be placed on qualified candidates in countries outside of the United States. Next year's program at IRA was to be planned and arranged by Mary Austin who would invite two speakers plus two discussants for each speaker.

In October of 1980, Nancy Larrick's newsletter was devoted primarily to news of members. She announced the deaths of Helen Robinson's husband, Fred Jobe, and Guy Bond. She cited publications by members: Edgar Dale and Joseph Rourke's World Book Word Power Library and articles by Edgar in Focus on Learning and the Journal of Reading; Don Durrell's third edition of the Durrell Analysis of Reading Difficulty and an article in the Reading Research Quarterly entitled "Letter Name Values in Reading and Spelling"; Bert Harris' seventh edition of How

to Increase Reading Ability (with Sipay) published by Longmans in August of 1980 plus an article on the Harris-Jacobson Readability Formulas in the May 1980 issue of The Reading Teacher; Nancy Larrick's Encourage Your Child to Read and Children's Reading Begins at Home (Dell) plus a profile of Roma Gans in the October issue of Language Arts and "The Changing Picture of Poetry Books for Children in the Wilson Library Bulletin." Mary Austin received the 1980 IRA International Citation of Merit in Manila in August.

In Larrick's January 23, 1981 newsletter, she reported that **Roma Gans** and **Ichiro Sakamoto** were elected to membership and Theodore Harris was to succeed Mary Austin as the new President/Secretary-elect. Ted Harris reported that The Dictionary of Reading and Related Terms (IRA), co-edited with Richard Hodges, would most likely be unveiled at the IRA conference in New Orleans at our co-sponsored meeting on April 30, 1981. (See Part IV of this report.)

In the minutes for the business meeting in New Orleans on April 30, 1981, President/Secretary-elect Austin reported the attendance of Artley, Austin, Carroll, Chall, Gans, A.J. Harris, T. H. Harris, Jacobs, Jenkinson, Larrick, Malmquist, McCullough, Helen Robinson, Sheldon, and Spache. New member Ichiro Sakamoto could not attend as he was ill. Income was \$305.72 (including a gift of \$50) against expenses of \$94.62. It was resolved that dues would remain at \$8 per year.

An issue that had come up during the year, Russell Stauffer's desire to resign from membership, brought up a discussion of active/inactive membership status which led to a motion that the RHF have an inactive members' category to be drafted by T. H. Harris and Austin and voted upon at next year's business meeting. Russ had been unhappy that he was nominated for secretary/president without his consent, and he felt that the list of nominees for membership ignored many important leaders who should have been nominated earlier. He asked that his name be removed from the list of members. Larrick asked him to reconsider. In his response he asked that his name be removed, not changed to inactive, and again expressed dissatisfaction with the method of selecting members. He said "it seemed much more a 'who you know' than 'what you know' procedure." At this point Russ's resignation was not acted upon.

Although incoming President/Secretary Mary C. Austin took care of all the necessary business during the early months following her induction, she was moving from Hawaii to North Carolina and was unable to communicate with the membership-at-large until December 3, 1981 when she asked for recommendations for membership and for president/secretary-elect. She also announced the date for the RHF meeting at the IRA convention in Chicago and indicated that the program was organized by Ted Harris. Among the activities of members, she reported that Jeanne Chall had written an article on "Reading" (with Steven Stahl) for the Encyclopedia of Educational Research, that the Harris-Hodges IRA Dictionary of Reading and Related Terms had been published and received "rave reviews," that George Spache's second edition of Diagnosing and Correcting Reading Disabilities was published along with a new volume, Case Studies in Reading Disability, and that Mary Austin and Esther Jenkins had completed a manuscript for a two-volume set on Promoting World Understanding Through Books.

In a January 25, 1982 memorandum, Austin reported the election of **Marie Clay**, **Leo Fay**, and **Olive Niles** to membership and Jeanne Chall to succeed Ted Harris as President/Secretary-Elect. (Only two members were supposed to be elected, but a tie vote resulted in the election of three.) Mary also announced that the revised edition of The Living Word Vocabulary by Dale and O'Rourke had been published.

Prior to the April 29 meeting in Chicago, Mary Austin sent notices to members announcing the program (Part IV of this report) and the proposed bylaw change about types of membership. At the business meeting, President/Secretary-Elect reported the attendance of Austin, Chall, Durrell, Fay, T. Harris, Jacobs, McCullough, Murphy, Niles, Helen Robinson, Spache, and Staiger. He indicated that Austin reported a balance of \$358.74 for the organization. During the meeting, it was voted that dues should remain at \$8.00, the total membership of 30 should not be increased, the nomination procedure should remain the same but, as a trial, a weighting system should be used in an attempt to avoid ties, and the bylaw change regarding membership types was approved. The bylaw change was as follows:

Article V, Section VI

Membership in the Reading Hall of Fame is an honor. Active members shall be those duly elected who pay annual dues and respond to correspondence.

Inactive members shall be those who have not paid dues for three years in succession. Their names shall be designated "inactive" on the roster.

Should a resignation occur and be presented to the president/secretary in writing, accompanied by a request for removal of the person's name from the roster, the request shall be granted. The president/secretary shall so notify the membership.

The names of deceased members shall be retained on the roster under a necrology listing.

Hence, in preparing a roster for 1982, Austin removed Russell Stauffer's name from the list of members and also added a necrology section.⁶

President/Secretary Theodore L. Harris, in his first newsletter to the membership in June of 1982, circulated the minutes of the 1982 business meeting in Chicago and noted that it was encouraging that the RHF now had five non-American members. He pointed out to the membership that those present at the Chicago meeting, in the name of the RHF, endorsed both IRA's renaming their Citation of Merit the William S. Gray Citation of Merit and the IRA Board's formation of an IRA Reading Foundation. He also announced, with apparent regret, that the RHF turned down Marion Jenkinson's suggestion for an invitational conference on comprehension. He also asked for nominations for membership and for president/secretary-elect.

On November 1, 1982, Ted Harris reported to the membership that they had nominated 18 and, therefore, it was urgent that all vote and consider the nominees carefully. He also reminded everyone of the RHF luncheon, meeting, and program to take place in Anaheim on May 5, 1983. In news briefs about activities of members he quoted a report from 91-year-old Guy Buswell who wrote that he had a most enjoyable two days with faculty and students of the University of Indiana where he "was invited to speak at two graduate seminars...about early research in reading so I dealt with the period from 1915 to 1940." Ted also noted that Bert Harris had an article published entitled "How Many Kinds of Reading Disability Are There," finished work on the third edition of Readings on Reading, and contracted for an 8th edition of How to Increase Reading Ability.

President/Secretary Ted Harris sent a newsletter (January, 1983) greeting members on the RHF's tenth anniversary year. He announced the election to membership of **Ira Aaron** and **Mogens Jansen** and the election of Ralph Staiger as President/Secretary-Elect. He included the date, May 5, 1983, of the luncheon and business meeting as well as the program (Part IV of this report) to be held at the Anaheim, California IRA convention. Ted circulated the information that Edgar Dale was honored with a publication, Higher Literacy, composed of his writings, and George Spache's completion of the fourth edition of The Art of Efficient Reading and the fifth edition of Reading in the Elementary School.

On March, 21, 1983, Harris sent another newsletter to the membership with a final call for reservations at the 1983 Anniversary Luncheon to be held at the IRA Convention in Anaheim, the agenda and financial report for the business meeting, and a roster of members. He also announced that President/SecretaryElect Jeanne Chall had been given the AERA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research and the APA's Edward L. Thorndike Award for Educational Psychology. Her new book, Stages of Reading Development (McGraw-Hill) was soon to be published.

Ira Aaron, Mary Austin, Jeanne Chall, Marie Clay, Donald Durrell, Leo Fay, Albert Harris, Theodore Harris, Mogens Jansen, Nancy Larrick, Eve Malmquist, George Spache, and Ralph Staiger attended the 1983 business meeting. In the minutes of that meeting, it was noted that reminiscences of the RHF by past presidents/secretaries Helen Robinson, Connie McCullough, Mary Austin, and Albert Harris were presented by Ted Harris. [Contents of the reminiscences were not included in the archives except for an excerpt from Helen Robinson's reminiscence which reflected activities reported earlier in this summary.]

In the minutes, a decision was reported that in "regard to active-inactive status, a person who has not paid dues for three years would be inactive." The number of new members to be elected next year was agreed to be four. A committee was appointed to look into the matter of official recognition by the RHF of "reading

⁶ Mysteriously his name has reappeared on subsequent membership lists.

pioneers" not living at the founding of the organization. In closing, the RHF agreed to have a breakfast rather than adhere to the usual practice of having a luncheon at next year's meeting to avoid the high cost of luncheons and conflicts in programming.

As indicated at the beginning of this report, this summary encompasses the initiation of the RHF sometime in 1973 through May 5, 1983--a ten-year period. In addition to the summary (Part I), the rest of this report consists of a membership roster through May 5 of 1983 (Part II), a list of presidents\secretaries up through that time (Part III), and a list of co-sponsored meetings with IRA (Part IV).

I plan to continue the summary through the years and update Parts II through IV. I plan to make a start on adding Part V, bylaws and bylaw changes over the years, as well as a list of the duties of the officers, all as reflected in the archives. Should I not complete this task, I hope my successor will do so.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Alan Robinson⁷ Historian Reading Hall of Fame

*The density of a summary for a given year is related directly to the density of material in the archives for that year. Remarks in quotes or indented are taken directly from letters or notes in the archives. Aside from a few incidental observations by the historian, the other information above is either paraphrased or summarized. Initial purposes and criteria for membership are cited from the Spring, 1976 issue of Reading Improvement.

PART III

RHF Presidents/Secretaries, 1973-May 5, 1983

For the first two years of the Reading Hall of Fame, Helen M. Robinson was designated as Chairperson by Dr. Cassel, originator of the organization. During the third year of Dr. Robinson's term, Cassel referred to her as President/Secretary. That designation has remained.

1973-1976--Helen M. Robinson (Jobe) 1976-1978--

Constance M. McCullough 1978-1979--A. Sterl Artley

1979-1980--Albert J. Harris

1980-1981--Nancy Larrick

1981-1982--Mary C. Austin

1982-1983--Theodore L. Harris

PART IV

RHF Programs Co-Sponsored With IRA, 1977-1983

May 4, 1977--IRA Convention, Miami, Florida

Current Issues in Reading

Chair\Organizer: Constance M. McCullough

Panelists: Constance M. McCullough

George D. Spache Albert J.

Harris A. Sterl Artley

Reactors: Emmett A. Betts Gertrude Whipple Edgar
Dale

Helen M. Robinson

Audience Participation

May 4, 1978--IRA Convention, Houston, Texas Critical Issues in Reading

Chair\Organizer: A. Sterl Artley

Speakers: Nancy Larrick, Impact of Television on Reading and Other Media

Russell G. Stauffer, Reading Comprehension Edgar Dale, Judging the News
Media Discussants: Constance M. McCullough

A. Sterl Artley

Audience Participation

April 26, 1979--IRA Convention, Atlanta, Georgia Vital Issues in Reading

Chair\Organizer: Albert J. Harris Welcomer: A. Sterl

Artley

Speaker: Mary C. Austin, The Future of Reading:

Renaissance or Obsolesence Discussants: Guy Bond,
Edgar Dale Speaker: Eve Malmquist

Discussants: Nancy Larrick, Donald D. Durrell

Speaker: William D. Sheldon

Discussant: A. Sterl Artley

Audience Participation

May 8, 1980--IRA Convention, St. Louis, Missouri Vital Issues Facing the Reading

Teacher

Chair: Nancy Larrick

Welcomer: Albert J. Harris

Speakers: Helen A. Murphy, A Search for the

Nature of Reading Readiness

Leland B. Jacobs, Read to Write--

Write to Read

Jeanne S. Chall, Challenge and

Response in Reading Acquisition

Discussants: A. Sterl Artley, Mary C. Austin, Theodore L. Harris, Constance M.
McCullough, Russell G. Stauffer

Audience Participation

April 30, 1981--IRA Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana Probing the Reading Process

Chair: Mary C. Austin

Welcomer: Nancy Larrick

Speaker: John B. Carroll, Reading Ability and

Intelligence: A Suspicious Liaison Discussants: Jeanne Chall
and Albert J. Harris Speaker: Marion D. Jenkinson, Reader Know Thyself
Discussants: Eve Malmquist and William D. Sheldon

Audience Participation

April 29, 1982--IRA Convention, Chicago, Illinois Frontiers of Reading

Chair: Theodore L. Harris

Welcomer: Mary C. Austin

Speaker: Ralph C. Staiger, Where is Reading? Discussants: Nancy Larrick and Constance M. McCullough

Speakers: Donald D. Durrell and Leland B. Jenkins,

Some Unanswered Questions on Comprehension

Audience Participation

May 5, 1983--IRA Convention, Anaheim, California

Some Recent Reading Research: What It Means For Practice

Welcomer: Theodore L. Harris, University of Puget Sound

For Elementary Levels--Nancy Larrick, Lehigh University For Secondary Levels--
Leo Fay, Indiana University For Those With Reading Problems--George Spache,

Sarasota, FloridaDiscussant--Marion Jenkinson, University of Alberta
AudienceParticipation