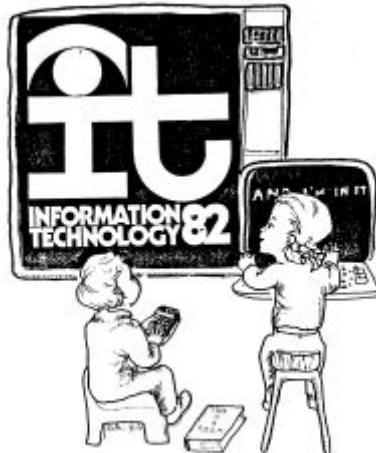


**News1.** [A5. 20pp in the printed version.]



## The Simplified Spelling Society. Newsletter Winter 1982

*Patron:* H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T.

*Founded in 1908 with* William Archer, F. J. Furnivall, Israel Gollancz, A. W. Pollard  
and W. W. Skeat

*Former Presidents:* Professor Daniel Jones, D.Phil., LL.D., M.A.,  
Professor Gilbert Murray, O.M., D.C.L., D.Litt., F.B.A., Sir James Pitman, K.B.E.,  
Professor W.W. Skeats, Lit.D., LLD., D.C.L., Ph.D.

*President:* Professor John Downing Ph.D., A.B.Ps.S., B.A.

*Vice-Presidents:* The Rt. Hon. The Lord Maybray-King, P.C., Ph.D.:  
Professor D. Abercrombie, B.A.; Professor A.C. Gimson.

Hon. Secretary: Mr Stanley Gibbs, Middlesex.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss Mona Cross, Northampton.

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Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society.

## 1. SOCIETY NEWS

The Secretary, Mr Stanley Gibbs, reports on the Annual General Meeting, held in London on 26 September, and on recent committee meetings.

1. Committee for 1982/3: Mr. C. Jolly (Chairman), Mr. S. Gibbs (Hon. Sec.), Miss Mona Cross (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs Elsie Oakensen, Messrs. W.J. Reed, G. Rae, A. Bye, H Cookson and L Fennelly.
2. Action in hand: Further publicity and advertising is being undertaken. Mr. Fennelly is to prepare a revised Constitution and Financial Regulations, and the 1977 Constitution will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
3. Historical Records. A collection is being made of the most valuable historical records, books, accountants and correspondence of the Society since it began in 1908, for the Mont Follick Library at the University of Manchester. Please inform Miss Mona Cross if you have such material that you would be willing to donate or have photo-copied, and list what it is, to avoid duplication.
4. Newell Tune's book, [\*\*SPELLING REFORM: A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY\*\*](#) is on sale at £16 from Valerie Yule, Old Aberdeen, Scotland. (Book Review in this Newsletter.)
5. Annual Spelling Day, September 30 to continue to be recommended as it gave the public awareness and publicity about spelling.
6. The report on the [\*\*Edinburgh Conference on Reading and Spelling\*\*](#) sponsored by the Society in 1981 was received. This has been reported on in previous Newsletters. Its recommendations to individuals to adopt personally are particularly supported as interim measures that everyone can adopt: using e for the short sound of e as in *bet*, and f for the sound f as in *fotografy*.
7. Society policy. It was established that Nue Speling in its October 1971 amended form is the official SSS system. These amendments were:-
  - a) *th* to represent both θ and ð as in *thick* and *that*.
  - b) *a* in words where pronunciation varies from *a* to *aa* as in *master*, *plant*.
  - c) the use of *oo* and *uu* as in *ful moon* and *guud food*.
  - d) to replace *ue* with *yoo* only in *yoor*, *yooth*.

### Spelling Day 1983

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	<b>30</b>		

Remember

September

SR1:

pesant, phesant, plesant, red, redy, relm, sed, ses, spred, stedy, stelth, swet.)

Draw a breth for progress,  
Tred abreast ahed.

Fight agenst old spelling,  
Better "red" than "read".

Spred the words at brekfast,  
Mesure them in bed,  
Dream of welth and tresure,  
Better "ded" than "dead".

## **2. LETTER FROM THE HON. TRESURER, Miss Mona Cross.**

Dear Members,

With this Newsletter you will receive an [\*\*S.P.Bulletin\*\*](#) published by Newell Tune. We expect to send you another in the next Newsletter. Both give copies of the 1981 Edinburgh Conference lectures, and both are paid for by your Society.

Our Secretary, Stanley Gibbs, will have reported on the A.G.M. To that I need to add some financial notes in which you may be interested. At the A.G.M. the official Balance Sheet and Accounts statements were circulated.

I wish you could all have attended the special meeting of July 17th at which Professor John Downing talked about, and then discussed with us, our direction for the immediate future. The intelligent, lively discussion, and the pleasant atmosphere, made it well worth the trouble of the journey to London. One result of that meeting is reflected in the accompanying paper (Item 3) "Proposed Statement of the Society's Policies". It was compiled by a committee of three, Mr. L. R. Fennelly, Mr. Chris. Jolly, and Mr. H. Cookson. Visiting members at the meeting were from foreign parts, and Mr. Schmitz op der Beck of Cologne brought a Professor of Economics from Japan, Dr. Hirao Takagiwa of Aichigakuin University, Aichiken. The international interest in spelling reform will help to bring it about. For me personally, the contact with friendly, interested foreigners is one of my perks for the job of Hon. Treasurer. However, before international interest can be harnessed, we have to have a tolerably acceptable plan for forcing into the printing of the language some simple changes.

I have received some most interesting letters from members. It is as disappointing to me as it must be to them that sometimes I have not been able to send them a reply. So I want to assure you that the subject matter of your letters is brought up at meetings at appropriate times and well noted. And thank you for writing.

Committee member Alun Bye feels that a new name is needed for the Society. Do you?

With gratitude for your concern, and for your encouragement,

Yours sincerely,

Mona Cross. Hon.Treasurer of the Simplified Spelling Society.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS . Members and intending members are reminded that £5 subscription is due by January 1983.**

## Simplified Spelling Society

### 3. Proposed Statement of the Society's Policies

1. It is considered impractical for a complete re-casting of English spelling to take place in one single exercise.
2. The Society therefore favours a gradual change over an extended period of time through a series of stages.
3. The Society believes that it is essential to interest all those authorities, including Government and the Universities, in the advantages of spelling reform and the Society's proposals for bringing it about.
4. The Society takes as its standard the Received Pronunciation of English but it should be mindful of the needs of regional pronunciations which it would not seek to undermine.
5. The Society considers that the immediate need is to work on reformed spelling using the existing alfabet but that the introduction of additional symbols should not be precluded at a later date.
6. In producing this statement of policy the Society in no way wishes to inhibit the discussion of alternative approaches.

CJHJ/LRF. 28.9.82

### 4. Some points from letters:-

Mr. J. R. Brummell writes: "I notice that the 200 basic words given on certain '200 basic words' gramofone records are found to be the same in various languages. A nucleus of simplified words obtained in this way could be assimilated by people in general, but also by those just beginning to spell." (Ogden's 500-word Basic English in simplified spelling? Ed.)



Mr Richard Lung asks for a Mont Follick Foundation in honor of the late Dr. Mont Follick's parliamentary aim of a short, consistently-used English alfabet. "There might be an annual event or meeting of M.P.s and peers, such as spoke on spelling reform early this year, in honor of Dr. Mont Follick. There might be lesser more regular consultations.. One of the few M.P.s who can, perhaps, remember his 'crusade' was 'a Cardiff M.P.' called James Callaghan. It was he who supplied the word 'crusade', when Dr. Mont Follick paused for a moment. Yes, a crusade, he sed, Thank you!" Mr Lung discusses how such a Foundation could be set up and operated. (It is worth checking on what has happened to Dr. Follick's fortune, left, like Shaw's, in the hope of furthering spelling reform, but in the event hardly directed as he would have wished. Ed.)

## 5. Recent Publications of interest

John Downing's most recent book, *Psychology of Reading*, written in association with Dr. C.K. Leong, and published this year by Macmillan, N.Y. is a monumental work which covers all the most significant research on this subject it would seem — and though there are always aspects one would like to add, there would admittedly be little room. There are thirty large pages of references alone.

*Life with Letters* is the fascinating and lively autobiography of Edward Rondthaler, the veteran spelling reformer, who also has a place in history as a pioneer of foto-lettering. He began his interests at the age of five, when he was given a bantam printing press for Christmas — and I wish his life-story were written for children as well, to 'give' them ideas. He it was who estimated that he saved the *New York Times* 84 dollars p.a. when he re-designed the mast-hed without a full-stop. Rondthaler has also prepared a computer dictionary in a version of World English Spelling, 'Soundspel', to show how easily modern computers could transliterate from present spelling to a reformed spelling during a transition period to eliminate publishing and printing problems.  
(Hastings House, New York, 1981. ISBN 0-8038-4340-2)

Articles on spelling reform have also appeared in the *Australian Journal of Remedial Education*, Golden Jubilee issue, vol 14, nos. 1 and 2 combined, 1982, in two issues of the English studies periodical of the Spanish University of La Laguna, Tenerife, *Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses*, and be appearing the U.K.R.A. Journal, *Reading* and other magazines. *Educational Computing* will be carrying an article imagining how reading could be taught using modern technology and 'teach yourself to read' methods if English spelling were reformed.



## 6. 218 VOWEL SPELLING PATTERNS

Ways to spell 18 vowel sounds

Read DOWN to see how vowel sounds can be spelt, and ACROSS the how vowels spellings can be pronounced. [These three tables were alined across a double page.]

	a	e	i	o	u
a	can	any	stomach	was	
e		bed	pretty		
i	meringue		big		
o			women	dog	mother
u		bury	busy		fun
a-e	have	palate	message		
e-e		fence	breeches		
i-e			give		
o-e				gone	come
u-e		guess			uncle
ar					
er		peril			
air					
or				forest	
ow				knowlege	
oy					
oo					blood
ai	plait	said			
au				laurel	
ea		head			
ei		foreign			
ie		friend	sieve		
y, ey			city		
ou					young
ough				cough	tough
					thorough
ua	guarantee		language		
ui			build		
ugh					ugh
eigh					
extra Consonants		phlegm	rhythm	honour	
		debt	victuals	John	
	salmon	Wednesday		yacht	
extra Vowels		cheque	bicycle		tongue
		leopard	carriage		tortoise
	harangue				conscious
other patterns				because	station
	matt	repp	ill	boss	butt

	a-e	e-e	i-e	o-e	u-e	ar	er
a	baby					fast	sugar
e	ballet	me					
i		piano	find				girl
o				go			work
u					music		fur
a-e	gate					garage	
e-e	fete	scene	eye		ewe		were
i-e		police	bite				circle
o-e				bone			
u-e	bouquet				use		nurse
ar						car	
er						sergeant	her
air							
or							
ow				show			
oy							
oo				brooch			
ai			aisle				
au				chauffeur		aunt	
ea	break	sea				heart	early
ei	veil	receipt	either				
ie		chief			view		
y, ey	they	key	sky				
ou	bouquet			shoulder	you		journey
ough				though			
ua						guard	
ui			guide		suit		
ugh					Hugh	laugh	
eigh	eight		height	cologne			
extra Consonants	dahlia		sign	folk		khaki	myrrh
	reign	debris	island	ghost	impugn	half	colonel
	straight		light	depot			answer
extra Vowels	raise	league	dye	rogue	fugue	bourgeois	
		people		mauve	juice	bazaar	amateur
		please		beau	beauty		
other patterns	gaol	cheese	diamond	boat	lieu		
	play	receive	buy		deuce		
	melée	bee					
		piece	choir		feud		
		paediat ric					

	air	or	ow	oy	oo	oo
a	parent	ball				
e						
i						
o					do	wolf
u					truth	put
a-e	scare	awe				
e-e	there					
i-e						
o-e		horse			shoe	
u-e					blue	
ar		warm				
er						
air	air					
or		for				worsted
ow			cow			
oy				boy		
oo		poor			boot	book
ai						
au		autumn	sauerkraut			
ea	bear					
ei	their					
ie						
y, ey						
ou		four	out		soup	could
ough		bought	bough		through	
ua						
ui					fruit	
ugh		taught				
eigh						
extra Consonants			hour		rheumatism	
	mayor	talk				
		sword			two	
extra Vowels		cause	mouse	quoit	bruise	
		George		bouy	route	
		course		noise	choose	
other patterns	aeroplane	board		gargoyle	manoeuvre	
		broad		boil	pleurisy	

## 7. A Fonemic Solution to the Vowel Spelling Chart above

The major spelling reform proposals that emphasise 'spelling as you speak' and stick to the present alfabet are very similar in essential vowel spellings — e.g. the S.S.S. [New Spelling](#) and its versions, and Dewey's World English Spelling.

This is the basic plan, tho details can vary:-

bat	bet	bit	not	but
maet	meet	miet	moet	muet
bar, paam	bur	baer	bor, baut	
bout	boil	boot	buuk	

You can see for yourself the theoretical advantages and disadvantages — but only by experiment can you tell what really works or doesn't work.

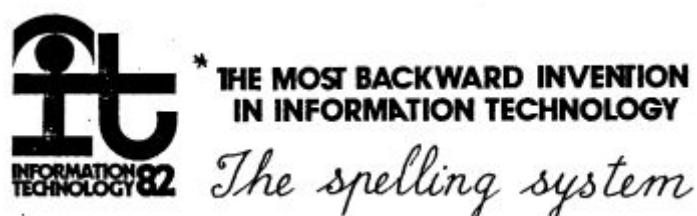
## 8. A morfo-fonemic solution to the Vowel Spelling Chart above

This solution 'tidies up' present spelling by applying a few rules consistently. For vowel spellings these rules include place in a word, length of word, and similarity of related words; homophones can be distinguished if they are found to be confused.

bat	bet	bit, pity	not	but
mate	mete	mite	mote	mute
may	me	hi-fi	no	emu
rail	reel		roan	
making	impeding	riding	going	ruing
bar	her	hair	for	
ask	ocur		taut	
kraal			saw	
banana			also	
about	boil	boot	book	
cow	boy	tabu	put	
		flute		

This is a 44-pattern solution rather than simply 18–20.

Again, it has advantages and disadvantages, one aspect being that it can cross English dialects more easily. Spelling is seen more as a conventional representation — like a sketch, — than as a 'fotograf' of speech.



## 9. BOOK REVIEW.

**SPELLING REFORM: A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY** of the Advantages, Benefits and Obstacles to Adoption. ed. Newell Tune. Published by Spelling Progress Bulletin, Cal. 1982. 304pp. Library of Congress No. 82 99095. 30 \$U.S.

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\$30 Plus \$2 p & P from Hollywood, California. UK £19.38 from Old Aberdeen, Scotland.  
Subsidised price £16.

While there is a vast literature about all the things that are wrong with people who cannot spell in English, there are few books in print about what is wrong with the spelling — especially for the general public. Tauber 1968, Pitman and St.John 1969, Harry Lindgren 1969, Dewey 1971 ...

This book is a unique and comprehensive survey, with 144 articles by 72 authors — journalists, inventors, politicians, publishers, linguists, psychologists, scientists, teachers, writers. Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw, Cyril Burt, Upton Sinclair, Godfrey Dewey, H. L. Mencken, Benjamin Franklin — here are characteristic views and excerpts. There are the inside stories of events by those actually involved or with special knowledge. Barbara Smoker tells the true and awful story of what happened to Bernard Shaw's legacy for a new alfabet, William Reed gives the history of spelling reform and the British Parliament, Sir James Pitman tells much you may never have expected about the initial teaching alfabet (i.t.a.) and those pioneers in information technology, Edward Rondthaler and Ivor Darreg, write about that technology and spelling change, with technical detail in simple terms.

Contents are comprehensive — the history of spelling as well as the history of spelling reform, with unusual sidelights on how the English language developed by chance, the arguments against spelling reform as well as the arguments for it, spelling reform in Danish, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Turkish, Dutch, Portuguese and Norwegian, the teaching of spelling and its relation to reading, writing and speaking, historic changes in English as well as American spelling since Johnson's dictionary, accounts of specific designs for spelling reform with critiques, discussion of criteria for spelling reform, directions to follow and ways to implement reform, and the relevance of English spelling to illiteracy and international communication. Differing viewpoints are presented on controversial issues.

The book is an anthology of articles selected from 20 years of issues of the *Spelling Progress Bulletin*, that remarkable quarterly that Dr Newell Tune has published virtually single-handedly since 1960, and it is his own selection. A more fully edited and integrated book was originally planned, but knowing his illness and that time was not on his side, Dr Tune hastened to see it completed.

The advantage of this is that controversies appear as they were originally debated, and the development of authors' ideas can be followed. The disadvantage is that there is some repetition of opinions — although remarkably little in a packed book of 294,000 words; there is no subject index;

pages are not always numbered adequately; and the reprinting of pages in their original form has meant the inclusion of some out-of-date and some out-of-place and some refutable material. The cone binding and cover are adequate but not ideal.

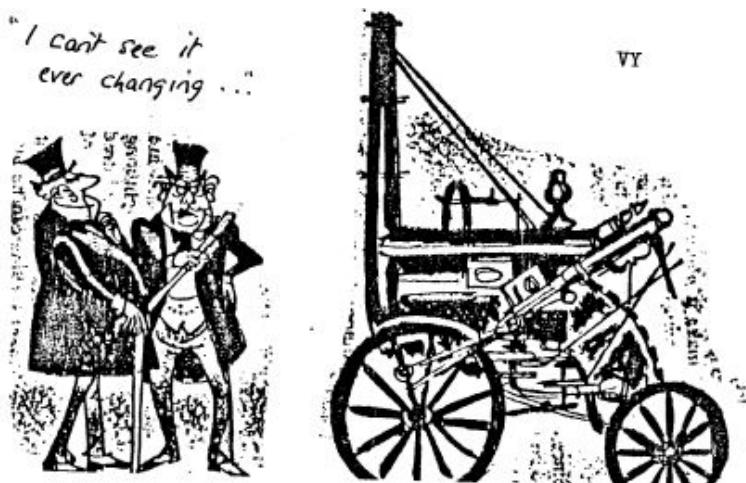
Tune makes his own contribution with articles, and with editor's notes that tend to appear when he disagrees with another author — as a man at the heart of 'spelling progress' for so long, he is both knowledgeable and interesting.

'Humor' is used as fillers. English spelling is so ridiculous that it calls out for lampooning. Here is a typical item, reprinted from the spelling reformers' book of limericks, *Rhymes without Reason*:

**It might take a bullet or tu**  
When reformers have nothing to du  
They might take a shot at the Gnu  
To knock off the G  
Would fill them with glee  
And wouldn't embarrass the Nu.

This landmark book is not the last word on spelling reform. It seems to me that the age of theoretical argument and 'birdmen' is now giving way to experiment and research which is exploding fallacies on all sides of the spelling reform issue — and has been changing my own ideas from some of what stands to my name in the book. But here we have the essential background for everyone who is interested in how people spell, and the future of literacy in English. Many of the articles are compelling reading, others are fascinating to dip into, and there are few from which this reviewer has learnt nothing.

The third edition of this book may be a more seamless web, but the first two will be collectors' items.



## **10. Items of Interest**

Following the August Committee meeting attended by the President of the Society, the *Times Educational Supplement* published an interview with him on the subject of spelling reform.

\* \* \* \* \*

This year the government has spent £1.2 million to promote Information Technology Year 1982 — but nothing on its Achilles heel.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **THE TIMES**

#### **Dyslexia week**

"Dyslexia — who pays?" has been chosen as the theme by the Dyslexia Institute for this, their second annual week, which runs until Sunday.

It is estimated that Dyslexia, a disorder of learning to read, write and speak, affects 4 per cent of the population at all levels of intelligence and causes untold unnecessary suffering and misunderstanding.

Highlights of the week include:

- The launch of a nation-wide bursary fund to help dyslexic sufferers.

Efforts still continue to change the children who suffer most from Fnglish spelling, in order to avoid changing the problem.

\* \* \* \* \*

Research at the University of Aberdeen is finding that literate adults can adapt within minutes to spelling stripped of its surplus letters, and can even read faster than normal speed, while remedial pupils and poor undergraduate readers can improve comprehension. This type of research refutes beliefs that eny spelling change would handicap literat adults for years.

## **11. News from the States**

"Better Education thru Simplified Spelling, Inc." is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by American business executives, educators and other professionals to promote the step-by-step use of simplified spelling. The Executiv Director is Dr. Abraham F. Citron, and the international advisory board includes Isaac Asimov, the writer and futurist, Dr. John Downing, Senator Hayakawa, and Kenneth Woodward of *Newsweek*. Its work has featured in a recent issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, and in other American periodicals. They make 12 recommendations, starting with 'Drop useless Es' including the two immediat recommendations of the Simplified Spelling Society for spelling short e and f simply with e and f.

American contributions are tax-deductible.

### **News from Canada**

*Speling Magazin* is published by "Orthografi", Chatham, Ontario, Canada, publisher Ken Tillema, Editor Carol Vanderheide. Mr Tillema is an activist who keeps the subject of spelling reform well in the public eye.

## 12. Conference 1981 proceedings

Contents of Part 3 of the *Proceedings* of the Simplified Spelling Society Conference, Edinburgh 1981, in the [Winter 1982 issue of Spelling Progress Bulletin](#), now available.

Dr Neville Brown on semantic aspects of spelling reform.

C. J. H. Jolly, marketing manager, on commercial and marketing considerations when developing orthographic reform.

Harvie Barnard on the inevitability of change and plans for implementation of reform.

Valerie Yule on developing reform by research.

George O'Halloran looks around the world at possible roads to reform of English spelling.

Professor V.A.Vassilyev, the distinguished Russian phoneticist, describes the 'maximally simplified writing' developed by himself and Professor Gimson of London.

The late Dr. Walter Gassner's last paper, on reconciling conflicting principles for reform.

The general title of this issue is 'Development of Improvements in English Orthography'

\* \* \* \* \*

The final section of the Proceedings of the Conference, Part 4, will be published in the [Spring 1983 issue of the Spelling Progress Bulletin](#).

Contents will include:

The pioneer experiments by Dr John Beech of the New University of Ulster, in how literate adults can adapt to changes in our present spelling.

Dr Robert Baker of the Department of Electronics, University of Southampton, describes an experimental investigation of English attitudes to spelling reform.

Dr. Ayb Citron, Director of "Better Education thru Simplified Spelling" speaks out on economic and social aspects of spelling reform, in "Simplified Spelling! the real battle and the real battleground,"

\* \* \* \* \*

The complete list of papers presented at the Conference appears in Item 3 of the [Spring, 1982 issue of Spelling Progress Bulletin](#), vol XXII, No.1.

"Well, they sed enything could happen."



'TOMORO WE AR PRESENTING TH SIMPL TELEX SPELING SISTEM.'