

From the Editor

Robert R. Leeper

An invitation. Each December we in the editorial office turn systematically to the total membership for counsel and help. We need your assistance in planning future issues of the journal and future yearbooks and booklets. If you are a member, you will receive a letter of invitation that is addressed to the entire membership of the Association. In this letter we ask you to give special thought to one or two areas of concern or interest that you believe should be reflected in the journal or some other ASCD publication. Your ideas and comments, briefly stated, should then be mailed to this office.

Your reply will be included in the findings of our annual comprehensive survey. Results of this survey are used by the ASCD Publications Committee as it studies needs and makes plans for the future. The Committee works during the annual ASCD conference to identify areas that should be represented in the journal and other Association publications during the coming year and, in the case of yearbooks and booklets, during the next several years.

This should serve both as a reminder to you and an assurance. We *remind* you that it is important for you to take the time and thought needed to give a careful and prompt response to this invitation. Our *assurance* is given that your response, along with that of other members and friends of the Association, will

be brought to the attention of the Publications Committee. This group is charged with the responsibility of studying the needs of our membership and of the profession in relation to ASCD publications and of drawing up and recommending to the Executive Committee plans for future publications.

Now may we invite you, as a reader of the journal, to send us your own ideas as to the areas or concerns that should be treated in the journal or in some other ASCD publication in the near future? We will welcome such a response from you.

New and forthcoming. Issued in October was the new ASCD booklet, *The Self-Contained Classroom*, edited by Edith Roach Snyder. This publication, written by Dr. Snyder and several of her colleagues in Michigan at the request of the Association, presents the case for the self-contained classroom organization at the elementary school and junior high school levels. Of considerable interest have been the comments of editorial writers and reviewers in newspapers and periodicals since the release of this title.

Now being readied for its January 8 publication date is the ASCD 1961 Yearbook, *Balance in the Curriculum*. Planned and written by a committee under chairmanship of Paul Halverson, of Syracuse University, this volume will present a discussion-in-depth of the

issues and problems involved in any approach to achieving or maintaining a so-called "balance" in the curriculum.

Next booklet publication of the Association will be *Human Variability and Learning*, under editorship of Walter Waetjen. This publication is based on the scholarly papers presented during the Fifth Curriculum Research Institutes, sponsored by ASCD in cooperation with the National Institute of Mental Health.

Rendezvous with history. Possibly coincidence, certainly of personal interest to your editor, are the locale of his vacation of the past summer and a recent trend in his leisure reading. Two weeks spent in the vicinity of Portland, Maine, were memorable for the beauty of the Casco Bay area, and for a pervading sense of our historical and cultural heritage. Visits by bus to Kennebunkport, to Pemaquid Point, and to Bangor, Maine, and to Littleton, New Hampshire, in the White Mountains, gave renewed interest and meaning to the accounts of colonial history and of the American Revolution.

High light of the Maine days was a visit with Mary Hazell, former executive secretary of the Department of Supervisors and Directors of Curriculum (one of the parent organizations of ASCD), at her home on Bailey Island, a most picturesque and historic spot. Also visited briefly were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houdlette, of Bridge Farm, Dresden Mills, Maine. Mrs. Houdlette was formerly education consultant with the American Association of University Women, in Washington, D. C.

General topic of the editor's summer reading seemed to be "history" or "cultural heritage." Some of the titles were: *Trending into Maine*, by Kenneth W. Roberts; *A Stillness at Appomattox*, by Bruce Catton; *D Day: The Longest Day*,

by Cornelius Ryan; *Drive to Victory*, by Robert S. Allen.

Also pleasant and instructive was a reading of the several "North Star Books," published by the Houghton Mifflin Company. "Good history makes good reading," is the theme of these volumes. They are especially suitable for young people of junior high school age. Titles read and enjoyed are: *Washington and the Revolution*, by Lynn Montross; *Thoreau of Walden Pond*, by Sterling North; *Robert E. Lee*, by Jonathan Daniels; *Jenny Lind Sang Here*, by Bernardine Kielty; *Around the World with Nellie Bly*, by Emily Hahn; *Down the Colorado with Major Powell*, by James Ramsey Ullman; *The First Northwest Passage*, by Walter O'Meara; and *Ticonderoga, the Story of a Fort*, by Bruce Lancaster. Sterling North is General Editor of the series. The typography and style are excellent. Commendable is the series' insistence on careful research by its distinguished authors and illustrators. Are we "teaching," or transmitting, the values that have made us great? The answer is affirmative, if books of this quality are available to young people.

Notable exception to the "history and cultural heritage" trend was a deeply savored reading of *Becoming: Basic Considerations for a Psychology of Personality*, by Gordon W. Allport (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955, 101 p.).

Our greetings. So much for summer reminiscence. Now the holiday season approaches, and our thoughts go out to our readers, contributors, friends throughout the land. Our greetings and good wishes to each of you from each of the headquarters staff!

—ROBERT R. LEEPER, Editor, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

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