

Anglo-Am seminar on the teaching of Eng

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH ■ 1111 KENYON ROAD ■ URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801 ■ TELEPHONE (217) 328-3870

1) JLG - final prog - X 3243 - closed out!
final prog - X 3137 - add to final file

June 21, 1977

REPORT ON GRANT

X 3243 2/24/68 \$8,300
X 3137 12/15/65 \$150,000

CARNEGIE CORPORATION

JUN 24 1977

ANSWERED FOR RECORD FOR FILE

Mr. Fritz Mosher
Carnegie Corporation of New York
437 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Mosher

First, a final comment on the grant to support the study by Albert H. Marckwardt of the teaching of native language and literature in selected European countries. Earlier we closed out this account by returning a check in the amount of \$6039.59 to the Carnegie Corporation. What remained was the request for a summary statement from Mr. Marckwardt.

Unfortunately, Mr. Marckwardt died of a heart attack in London in summer 1975. The statement from him had not come forth. As I understood it from him, although he had made preliminary arrangements ahead of time and worked out an itinerary consistent with those arrangements, some things fell apart. Some people he had arranged to see were not available. In one or two instances he had been given wrong information about school vacation calendars. He apparently did gather some information, but not enough for any systematic report. It was for this reason that no funds beyond the cost of Mr. Marckwardt's travel were requested from the original grant (such as funds for an honorarium for Mr. Marckwardt and for follow-up activities which would have depended for their success on the initial study itself). Mr. Marckwardt did say that some of what he'd learned and some of the persons he met were valuable leads for some projects at the Center for Applied Linguistics, on whose Board of Directors he served.

After his death, on the advice of attorneys, Mrs. Marckwardt kept all his papers until well after the will was probated. Subsequently, Raven I. McDavid, Jr., professor of English and linguistics, University of Chicago, picked up the responsibility for one of the major projects Mr. Marckwardt had in progress--the editing of and the preparation of the final manuscript for the Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States (LANCS). Supported in part by a grant from the NCTE Research Foundation, McDavid and his colleagues transferred a good deal of the Marckwardt papers to the University of Chicago where research assistants are now sorting and cataloging them so that others involved in the LANCS project can see what has been done and what needs doing. Should they find any papers related to the European study, I'll attempt to get them and report back to you if anything of substance materializes.

With respect to the International Steering Committee (ISC), it grew out of the Anglo-American Seminar on the Teaching of English, which had been supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation



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and held at Dartmouth in summer 1966. Ten thousand dollars of the original Dartmouth grant was retained as seed money to get the International Steering Committee off the ground.

Initially the committee consisted of one member each from NCTE, the Modern Language Association (MLA) and one additional at-large member from the U.S., plus two representatives from the National Association for the Teaching of English (NATE), our counterpart in England.

As it evolved over the years, it added single representatives from the Canadian Council of Teachers of English (CCTE), and later from the Australian Association of Teachers of English (AATE). Because of the nature and membership of most of the participating organizations, the center of gravity of ISC rested more and more on English in the schools, teacher preparation and inservice education, and post-secondary education, but not formal university teaching or scholarship. Consequently MLA decided to diminish its commitment. Certainly staff members at MLA welcomed the chance to offer advice and counsel, but travel money and other "hard" forms of support were no longer available.

Among the accomplishments of the ISC have been these:

1. Helping to plan the first International Conference on the Teaching of English, organized by NCTE and held in Vancouver in 1966. Two outgrowths of this conference were the establishment of the CCTE and preliminary encouragement for a second International Conference on the Teaching of English to be held in York, England, in 1971 under the principal aegis of NATE.
2. Promoting in the respective countries participation in the York conference and offering seed money and some other funds to the NATE planning committee.
3. Manufacture and distribution of four kinescopes on creative dramatics, featuring Dorothy Heathcote, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, working with children and teaching during a summer workshop at Northwestern University.
4. Purchase of four BBC kinescopes on dramatics, then available only from a very low-visibility distributor in New York City.
5. Coordinating lecture tours of major speakers from the respective countries to other countries so that costs would be largely borne by sponsoring host institutions with minimal drain on ISC's funds.
6. Supporting meetings of the ISC. These were scheduled, whenever possible, both chronologically and geographically to keep to a minimum the costs to ISC--e.g., bringing the two British representatives to an East Coast convention of NCTE which the Canadian and U.S. members would normally attend at the expense of their home institutions.
7. Keeping the organizations represented on ISC mindful of the international implications for teaching English, both with respect to ideas and research findings that could survive a trans-oceanic shipment; and to local or national

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conditions that should discourage the export of other ideas and findings. This is not as soft a claim as it may seem. It's deflected in choices from major speakers at conventions and conferences, in books and monographs NCTE's Editorial Board approves for NCTE distribution, and in individual articles and continuing departments in our journals.

No report on ISC would be complete without a record of two disappointments:

1. Underwriting in England the costs of manufacturing copies of one of six pamphlets growing out of the Dartmouth conference and published in the U.S. by NCTE. The plan was to test the marketability of these U.S.-based materials among the members of NATE. NATE had no reserves to cover start-up costs of such a publication nor to sustain a loss if the plan failed. The ISC chose Drama in the English Classroom, by Douglas Barnes from the University of Leeds, one of the two British authors of the post-Dartmouth papers. Frankly, it didn't work. Although drama and creative dramatics were new to the Western Hemisphere (they still are of considerable interest), the topic was not nearly so novel in England.
2. A still-born proposal to hold a third International Conference on the Teaching of English. The original plan was to hold it in Canada, with CCTE to have principal program responsibility. First it was scheduled for 1975, then temporarily rescheduled for 1976.

Initially the word from Canada Council (their counterpart, I think, to the NEH here) was encouraging. Funding from Australia was firm. We had assurance of support for the U.S. delegates. But the economy in England was at so low an ebb that NATE itself might have been able to scrape together funds for one delegate only. From the outset the Canada Council had been reluctant to have its funds used to support travel and subsistence for non-Canadians. To have held such a conference without U.K. participation seemed unthinkable. The plan was held over for another year, but support for the U.K. delegation remained a problem. (England was in even worse straits.) Interest on the part of the Canada Council waned. Australia began to waver. Finally, and mercifully, CCTE called off the plans. The Australians are still thinking tentatively of another conference, perhaps three or four years hence.

Three or four years ago the reserves of the ISC had shrunk to such a low ebb that no one touched them. We met when we could. If proxies were in the neighborhood, we seized on their availability. Last winter each of the parent organizations committed reseeding money (\$150 each) to keep ISC alive and this fall the organizations are trying out an international newsletter, with each association promoting subscriptions among its members. There remains that residual account here--about \$600--which we can apply in this effort to restore the ISC to fuller life.

The future of ISC is an unknown to me. But for now, that is a narrative account of its itinerary since fall 1966. If there's more you need to know, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Hargrave