

ACUTE NEWS

I ACUTE Commission on Undergraduate Programmes in English in Canada

The executive has approved the establishment of a Commission to study the changes that have occurred in undergraduate courses in programmes in English over the past ten years. The study will be undertaken by Professor F.E.L. Priestley, who will shortly be contacting Departments of English with questions. The executive urges all those contacted to assist in whatever way they can. Professor Priestley will be visiting some Universities in every Province during the course of his investigation.

Happy News: the Commission is being funded by a special grant from the Richard Ivy Foundation.

II Statement on "Remedial English" and its Place in a University Department of English

The executive is concerned about a growing pressure on Departments of English to assume the responsibility of bringing many students who have been admitted to University up to the level of literacy that used to be a condition of such admission. ACUTE's Committee on Professional Concerns [J. Gold (Chairman), Jan de Bruyn, and Douglas Killam] have been working on a draft which the executive will consider in January. It is intended that the final statement approved by the executive will be given the widest circulation.

III Programme for the Annual Meeting, Laval University, May 24-27, 1976

Plans are well under way for an interesting and provocative programme of papers, panels and events. We have received some 70 proposals for papers, and there may be more sitting in idle mail sacks. Now that the strike is over, we shall be sending papers out to assessors. We anticipate a number of sessions on professional concerns: one on the Symons Report on Canadian Studies (jointly with ACQL); a preliminary report from F.E.L. Priestley on undergraduate programmes in English; a discussion by Oswald Hall and Richard Carlton (Department of Sociology, Guelph) of their

study on the role of the primary and secondary system in preparing students for post-secondary education and the labour market, with emphasis upon the acquisition of basic skills.

The organizers of the meetings of the Learned Societies at Laval are planning many extra-curricular activities, and the campus itself is well equipped for a successful conference. The organizers suggest that those expecting to attend should book flights as soon as possible. The number of flights in and out of Quebec City is limited, and those coming through Toronto or Montreal are especially urged to book early.

IV Deadlines for Directory Information

So that we can get a Directory published before the May meeting, we will have to adhere to a deadline of February 15, 1976 for receipt of your membership form. Please send it to us as soon as possible.

V English Studies in Canada

Number 3 will be sent out very soon, and number 4 in the new year. 1975 members of ACUTE will receive numbers 3 and 4, giving them the complete volume their fees for 1975 helped to support. Those who join ACUTE in 1976 but were not members in 1975 may purchase numbers 1 to 4 for \$7.00 and will, of course, receive all issues published with the support of 1976 fees.

VI Other News

- i There are two organizations devoted to a study of Canadian theatre that members of ACUTE may be interested to hear of:
 - The Canadian Theatre Institute is compiling information on the development and history of Canadian theatre up to the end of the 19th century. Directors of the Institute are: Beth Bueckert, L.W. Conolly, P.L. Freeman, G.S. McCaughey, and E.S. Neils. For further information contact: Professor McCaughey, Department of English, University of Alberta.
 - Canadian Theatre History Research Program "has as its primary aim the compilation of information necessary to the orderly investigation of Canadian theatre history from the beginnings to the 1950's". The Organizing Committee includes: Robertson Davies, Ann Saddlemeyer, Lisa-Lone Marker, J.M.S. Careless, Frances Halpenny, Sheldon Zitner, and Heather McCallum. For further information contact: Miss McCallum, Canadian Theatre History Research Program, 14th Floor, Robarts Library, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A5.
- ii A one day Conference at Trent University in honour of Professor Gordon Roper, participants: Robert D. Chambers, Douglas Lochhead, George L. Parker, A.J.M. Smith, Elizabeth Waterston, Robertson Davies, George Johnston, and Margaret Laurence. For further information contact: Professor Michael A. Peterman, Department of English, Lady Eaton College, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.