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SHAW-SCRIPT

- 6-Sc511 -

NUMBER EIGHT

It is now two years since SHAW-SCRIPT No.1 appeared, in response to the demand for Shavian reading practice other than that of Group correspondence. If such benefit as this intermittent practice gives is no longer needed, that is hardly surprising. The personal subscribers are now halved in number, and if this journal continues it will be due to the support of an increasing number of University Libraries. This necessarily changes the editorial outlook. It is likely that university readers have as much theoretical as practical interest in alphabetic and spelling problems — less interest in Shavian reading practice and more in the basic problems of communication-on-paper.

This is a many-sided subject on which ideas are all too vague. If we are to discuss here the conclusions drawn from Shavian experience, a wider readership will be interested by doing so in Orthodox rather than Shavian English.

The official Shaw Alphabet was, of course, evolved from earlier alphabetic work. Either experience or new circumstances may suggest improvements on it. Especially if its use were limited to handwriting at speed, some easing of penwork might modify characters more appropriate to printing than to manuscript. It is too soon to enlarge upon the Quickschrift with which trials are being made. Enough to say that the time may have come to explore a little beyond the interpretation of Shaw's Will, which has determined our practice so far. What now matters is to profit from the two years' trial given to Shavian, by all manner of writers, calligraphers and scribblers widely scattered over four continents.

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No-one supposes or suggests that a better alphabet should wholly, at one stroke, replace the Orthodox alphabet to which we are all accustomed. But if we are convinced that the old alphabet made for Latin (then the international language of writers) is too faulty and wasteful for English (now becoming an international language), we have no alternative but to insist that some limited use must be made of a better one in schools. Without some measure of application for it among a fresh generation, learning without any preconceptions, we can only make tentative and experimental progress.

Introduction of a modern alphabet into schools will doubtless be long delayed and hard fought. But the full and exhaustive enquiry which must precede and persuade it cannot too soon be undertaken. It is to this overdue enquiry that we shall address ourselves here and in any further issues. The conclusions from the extended trial of Shavian should be much to the point.

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Alphabetic reform is beset with false assumptions. The most persistent one is that the sole advantage of a phonetic alphabet is thrown away unless the spelling of every word is a full and exact representation of speech — not only at the stage of learning, but always, without exceptions, reservations, compromises or conveniences.

Confronted with the immediate question: Whose speech is to be represented, the natural instinct is to say: My own; if only because it is the only English I can represent with assurance and honesty. Or with more modesty and research the writer follows "the" dictionary pronunciation, or the usage of the Professor, the President, the BBC; but with most conviction, the usage of that sensible circle or locality with which he has to live.

For printing ANDROCLES AND THE LION in Shawian, the general speech-habit specified by Shaw was to "resemble that recorded of His Majesty our late King George V" — king's English when the play was written. But an appendix to ANDROCLES (pp 143-145) shows some of the problems left, whatever the model, for decision by non-phonetic or arbitrary rules. Like the rest of us, King George varied his pronunciation more or less subtly, according to context, emphasis, formality, colloquialism. For convenience and consistency of spelling, our rule may assume that every word is emphatically pronounced, but we are no longer spelling as we speak.

There are other problems. There is, of course, the immense complication of dialects, local or personal. Emphasize, as our rule requires; but the English word 'Seen' is still the American pronunciation 'Bin'. It is no longer any guide if we seek to throw responsibility on a dictionary. Whether it be the Oxford or the Merriam-Webster, a fine modern dictionary will give several alternative pronunciations for a very great number of words; and in different States or Counties, even our adopted rules of spelling must produce varying results. The plain truth is that any consistent spelling has in the end to be spelling by agreement; and reading at speed requires, let us say, 5% consistency in spellings.

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Shavian experience to date is that, while most beginners protest that not all English is spoken and spelt to their own pattern, within six months or so they appreciate whatever measures of consistency are proposed, with but few words excepted. The nearer they come to simple word-recognition (as opposed to analyses of sounds represented), the less are they irritated by a pronunciation which once struck them as pedantic, class-conscious, foreign or what-not. Among other Shawian practices most willingly adopted is that of reducing to single letters those common words of the language: The, Of, And, To, For — which incidentally evades the choice between their variable pronunciations. This conventional representation of 5 words saves on the average no less than 6½ % of the letters needed for a full phonetic representation; and it raises the question whether convenience and economy should not carry conventional reduction of spellings further to embrace other frequently used words — which is often done unmistakably by omitting their vowel letter. In view of the established fact that some 70 different words occur so frequently as to amount to one-half of written English, conventional spellings of some of them would be a far-reaching economy — despite the lessening frequency (and economy) on words lower down their Table of Frequencies. This is no proper practice for children, or foreign learners, who must begin with phonetic spelling if they wish to relate spelling to pronunciation; but it becomes a very notable economy in writing before progress is far advanced.

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Our opponents, like our beginners, ask: Why use a phonetic alphabet at all if experience and convenience leads back to arbitrary spellings? Why not make do with the 26-letter Orthodox alphabet with which we are all familiar — which our children must learn to use in any case? After all, many Orthodox spellings are phonetic enough, and you do not propose making every spelling phonetic when you have a phonetic alphabet. Why bother with it?

Let us put first the economic reply. We cannot in reason afford the time and material to go on for ever writing several letters for single sounds. We must learn to use single letters for such single (if ambiguous) sounds as those hitherto spelt with Th, Sh, Ch, Oy, Ai, Ie, You, Awe, Owe, Ough etc. The primary purpose we have in view is to write with a minimum number of letters and penwork — with no more than a single letter for any single sound. Economically, it is of no consequence which sound is represented; but without a full complement of letters (a phonetic alphabet) sounds are uneconomically — as well as ambiguously — spelt.

It is true that the new alphabet should, for further economy, be less complex in its letter-symbols so that the writer has fewer penstrokes to make per letter, as well as spelling with fewer letters. The added number of letters must be easily penned ones, and multi-stroke letters like w and m need replacements. Economy does not stem solely from an alphabet's phonetic adequacy: it needs graphic simplicity as well. But let us regard economy as a main objective.

The advantage of relating spelling to spoken sounds is sufficiently obvious. The natively English-speaking child has confidence in spelling. The foreigner can deduce pronunciations from the spelling. We are all assured when first confronted with new names of things, persons or places. But apart from these and other purely phonetic advantages, the writer's saving of time, tedium and cash costs is surely argument enough.

* * *

Suppose that the writer of a Quickscrip evolved from Shavian were to save half the time, tedium and paper of Orthodox penwork; for that is the expectation from current trials. How then is the reader affected? To this very important question, Shavian reading, so far intermittent, supplies no valid answer. We do not know. The whole field of enquiry into a reader's ideal alphabet requires exhaustive study; for all serious work to date seems to be based on the Orthodox alphabet. It certainly seems that characters can be over-simplified to a point where reading becomes hesitant or worse. For the sake of very fast writing, Shorthand symbols are over-simplified from a reader's point of view. They are too dependent on fine distinctions of angle, length, weight of stroke, even if employed for a full phonetic spelling. Instant recognition of words is often difficult; they are too easily malformed beyond recognition. German schools made abortive trial of a shorthand-like script called Sprechspur. There are researchers who think a considerable "redundency" of penstrokes in an alphabet essential for fast reading. There are, on the other hand, simpler alphabetic characters than those of Orthodox English, such as Arabic and Hebrew, which are read with no less ease and speed. This whole field of enquiry appears to be less cultivated than scuffled over with dogmatic preconceptions and assumptions. Whether a script based on Shavian

experience is in fact the happy mean for reading, between Shorthand and Orthodox characters, between artificial and phonetic spelling — this is more than we pretend to know. It seems to promise well, from use by adult writer-readers.

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Two conclusions seem at present unquestionable. The learner, child or adult, should use an alphabet capable of sound-matching. He should at first spell as phonetically as his teacher or his untrained ear and speech suggest. He can study economies later, before the stage of reading by simple word-recognition. Secondly, when able to read fast without analysis of spelling, the reader has no quarrel with any conventional spellings which are universally used. It no longer matters to him for recognition whether they are phonetic, and admittedly he cares little whether the standard spelling of a word is with four letters or with two. It would seem not unlikely that with twice the number of words brought within his accustomed eye-span, he may grasp their meaning a little faster; and if it should prove to be but a trifle of 5 % faster, that trifle affects many readers of one writing.

For the accomplished reader-by-recognition, spelling as a phonetic aid is of rare interest, where he meets unaccustomed words, new names of places, persons, inventions, branded goods. Otherwise he is to all intents reading each word as an ideograph, grasping its meaning first, its sound afterwards if necessary. As ideographs, "& Co Ltd" mean as much as "and Company Limited", NATO is handier, even to the reader, than North Atlantic Treaty Organization, we write and read the conventions "in., ft., oz.; KW for kilowatt, H.M for Her Majesty, B.C. for Before Christ — though rather ridiculously we have yet to condense the language's words of most frequent occurrence — a factor determining where most economy lies.

It is sufficient — and nothing less is sufficient — to know that accomplished readers are not delayed by any script proposed for school use and for life use. But when we speak of handwriting, let us honestly face the fact that it will not amount to calligraphy: we shall still have to read a lot of scribble, for such is writing in general, and fast writing in particular. Here again are difficulties in making true comparisons. Investigators will have their headaches!

• • •

Now comes the crucial question. What Authority, what University, what Trust has the courage and far-sightedness to INVESTIGATE? English is increasingly an international language. Who will patiently explore; who will pay for the exploration; who will make a written English fit, simple and economical, for our next and coming generations? Who?

Given any indication of interest and support, other important aspects of Shavian experience will be discussed in following issues, and a Quickschrift Alphabet will be published when trials are completed. Meanwhile the help of individual testers and would-be users is more than welcome. Please address the editor:
KINGSLEY READ, ABBOTS MORTON, WORCESTER, U.K.

THE SHAW ALPHABET is given on page 16. So that it may be seen handwritten, a fine example from New Zealand is here reproduced. The guide-lines are neither more nor less desirable than in Orthodox handwriting.

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EXTRAORDINARY:

JACK CANTY

רְבָבָה וְכַלְמִינְדֵּן — כְּלַיְלָה וְכַלְמִינְדֵּן. סֶבֶת וְכַלְמִינְדֵּן.

171 ♀ כה סרג'ריה סולו ג'ס ו' 1451 ר' ר' נס ציון ו' סטראט'ס... 9/2/19 כ' 12/2/19 סוכט.

52/22 וְאַתָּה תִּלְמֹד כָּל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
1 תְּהִירֶךָ כִּי־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל!

לְפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֶת־בְּנֵי־עֲמָקָם
בְּנֵי־עֲמָקָם כִּי־בְּנֵי־עֲמָקָם כִּי־בְּנֵי־עֲמָקָם

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150. ♀ 278 113111 812 826. ♀ 4 222 r Sc411 22571 2021 7 7C/
1 1111272 r r 22571 Sc1128. 022 ♀ 1157111 1 2211118 812 71.

18 טען ר' יוסי ר' יוסי ור' יוסי טען ר' יוסי טען ר' יוסי

"וְאֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-עַמּוֹתָיו
כָּל-עֲדֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תְּהִלֵּן כִּי-זֶה עַמְּךָ יְהוָה."

/10 015 511111 111111, 02 1vč 0 1782 1/2

לְאַתָּה תִּכְרֹת שֵׁם לְאַתָּה? שֶׁיְהוָה ... שְׂרָצָתְךָ וְכַדְתָּכָה
לְכַדְתָּכָה תִּכְרֹת.

CANADA'S HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

PAULINE M. BARRETT

In 1967 Canada's 100th birthday will be celebrated, and the year will be marked by many events. On July 1, 1867, the Canadian Confederation was formed, and the new nation became a member of the British Commonwealth. In 1967, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada, will be observed.

Canada's 100th birthday will also be marked by the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Ontario, on July 1, 1967. The exhibition will feature exhibits on Canadian history, geography, and industry, as well as displays of Canadian art and culture. The exhibition will run from July 1 to September 1, 1967, and will be held at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in Toronto.

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SEQUOYAH'S TALKING LEAVES SPEAK AGAIN

HENRY L. KIRCHNER

12 וְנִזְמָן-בְּנֵי כָּל-עַמִּים 13 וְנִזְמָן-בְּנֵי כָּל-עַמִּים
[TAHLEQUAH], •occrgosr.

רוכסן 1828 מ-11כ 1834 ♀ •
רוכסן גראטס, י/ט ר' לוי כהן רוכסן
לוי כהן, רוכסן לאודו [BOUDINOT], סלאד י' 115 רוכסן. 11 סינופס רוכסן
1 גראטס ♀ (רוכסן קרטיס) ר' 115 ר' כהן, ר' 1 גראטס ♀ רוכסן קרטיס ר'
רוכסן קרטיס ♀/12 ר' כהן רוכסן קרטיס.

የሸጋንተ አላማንጻር, ብርሃን ስተዋዕት, ገዢ ገዢርክር የሚታወቁ የፋይና
የሥነ ሰራተኞች ብርሃን ስተዋዕት የሚታወቁ የፋይና ሲጂያን ብርሃን ስተዋዕት የሚታወቁ የፋይና

HOW EASY !

GEORGE STAPLETON

— ፳፻፲፭ ዓ.ም. ከፃፈንደን ተስፋይ ስለመስጠት የሚከተሉት ዝርዝር መሆኑን የሚያሳይ

872 18 ציון יוכן כהן קיס? יג סו – יג ציון יוכן כהן קיס – יג סו,
בנ"ה ר"ו". [יג, 021 שוכן זכ לוי יוכן כהן קיס – יג כהן זכ שוכן זכ זכ.
יג כהן זכ לוי יוכן כהן קיס].

լՇԽԵՐԸ, զ 1ՇԴՐԸ 12 61 1 ԺՎՋԸ յ ր ՏՇԵՐԸ, ԼՇ 1 ՌԵԿ ՏԵՐԻ -
զ ՏԵՇԵՐԸ ՏԵՐԻ. ԱՎՈՒՆ 12 զ /ԿԸՇ 1/Կ ՀԵ 18 1 յ ՏՇԵՐԸ.
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17Ծ18 ՌԼՇ 1ՇԿ? 17 ԽԵԶ 18 20 ԱՎՈՒՆ ՌԼՇ 1ՇԿ? ԼՇԵՐ 18 ՑՐՑ ՇԵՐ
12 զ Տ111 աւ ԽՇ ՇԵՇ? ՊԵՇ ՌԼՇ ՇԵՐ ՇԵՐ 12 Տ1112. ՊԵՇ զ ՏՇԵՐԸ.

יְהוָה, קָרְבָּן יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה — יְהוָה יְהוָה סָמֵךְ. יְהוָה סִדְּרוֹת יְהוָה יְהוָה?
יְהוָה שְׁמַעְכָּנִי: יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה. יְהוָה שְׁמַעְכָּנִי: יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה,
יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה: יְהוָה יְהוָה, יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה: יְהוָה יְהוָה, יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה.

‘... שׁוֹרֵד רְדָסֶלֶת, שׁוֹרֵד לִזְבַּח – יְהוָה כָּל־עַמּוֹן.
כָּל־עַמּוֹן וְשָׁמְלָא־בְּנֵי־צָרָר וְשָׁמְלָא־בְּנֵי־עֲמָלָק....

כבר נאכזב מילדיים! ופנויים מפנויים!

• • •

14 871 / 241 12 0 / 171 1 0 118.
12 0 JC7C 1 0 12 01 / 72 514518,
3C 0182 C151 C118.

Օ ՏԿ! Օ ԱՅԵՐԻՇ ՀԵՇ!
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Հ Ե Հ Ե Հ Ե Հ Ե Հ Ե

17 JUL 1951 11 AM.

'FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT' IN TURKEY

ROBERT A. McIVOR

NOT 'WITH IT'

RONALD KAYE

165, 14 141 12278811 511C. 7 6551 28 2625 12 84 175 175
<1 1 0 11C1 1 1'11C1 11. 11'S 11, 1281 11, 84 1 882-171 C412 /72'?
511C2 1 511C1 1 111 /10 815.

וְיָמֵן וְלִבְנָה, יַעֲשֵׂה כְּפָרָה לְעֵדָה?

"0,— So-So", ♀ַנְסָלִי; וְנֵצֶת גְּרָגָדָה יְמִינָה, יְמִינָה
וְ: "11'S QIS צְרָבָעָתָה וְכָלָבָעָתָה". וְנֵצֶת וְנֵצֶת וְנֵצֶת,
לְלִבְבָּתָה וְלִבְבָּתָה 1 Jco גְּרָגָדָה וְגְרָגָדָה.

"יְהוָה יְהוָה צְדָקָתֶךָ", וְאַתָּה תִּתְּבֹּאֵשׁ. "לֹא תִּתְּבֹּאֵשׁ כִּי
תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ, וְאַתָּה תִּתְּבֹּאֵשׁ כִּי
תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ, וְאַתָּה תִּתְּבֹּאֵשׁ כִּי
תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ כִּי תְּבֹאֵשׁ לְפָנֵינוּ?"

מִשְׁנָה בְּרִית מֵאַת שָׁנָה וְעַל כָּל הַדָּבָר אֲמִתָּה וְאֶתְמָתָה
בְּרִית מֵאַת שָׁנָה וְעַל כָּל הַדָּבָר אֲמִתָּה וְאֶתְמָתָה

וְאֵת זֶה יְמִינָה וְאֵת זֶה יְמִינָה וְאֵת זֶה יְמִינָה...

• 11's C/SI & OLR C/LSCN, FOR IN DLOC?

To shelves 4 //
16 SHAW

THE SHAW ALPHABET

As NO CAPITALS are used in Shawian, its typewriters require only the 43 Shawian letters in place of the familiar double alphabet of 52 letters. A Namer-dot precedes proper names — if such special indication seems to be necessary.

Our customary old alphabet has Short letters (such as a e o u); Taller ones (f k b d); and Deeper ones (g j p y). The Shaw alphabet has a similar Short, Tall, or Deep positioning of letters,

The Sound of each letter is shown in large T-ype. A familiar word serves as the name of each letter.

TALL letters	DEEP letters	---- SHORT letters -----	
˥ P-ea	˨ B-ay	˧ C L-ee	˨ R-ay
˥ T-ea	˨ D-ay	˧ S M-e	˨ N-ay
˧ K-ey	˧ G-ay	˧ I I-t	˧ E-ase
˩ F-ee	˧ V-ie	˧ E-gg	˧ A-ce
˧ TH-aw	˧ TH-ey	˧ J A-t	˧ I-ce
˧ S-ee	˧ Z-oo	˧ ˩ A-go 2	˧ U-s
˧ SH-e	˧ ZH-ay 1	˧ ˩ (h)O-t	˧ O-o-we
˧ CH-eer	˧ J-ay	˧ V (f)OO-t	˧ OO-ze 4
˧ Y-e 4	˧ W-ay	˧ ˩ ou-t	˧ (b)OY
˧ l-NG	˧ H-ay	˧ ˩ A-re 3	˧ AW-e 3
14 DEC 1965		˧ ˩ U-rge 3	˧ EA-r 3

1. ˧ (ZH-ay) has the sound of S in vision, J in French Je, G in rouGe.
2. ˧ (A-go) is a very frequent sound in stressless syllables, e.g., the A in Above, E in wakEn, O in atom, U in circUs. This sound never occurs in a stressed syllable. It is often followed by ˨ (R-ay); and these two letters are joined as Compound ˨ in writing and printing. This stressless Compound serves for: othER govERNOR acRE martYR etc. NOTE: All R's are assumed in spelling to be pronounced, as consonants. Compounds of vowel with consonant are too wide for use on typewriter.
3. Similar Compounds of vowel with consonant serve to write the words ARE ˨, OR ˨, AIR ˨, EARth ˧(˧), EAR ˨; or fAR four fARE fIR fEAR.
4. A Compound of Y-e and OO-ze, ˧, serves in YOU, Use, fEW.

For indexing and memorizing, the alphabetic order is as listed there in pairs: P-ea B-ay, T-ea D-ay etc, down to i-NG H-ay, followed by L-ee R-ay, and ending with AI-r U-rge and the last unpaired letter EA-r.