

PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
AMERICA

EDITED BY  
CARLETON BROWN  
SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXXVI

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ASSOCIATION  
PRINTED BY J. H. FURST COMPANY  
BALTIMORE  
1921

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## GROUP MEETINGS FOR 1921

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In accordance with the instructions of the Association, the Committee on Group Meetings presents herewith suggestions for group meetings to be held on the afternoon of the second day of the next meeting of the Association.

It is suggested that the group meetings be limited to one hour and a half each, giving two sessions; one from 2:00 to 3:30; the other from 4:00 to 5:30. This will permit members to join two groups, and provide a half-hour's recess. Each group will have a leader and a secretary. The topics are intended merely as suggestions. Final announcements will be made in the June issue of the *Publications*. The final choice of topics will be based upon the replies received by the Committee before April fifteenth.

The work of a group may be of any desired character. Some groups will doubtless wish to discuss topics related to a single subject or lying in a general field. Others will perhaps wish to make a survey of special fields. Still others will plan coöperative work on special topics. No topic is excluded that can serve as a basis of interested coöperation for any group of members. The whole object of the group plan is to give the fullest possible opportunity to members of the Association for the discussion of subjects in which they are seriously interested. Obviously some groups will be organized for extremely technical work; others for the discussion of general problems and principles. It is believed that the nature of the work of certain groups will be such as to render necessary publication of merely a brief summary of the work done and plans outlined. Other groups will probably produce papers which should be submitted to the Secretary of the Association for inclusion in the *Publications*.

To avoid misunderstanding, the Committee wishes to emphasize—even at the risk of repetition: (1) that the topics are merely suggestive; (2) that the plan is, not to cover the field of modern language subjects or to choose topics on the

basis of their cultural value, but simply and solely to organize groups on the basis of actual interest; (3) that the members themselves must decide what groups and topics they wish; and consequently (4) that the absence of any topic from the final list, or any apparent inequality in the distribution of groups, will be due, not to the Committee, but to the members themselves. The success of the plan will depend upon the response made by the members to this notice.

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## PROPOSED GROUP OF TOPICS

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### GENERAL TOPICS

1. Metrics.
2. How may our knowledge of literary success be turned to advantage in the study of the dealings of the imagination with its materials?
3. Is it possible to devise objective methods of determining authorship on internal evidence?
4. A study of the Creative Processes in Composition.
5. Problems of General Æsthetics.
6. Poetic Theory at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century.
7. Problems of Teaching—Separate groups for each field of study (English, German, etc.).

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### COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

1. Mediæval Romance.
2. The influence of Latin Culture on Mediæval Literary Movements.
3. The Value of Renaissance Critical Theories.
4. English Influence in Germany in the Eighteenth Century.
5. Interrelations of English and French Romanticism.
6. The Popular Ballad.
7. Development of Vernaculars and of Literary Types.
8. Foundations of Romantic Criticism.
9. Celtic Studies.

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### ENGLISH

1. Old English Language and Literature.
2. The Delimitation of Middle English Dialects.
3. The Present Status of Work on Chaucer.
4. Shakspeare and Other Dramatists of his Day.
5. Plans for Work on Spenser and Milton.
6. Philosophy and Literature in the Classical Period.

7. Literary Tendencies in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century.
8. The Bibliography of English Fiction 1660-1800.
9. Aims and Plans in the Study of Contemporary Literature.

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#### GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The German Section has recommended the following topics:

1. A survey of the material available in American libraries for investigations in the field of Germanic languages and literatures.
2. A study of German-American lyric poetry; the collection and publication of material.
3. The preparation of a list of contributions by American scholars to the study of modern languages and literatures.

Other topics that have been suggested are:

4. German Literary Criticism.
5. The Romantic Movement.
6. Young Germany.
7. The Drama of the Nineteenth Century.
8. Heinrich von Kleist.

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#### ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

1. French Linguistics.
2. French Mediæval Literature.
3. The Renaissance in Western Europe.
4. XVII and XVIII Century French Literature.
5. XIX Century French Literature.
6. Old Spanish Language and Literature.
7. Spanish Literature since the Renaissance.
8. Italian.

Each member who expects or hopes to attend the meeting of the Association is urged to inform the Chairman of the committee of the two or three topics in which he is most interested and to state what part he is willing to take in the work of these groups. The topics need not be among those suggested by the Committee. Groups will be organized for the discussion of any topic asked for by five or more members.

JOHN M. MANLY, *Chairman.*

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.