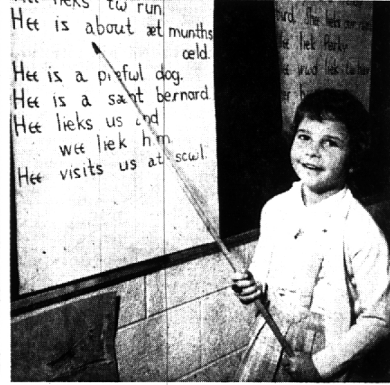




ITA IS USED IN THE DOWNING SERIES BOOKS FROM ENGLAND  
A wide variety is checked by Barbara Bothe (from left) Kevin Redd, Mark Mollison and Diane Newton



MRS. BERGMAN KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE CHILDREN'S WRITING PROGRESSION USING ITA  
Apt pupils are Jocelyn Labsan and Scott Tuckfield



EXAMPLES OF ITA ARE HUNG THROUGHOUT THE ROOM  
Showing her reading skill is Betty Lou Klinger

## ART FOR ART'S SAKE Creative Packages Wrapped Up Year

By CAROLYN HALL  
Special Writer

Members of the art world can look back on this past year as a continuous string of Christmas presents. The climate for art has never been so accommodating. The amount of art available close to home is gratifying.

The first lovely surprise was a show at the Detroit Institute of Arts by Stephen Knapp. He makes huge, exciting fused enamels on stainless steel panels. If I were building a contemporary office, I'd certainly use one of his works to emblazon the exterior.

More nice surprises came in the form of shows and awards for developing local artists. The artists discovered have been there all along but not publicly applauded.

PHILLIP WILBURN won the Founders Society award in the "Michigan Show," which entitles him to a one-man show at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Laurence Barker, head of the department of graphics at Cranbrook Academy of Art, won an award, and I wish it also entitiled him to a show. I'm waiting impatiently for a show of his in this area.

Roman Baranyuk, also a prize winner, opened a show at Grinnell's. Seeing it constituted one of the uplifting experiences of the year. He works in the best painterly tradition with a surprising warmth and intricacy of design.

Albert and Peggy deSalle's Little Gallery provided some of the brightest highlights. The show of Glen Michaels' assemblages revealed unique examples of texture and design. Clifford McClesney's show was sweeping, colorful and spared provided a lyric experience.

Their show of American printmakers and finally the Kestie Roberts show gave intimate insight into the soul of mankind.

Bruno Bearzi, famous bronze caster, from Florence, Italy, came to town. To give continuity to this age-old art form, Julius Schmidt

opened a show at the Franklin Siden Gallery that ranks him with America's best bronze sculptors. His new foundry at Cranbrook is producing a new generation of bronze-casting artists.

AMERICA HOUSE mounted an exciting ceramics show embodying the several predominate directions of contemporary ceramists and then capped it off with John Glick's one man show of ceramics done in his newly opened shop.

This past year saw the impressive organization of Bud West's art classes available for adults and children. The biggest growth has been at the Bloomfield Art Association, from nine instructors a few years ago to the present 25 of impressive caliber.

Serving as a beautiful bright box on this package is the long-deserved appointment of Lydia Winston to the Detroit Arts Commission.

It's been a fine year for the art world and the next will be every bit as good. Maybe better.

## BUT OLD HAT NEXT TO POP, OP Seven Artists Represent 'New' Berlin in Show

Reviewed by  
KATHARINE SMITH  
The Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries is playing host, through Jan. 10 to a traveling show, organized by the City of Berlin, circulated by the American Federation of Arts and titled "The Spirit of New Berlin in Painting and Sculpture."

WSU GIVES 'MACBETH'

## Localites Promoting Theatre Subscriptions

A subscription-raising committee of Wayne State University's Hilberry Classic Theatre has been active for many months to assure the success of the President's Preview performance of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," planned for 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Among the 45-member committee are three Birmingham residents. They are Mrs. Martin Buzgel, 2425 Lone Pine Road; Mrs. Charles Himelhoch, 1135 Lakeside; and Mrs. Harry L. Winston, 483 Aspen.

Committee chairman is Mrs. Lawrence Fleiselman, Detroit; co-chairman is Mrs. Michael Ference, Dearborn.

Established in 1964 on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, the Classic Theatre's second season, opening Wednesday, also will present Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex," Moliere's "The Ridiculous Young Ladies" and Bertolt Brecht's "Galileo."

a	a	n	t	e	b	s
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u	e	t	h	o	i	z
z	i	e	o			

THIS IS THE ITA ALPHABET  
Letters sound exactly as they look.

In his introduction to the brochure, Mayor Willy Brandt says, "May the paintings and sculptures bear witness to the fact that art in Berlin is stamped with that cosmopolitan spirit which is characteristic of the German capital."

It is indeed reminiscent of the work of the artists of several countries, of the Cobra group, and of New York 10 years ago or more,

if that indicates cosmopolitan spirit.

THE INTENTION is definitely to present what is "new" in Berlin, since almost without exception the paintings are dated 1963 or 1964, but they would look rather old hat amidst the pop and op art of today in New York.

The composition of the show tends to reinforce this feeling of repetition of a cliché, since there are 36 paintings representing seven artists (approximately five by each man), and each of the five is similar enough so that standing in the middle and sweeping one's eyes around the room, it becomes a game to sort out, for instance, all the ones with white backgrounds, a cluster of round forms and one color and, "Ah, yes, Bartel."

ALL OF the paintings by Hans Jaenisch are identical in size, (59"x53"), as are those by Kurt Bartel (63"x56"), and all are built upon the fine-line network of crumpled paper which has been blackened, smoothed and glued to the canvas and a spiky, contrasty black-and-white plus one-color (See ARTISTS, 7-D)

Meneghel holds a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University and M.A. from Wayne State. Other training was at E.M.U., Dunes Theatre, Michigan City, Ind.; Barn Theatre, Key West, Fla.; and Wayne's Bonstelle and Hilberry Classic Theatres.

He is a former teacher, Seaholm High School, Birmingham, and was news director for radio station WEXL, Royal Oak. Meneghel is a Ph.D. candidate.

## A Phonic Thing Happened On Way to the Alphabet

By MARY BAHN  
Staff Writer

Twenty-four bright-eyed youngsters in Westchester School's first grade class are not only students this term—but teachers as well.

As part of a nationwide research study, they are "teaching" the educational experts the benefits and the limitations of a new reading system, called the Initial Training Alphabet (ITA).

This system, as explained by Mrs. Dorothy Bergman, who teaches ITA at Westchester, was devised by Sir James Pitman and was first tried in England. Instead of the usual 26 letters in the alphabet, 44 characters are used, with each symbol representing one, and only one, sound.

THIS RESULTS in simplified spelling, as there are no silent letters or even capitals, and since everything is based on sound, this is an all-out phonic system.

Examples of the new method are demonstrated throughout the first grade class in the familiar block-printed sign stores.

"Bernee is a dog.  
Hee iz a big dog.  
Hee has soft fur.  
Hee lieks tw run  
Hee iz about act months oeld."  
In other words, horse is now hors, eagle, eegle; ice, ies and anzel, anepl.

Inconsistent spellings in the conventional alphabet are eliminated by the introduction of new characters which transmit only one sound. These characters are not found on an ordinary typewriter, but are reproduced in the chart accompanying this article.

TEACHING methods are the same as teaching a regular phonic system, as Mrs. Bergman illustrated.

After writing a short paragraph on "munky sool" on the board in the traditional block letters, Mrs. Bergman asked members in a small work group of six to first find individual words, as they slowly sounded them out.

The children quickly and enthusiastically progressed to reading sentences by sounding out the words; then they "found" the word and crased it out.

"A transfer back to the conventional alphabet is already in progress with the more advanced students," said Mrs. Bergman.

"Our ITA books come from England, but our room is also stocked with several conventional books from our own library," Mrs. Bergman, who is en-

thusiastic over the phonic system of teaching, says that the spelling changeover is her greatest concern.

"I DON'T know the effects, since there has not been enough time. I'm trying to get them to change over as soon as they learn to sound out the words so they don't get into a habit," said Mrs. Bergman.

Mrs. Bergman, who has a master's degree in education along with eight years of teaching experience, said she found no difference in writing habits. "This is because I accepted incorrect spellings as long as they got the meaning."

The biggest value for the beginning reader, according to Mrs. Bergman, is the consistency of vowels. "Because there are 63 total sounds in ITA, our top children (See ALPHABET, 4-D)

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"SUPERVISED Bridge-Playing" is another new addition for the (See CLASSES, 7-D)

**Early Deadlines  
Next Issue**  
Offices of The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. They will be open, however, on Saturday, Jan. 2.  
Because of the holiday, early deadlines will be observed.  
Therefore, all advertisers and news contributors are asked to submit their copy as early as possible for the Jan. 7 issue.  
The Birmingham Eccentric extends the greetings of the season to everyone.