





### **MONTHLY EXHIBITS**

January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

## **Search NCTE Holdings**

Search

# The Founding of the Conference on College Composition and Communication

"The broad object of the CCCC is to unite college teachers of composition and communication in an organization which can consider all matters relevant to their teaching, including, in general, teachers, subject matter, methods, and students."

From an early draft of CCCC's Constitution

On April 1 and 2, 1949, NCTE sponsored a conference focused on college freshman English in Chicago. According to J.N. Hook's *A Long Way Together: A Personal View of NCTE's First Sixty-Seven Years*, the "topics discussed at this conference included course organization, needed research, articulation of high school and college English, teaching methods, and staffing" (1979, p. 148). With over 500 attendees, the conference was so popular and successful, the CCCC officially became a major organization within NCTE.

When the conference organizer, John C. Gerber, requested that the CCCC be recognized as a conference group, the Executive Committee approved the conference's continuance for three years. The Executive Committee also granted the conference the ability to levy dues, elect officers, hold an annual business meeting, and publish an official periodical (Hook, 1979, p. 148). In May 1950, NCTE approved the CCCC as a permanent organization. Hook writes:

"[The] CCCC was simply accepted as a permanent and highly prized offspring of the parent body—the first such to be established—and destined to grow to six thousand or more members."

Today, according to its website, the CCCC is the "largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition." To learn more about CCCC's formation, take a look at the featured records below.

Contents: (To enlarge and clarify an image, click on it and it will open in a new window)

Program: First Conference NCTE Recognition of CCCC

Luncheon Meeting Minutes: November 25, 1949

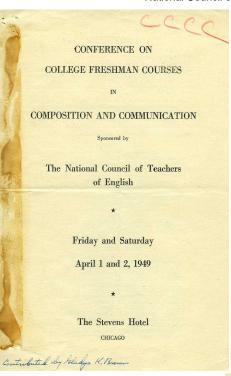
**CCCC Constitution** 

Program: Second Conference Three-Year History of CCCC

## **Program: First Conference**

The first conference, which led to CCCC's recognition as a organization, took place at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago (now the Hilton Chicago on South Michigan Avenue). As the program noted, the rate for a single room was just \$4.50 to \$10. On April 1 and 2, 1949, educators gathered for sessions on instructional methods relating to building a college curriculum, teaching a freshman course in composition, hiring staff members, etc. Because of the conference's success, the Executive Committee readily accepted the CCCC as an organizational body within the NCTE.

**Item:** Program from first conference (1949)



#### NOTICES

A registration fee of \$1.00 is being charged each delegate, in order to meet the general expenses of the Conference.

The luncheon for chairmon of directors (or their representatives) of Freshman Courses in Composition or Communication is to be held on Startnay, April 2, between 12.15 and 130. The price for the luncheon (including tip) is \$3.00. Male your reservations immediately with the Communication of the Communic Evanston, Illinois).

Make room reservations direct with The Stevens Hotel, and mention this Conference in writing. Room rates: Single, \$4.50 to \$10.00. Double, \$7.50 to \$12.50. Twin, \$8.50 to \$15.00.

There are exhibits by various publishers of textbooks and other materials for use in courses in composition or communication.

There are exhibits also of audio-visual materials.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL COMMITTEE
John Cerber, State University of Iowa, Chairman and responsible for arrangement of program.
George Wykoff, Purdue University, Associate Chairman and responsible for publicity, and the state of th

LOCAL COMMITTEE LOCAL COMMITTEE
Ernest Samuels, Northwestern University, Chairman Herman Bowersox, Roosevelt College,
Wallace Douglas, Northwestern University,
Ellen A. Frogner, Chicago Teachers College,
Josah L. Geist, Wright Junior College,
Harrison Hayford, Northwestern University,
Robert Mayo, Northwestern University,
Frank Murphy, C. M., De Paul University,
Frank Murphy, C. M., De Paul University,
Pauline Rossitz, Heral Junior College,
Beatrice Time Living College,
Beatrice Time Living College,
Beatrice Time Living College,
Beatrice Time Living College,
Mentor Williams, Illinois Institute of Technology,
Horace Williston, Wilson Junior College,

### PROGRAM

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 1

First Session, 10:00-12:00. "Concepts Basic to Freshman Courses in Composition and Communication"

Chairman: Edward A. Tenney, Dean, Ripon College.

Speakers: James M. McCrimmon, University of Illinois at Galesburg

Richard M. Weaver, The College, University of Chicago

Discussion to be opened by Mentor Williams, Illinois Institute of Tech-

A. M. Buchan, Washington University.

Second Session, 1:30-3:30. "Curriculum: Four Theories of Course Organi-

Chairman: Charles W. Roberts, University of Illinois.

Speakers: Wallace Douglas, Northwestern University (15 min.). Harold Allen, University of Minnesota (15 min.). Virginia French, Teachers College, Columbia University

S. I. Hayakawa, Chicago, Illinois (15 min.).

Discussion to be opened by John Hodges, University of Tennessee.

Bertha Watts, Canterbury College.

THIRD SESSION, 3:45-5:00. "The Needs and Possibilities for Research"

Chairman: George S. Wykoff, Purdue University.

Speaker: Paul B. Diederich, Board of Examinations, University of Chicago (30 min.).

Discussion to be opened by Clyde W. Dow, Michigan State College. James J. Jelinek, Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 2

First Session, 9:00-10:25. "Integrating High School and College Work"

Chairman: Samuel Weingarten, Wright Junior College, Chicago.

Speakers: Lionel Lightner, New Trier High School, Winnetka, Ill. (20 min.).

A. K. Stevens, University of Michigan (20 min.).

Discussion to be opened by Nelle F. Kerchner, Chicago Board of Education.

John Cowley, Iowa State Teachers College.

Second Session, 10:35-12:00. "Instructional Methods"

Chairman: Ernest Samuels, Northwestern University.

Speakers: "Motivating the Superior Student," Robert H. Moore, University of Illinois (15 min.).

> "Motivating the Lowest Fifth," Carrie Stanley, State University of Iowa (15 min.).

"Handling Problems of Grammar," Robert C. Pooley, University of Wisconsin (15 min.).

Discussion to be opened by Karl Dykema, Youngstown College.

Clara Laidlaw, Michigan State College. LUNCHEON 12:15-1:30 For chairmen or directors (or their representatives)

of Freshman Courses in Composition or Communi-

THIRD SESSION, 1:30-1:55. Business Meeting.

Chairman: John C. Gerber, State University of Iowa.

FOURTH SESSION, 2:00-4:00. "Obtaining, Training, and Keeping a Competent

Chairman: Fred W. Lorch, Iowa State College.

Speakers: John W. Ashton, Dean of the College, Indiana University (20 min.).

Carlton Wells, University of Michigan (20 min.).
J. P. Callahan, Kansas State College (20 min.).

Discussion to be opened by Francis Shoemaker, University of Wisconsin Thomas Dunn, Drake University. W. B. Fulghum, Stephens College.

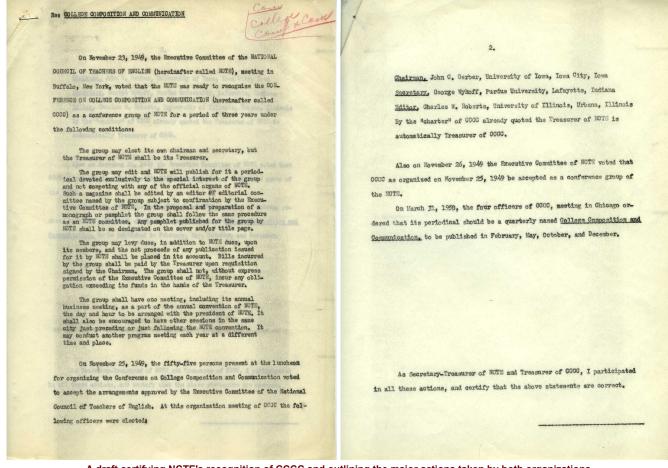
The complete program from the first conference, listing the conference sessions available for each day and the committee members who organized the event.

Back to top

## **NCTE Recognition of CCCC**

On November 23, 1949, NCTE's Executive Committee voted to recognize the CCCC as a conference group for an additional three years. This approval granted the conference powers typical to an organization, including the right to levy dues, elect officers, and hold annual meetings. In addition, the conference could publish its own periodical, the quarterly *College Composition and Communication*. Two days after NCTE's recognition, members of the CCCC gathered at a luncheon to vote on whether to accept the Council's terms. After approving, they elected three officers: John C. Gerber, chairman; George Wykoff, secretary; and Charles W. Roberts, editor. As part of NCTE's terms, the treasurer of NCTE was also automatically the treasurer of CCCC.

Item: Draft of CCCC Recognition (1950)



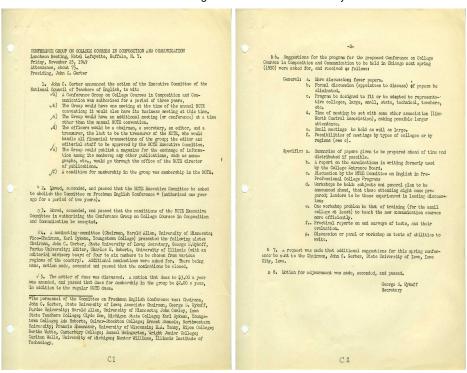
A draft certifying NCTE's recognition of CCCC and outlining the major actions taken by both organizations.

Back to top

## Luncheon Meeting Minutes: November 25, 1949

After obtaining NCTE's approval, the CCCC held a luncheon meeting at Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo, New York on November 25, 1949 to discuss and vote on the Council's terms. Around 75 members attended the meeting and readily approved NCTE's conditions. In addition to electing officers, they also discussed the upcoming conference. Both general and specific suggestions were received.

**Item:** Copy of Meeting Minutes (1949)



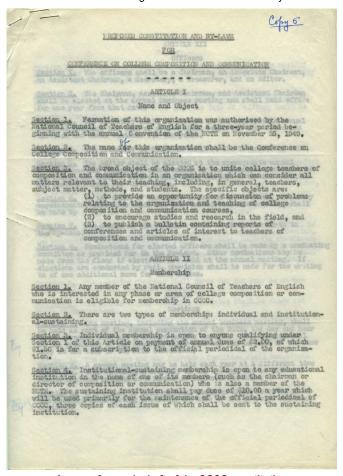
The two pages of minutes from the luncheon meeting, which discussed NCTE's conditions for CCCC's recognition and the second conference.

Back to top

## **CCCC Constitution**

In the early 1950s, the CCCC worked on drafting its constitution and bylaws. The constitution would not only provide an organizational structure, but it would also define the CCCC's long-term goals. In a draft of an early constitution, section three outlined these objectives: "The broad object of the CCCC is to unite college teachers of composition and communication in an organization which can consider all matters relevant to their teaching, including, in general, teachers, subject matter, methods, and students." The first constitution was approved in November, 1951.

**Item:** Copy of proposed CCCC Constitution (ca. 1950)



A copy of an early draft of the CCCC constitution.

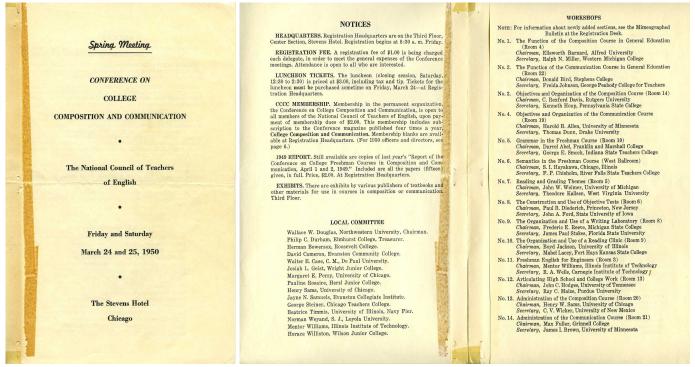
Back to top

## **Program: Second Conference**

Following the first closely, the second conference was once again held at the same hotel for two days. The difference was in the number of sessions, the second conference offering much more than the first one. In addition to discussing the fundamentals of college composition, workshops also offered more specialized topics, such as "Freshman English for Engineers," "The Construction and Use of Objective Tests," and "The Organization and Use of a Writing Laboratory." Overall, Hook notes that CCCC programs "repeatedly stressed the importance of such things as accuracy and honesty of statement, clarity of thought, and intelligence and intelligibility of organization" (1979, p. 149).

**Item:** Program from second conference (1950)

## To learn about related material, see the following record series: 15/74/003



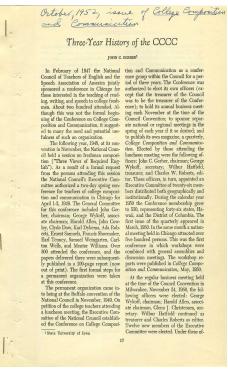
The cover and pages from the second program. Page two lists the variety of workshops conducted at this conference.

Back to top

## Three-Year History of CCCC

In 1952, John Gerber, the first chair of CCCC, published a three-year history of the organization. Appearing in the October issue of the journal *College Composition and Communication*, the article provided an account of the driving force behind CCCC's formation and its maturity into a full-fledged, permanent organization. Gerber also highlighted the CCCC's significant successes and milestones.

Item:Copy of article, "Three-Year History of CCCC"(1952)



The first page of Gerber's "Three-Year History of CCCC," which details the beginnings of CCCC.

## Back to top



#### **University Archives**

Room 19 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL, 61801 Copyright © 2009 University of Illinois. All Rights Reserved