

Anne F. Haig – Bronxville High School English Aims, c. 1932

GOALS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Development of a cultivated sympathetic individual

- I. valuable to a democratic society; that is tolerant and understanding of social problems, and intelligent and independent in constructive thinking about those problems
- II. interesting to himself: sensitive to beauty; idealistic; resourceful in finding stimulating recreation in the arts

ENGLISH:

Through reading, the individual shall develop power to realize experience which shall be cumulative and be used over again in building and interpreting new experiences. To that end, there must be a unifying purpose in the English Course, and that purpose is the development of a true conception of individual and social ideals, making for international understanding.

Such a conception can be achieved through the awakening of appreciation of the best artistic expression of social and individual problems and ideals, and the development of power and desire to interpret that artistic expression intelligently and adequately. Such power and desire can be achieved through the purposeful grouping of material around unifying ideals, which are revealed by artists as the spiritual fruits of great political, religious, and scientific movements of various periods.

Through writing, the individual shall develop power and desire to express his own experience. To that end, he must develop observation; he must learn to organize his impressions, reactions, deductions, observations, and to express them accurately and effectively. Such power of written expression can be achieved through the habitual application of the correct techniques of writing, and the development of facility in finding interesting material in one's experience and one's environment, about which to write.

Anne F. Haig (my grandmother) taught English at Bronxville High School (N.Y.) from 1926 to 1953, and also served as head of the English Department. She received a B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1906, and taught English in the Minnesota towns of Marshall, Browns Valley, Detroit Lakes, and Coleraine from 1906 to 1926. Mrs. Haig received an M.A. in Education from Columbia University in 1925. - S.H.