William Stephenson's "Q Methodology and the Subjec-
tivity of Literature" was originally presented at a
conference which focused on the response to litera-
ture and which was held at the State University of
New York at Buffalo in 1977. The conference, accord-
ing to a brochure, was "for researchers and for
teachers interested in the basic processes of read-
ing and responding to literature. The papers and the
discussions will focus on these questions: How can we
improve research on responding to literature and
teaching of literature? What theory and what re-
search designs can we make use of? What questions
should researchers be asking over the next few years?
The discussions will not be concerned directly with
methods of teaching literature in classrooms. They
will deal, instead, with theory, research findings,
and research methods and designs. The papers and
discussions will be most helpful to those who are
doing research or planning research and to those in-
terested in the psychological processes of reading
and responding to fictional literature."
     In addition to Stephenson's, there were papers by
Richard Beach, Minnesota, "Discourse Conventions and
the Inference Process," Mary Beaven, Virginia Common-
wealth University, "Response to Literature: A Meeting
of Minds Through Dramatic Improvisation," Norman Hol-
land, SUNY Buffalo, "Reading Readers Reading," Eugene
Kintgen, Indiana, "Studying the Perception of Poetry,"
Louise Rosenblatt, New York University, "The Trans-
actional Theory of Response: Implications for Re-
search," Shelley Rubin and Howard Gardner, Harvard,
"Once Upon a Time: The Development of Sensitivity to
Story Structure," and ten others. As reported pre-
viously (*Operant Subjectivity*, April 1978, p. 85),
Stephenson felt that "The conference went as I ex-
pected: Me understanding everyone else; no one under-
standing me!... I'm sure I was of nuisance value
chiefly, and I enjoyed it."
     Shortly after the conference, Stephenson wrote a

70-page manuscript on "Reflections on the Buffalo
Conference" in which he sought to clarify his own po-
sition and to distinguish it from those of the other
participants. In that manuscript, he stated that
his own contribution to the conference was to make
available "a way to deal cogently with *responsiveness*
in general, much less literature in particular. It
is part of a general theory of communication," and he
therefore took issue with the assertion, apparently
made during the conference, "that I am only inter-
ested in getting everyone to use Q methodology." He
then referred to certain details of his study on
Keats' *Ode* (*Psychological Record*, 1972), supplemented
by a discussion on the distinction between analytic
and synthetic approaches—the latter is more appro-
priate for the study of literature—and on more re-
cent elaborations such as Peirce's law of mind, the
theory of concourses, truth value, and Newton's Fifth
Rule. He then gave critical attention to the six con-
ference papers listed above from the standpoint of
the principles outlined.

Early in his "Reflections" paper, Stephenson said
of his own conference contribution that "I knew it
would be out of touch with its immediate audience;
but it seemed important to give expression to the
scope of my general theory of literary creativity and
responsiveness, even though its role in future re-
search would have to await a new generation of scho-
lars...." That his contribution was too abstract was
attested to in the request by Charles Cooper, confer-
ence co-director (formerly of SUNY Buffalo, now of
the Department of Literature, University of Califor-
nia, San Diego), who asked for a new contribution
aimed more at persons who might wish to employ Q *tech-
nique* in their own researches on literary effect.
That new paper, entitled "Q Methodology and English
Literature," is now among other papers in a book-
length manuscript edited by Cooper and being consid-
ered for publication by the National Council of Teach-
ers of English which funded the Buffalo conference.
We are grateful to Professor Cooper for having re-
leased the original paper which appears below.