Wer jemandt hat der gern weit lernen Dutsch schreiben und lasen
ub dem aller kurzesten grundt den jeman erzicht ken do durch
ein jeder der vor nit ein bruchstaben kann der mag kurzlich und bald
begriiffen ein grundt do durch er mag von im selbs lernen ein schuld
uff schrive und lasen und wer es nit gelernt ken so vugeschticht
wenn den will ich von nit und vergiben gelernt haben und gau nu
von im zu lon nemen es lig wer es well burger oder hautwercks ge
tellen krowen und junckrowen wer im bedarff der kum har in do
wirt drüwlich gelernt um ein zimlichen lon aber die junge knabe
und meistlin noch den konzialten wie gewonheit ist 1516
History of Education Quarterly

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EDITOR’S NOTE

The cover illustration reconstructs a school sign designed in 1516 by Hans Holbein. The advertisement read:

“He who wishes to learn to read and write German by the quickest method, and who does not know a single letter, is informed here he will be able to learn all that he needs to know of writing and reading. And if anyone is so foolish that he does not manage to learn it, I shall have taught him gratis and for nothing and he shall not owe me anything. Whoever you may be, burgesses, artisans, labourers, women or girls, and whatever your needs, he who comes here will be faithfully instructed for a reasonable fee. On the other hand, children, little boys and little girls, will pay every term as is customary.”

The Basel Museum kindly provided the Quarterly with reproductions of the sign-painting in their possession and Vintage Books granted us permission to cite the translation from Phillipe Ariès, Centuries of Childhood.

P.H.M.