1. I was at the Columbia University Psychology Department Graduate School from 1952 to 1957. At that time I was excited by (a) the idea that "learning theory" (that's what we called behavior analysis at that time) had applicability to many diverse areas of human affairs, as Skinner explained in Science and Human Behavior (1953) and Verbal Behavior (1957); (b) that it was possible to study the features of individual operant responses and the effects on them of reinforcer presentations; (c) that one of the keys to fruitful behavior research was to do parametric studies with multiple values of the independent variable; and (d) that Claude Shannon's "Mathematical Theory of Communication," or "information theory" as it came to be called, had wide applicability to data treatments in behavior analysis.

2. I have always recommended studying Murray Sidman's Ph.D. dissertation, because it is a model of good parametric research design. Antonitis' Ph.D. thesis is also important, because it shows how non-criterial and criterial dimensions of individual operant responses can show different effects in response to certain operations.

3. The most important writings from that period are B.F.Skinner's, and the Keller & Schoenfeld introductory psychology textbook is still a classic. There were many other brilliant individuals who worked and spoke at that time, like Donald A. Cook, but they didn't leave behind any noteworthy writings.

All the best,
--Francis Mechner