

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

OpenSIUC

The Dewey Newsletter

Center for Dewey Studies

4-1975

Volume 9, Number 1

Follow this and additional works at: https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cds_dewey_newsletter

Recommended Citation

"Volume 9, Number 1." (Apr 1975).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Dewey Studies at OpenSIUC. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Dewey Newsletter by an authorized administrator of OpenSIUC. For more information, please contact opensiuc@lib.siu.edu.

THE DEWEY NEWSLETTER



The Center for Dewey Studies

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE • Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Volume IX

Number 1

April 1975

TWO NEW
DEWEY
PAPERBACKS

In response to a number of requests to make available Dewey's *Interest and Effort in Education* and *Moral Principles in Education*, the Southern Illinois University Press has issued Arcturus paperback editions of these two works. *Moral Principles* has a new Preface by Sidney Hook; *Interest and Effort* has a new Preface by James E. Wheeler. Both books can be ordered from the Press. *Moral Principles* is priced at \$2.25 and *Interest and Effort* at \$2.65.

JOHN DEWEY
RESEARCH FUND
GRANT AWARDS

The second group of awards from the John Dewey Research Fund were announced in February 1975. The following proposals were approved: Bhagwan B. Singh (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) "John Dewey in India: A Bibliography with Comments"; May Leavenworth (City University of New York) "The Role of Dewey's Theory of the Self in His Theory of Ethics" (dissertation); Paul E. Tibbets, Jr. (University of Dayton) "John Dewey's Philosophy of Science" (dissertation). The next deadline for submitting proposals is 1 July 1975. Forms are available from the Center for Dewey Studies.

1 9 7 5
ESSAY PROJECT

A reminder that the first of June is the deadline for mailing entries in the 1975 John Dewey Essay Project, which has the theme "John Dewey's Philosophy of Science." Details about this project are also available from the Center for Dewey Studies.

DEWEY ON

MIDWEST

Robin Baysinger Weldon has found a Dewey quotation in a somewhat unlikely place--a biography of James Dean by David Dalton, entitled *James Dean: The Mutant King* (San Francisco: Straight Arrow Books, 1974, distributed by Simon and Schuster). No source appears; if

any *Newsletter* reader recognizes the quotation, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The Midwest, the prairie country, has always been the center. It has formed the solid element in our diffuse national life and heterogeneous population. It has been the very middle in every sense of the word, and in every movement. Like every mean, it has held things together and given them unity and stability.

PERAMBULATOR STORY

DENIED BY DEWEY

Of the three most widely circulated, probably apocryphal anecdotes about John Dewey ("He looks exactly like my egg man," "Don't just stand there, John, get the mop!" and the "forgotten perambulator"), at least the one about his leaving a baby in a buggy while he absent-mindedly strolled home was denied in print by Dewey himself.

In 1929, the Faculty of the School of Education of the University of Michigan wrote Dewey a letter of congratulations on his seventieth birthday. His response, published in the *School of Education Bulletin I* (1929): 26-27, included the denial, along with a further comment about the Middle West:

As you say, it was in Ann Arbor that I began my teaching activities. It was there that my serious interest in education was aroused. I have never ceased to be grateful that my first connection was with a state university in the middle west. I learned there something of the deep significance of the relation between educational institutions and the social communities which they serve. In addition to this I formed there some of the closest friendships of my life.

I was amused with the story which you mention in your letter. It is a good story even if it does not happen to be true of me. When I first went to Ann Arbor the same story was attached to Professor Burt. I had hoped that by this time it had been passed on to someone else.

MIDDLE WORKS Volume 2 of *The Middle Works of John Dewey, 1898-1924*, entitled *Essays, STUDIES IN LOGICAL THEORY*, and *THE CHILD AND THE CURRICULUM, 1902-1903*, with an Introduction by Sidney Hook, has been inspected by a representative of the Center for Editions of American Authors and officially awarded the "Approved Text" seal. Volumes 1 and 2 are in production, scheduled for publication early in 1976.

OF

JOHN DEWEY

Volume 3, *Essays, 1903-1906*, scheduled for inspection the first week in April, has been recommended for the seal contingent upon inspection of the Introduction, which is not yet available.

DEWEY'S In the Textual Commentary for Volume 3 of *The Middle Works*, a little-known episode in Dewey's life is recounted. The following is adapted from that story:

DECISION

Previous accounts of Dewey's resignation from the University of Chicago¹ have not recorded Dewey's difficulty in deciding what his future would be. Dykhuizen mentions that "When Dewey sent his letter of resignation to President Harper on 5 April 1904, he had no position elsewhere."² In fact, Dewey was not at all sure that he wanted to continue in teaching at all. When he wrote his friend James McKeen Cattell of Columbia University that he had submitted his resignation, he added simply, "I have nothing in view and shall have to rely on my friends to let me know of things that might appropriately come within my scope."³ He seems to have been genuinely surprised when Cattell responded two days later that, even though no post was open at Columbia just then, he wanted to consult President Butler at once about the possibility of arranging a place for Dewey there.⁴

Pleased by this evidence of Cattell's "friendship and esteem," Dewey nevertheless responded, "I am not in good shape to decide anything just now. I want a rest. . . . When I wrote you I had absolutely no idea of any immediate response anywhere . . . and consequently I can't gather myself together to make a prompt decision."⁵ Even while President Butler was trying to establish a special chair in philosophy for Dewey, Dewey wrote to Cattell, "My mind is about like this. I have to choose between (1) cutting loose from institutional connections; (2) trying to get an administrative position (The Univ. of Ill. will want a pres. for example) & (3) teaching

philosophy. . . . Having got as far as believing that my future is largely a choice between philosophy at Columbia & an administrative position (the technique of which I have learned in the last few years), I am interested in completing the Columbia picture as far as may be--(I should say I haven't turned a finger about an administrative position--nobody knows of my resignation but you, outside my dept. here)."6

President Butler succeeded quickly in setting up a chair for Dewey, who formally accepted Columbia's offer 28 April 1904. That his decision had been difficult and that doubt lingered in Dewey's mind can be seen in his letter of that same day to W. T. Harris, where he says, "I am not still entirely sure that I wish to devote myself permanently to philosophical rather than to administrative work, and I may come back to you some time with a request for advice."7

Notes

1. Robert McCaul, "Dewey and the University of Chicago," *School and Society* 89 (1961): 152-57, 179-83, 202-6; George Dykhuizen, *The Life and Mind of John Dewey*, (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1973), pp. 107-15.
2. *The Life and Mind of John Dewey*, p. 116.
3. John Dewey to James McKeen Cattell, 12 April 1904, Special Collections, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York City.
4. Cattell to Dewey, 14 April 1904, Butler Library.
5. Dewey to Cattell, 16 April 1904, Butler Library.
6. Dewey to Cattell, 7 April 1904, Butler Library.
7. Dewey to William Torrey Harris, 28 April 1904, William Torrey Harris Papers, Hoose Library, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.