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Boys Together; Contemporary Approaches to Moral Education; and Foundations of Moral Education

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BOOK REVIEWS


With the current plethora of books citing real and imagined malfeasances of modern American education, it is refreshing indeed to discover historian John Chandos’ intimate and illuminating study of the English Public Schools of 1800-1864. Boys Together. Drawing on diaries, memoirs, letters and manuscripts (published and unpublished), Chandos gives the reader a front-row perspective of life in 19th-century public schools prior to the Clarendon Commission reforms of 1862-1864. Gone is the image of the pious and obedient scholar dedicated to God, school and country. In its stead Chandos reveals a subculture where brutalities and humiliations were commonplace and rebellion, debauchery and social corruption were not the exception but the rule.

In his skillfully researched text, the author seeks not only to reveal the oftentimes shocking life styles of the students who attended and governed these institutions, but to analyze the prevailing social climate in which these schools were permitted to function and flourish. At a time when the purpose of the public schools emphasized the necessity of turning out mannered men of respectable character who were liberal of mind and generous of nature, society also was calling for men to be fully prepared for the roughening and disappointing realities of adult life.

The prevailing societal dichotomy regarding acceptable public school practice gave way to an outpouring of public criticism. As Chandos indicates, one of the most frequently voiced criticisms of the schools concerned the universal practice of "flagging," a system in which younger scholars performed prescribed duties for their senior classmates, or masters, and in return for their services received protection. Unfortunately, such was seldom the case. The author quotes Etonian George Lewis in the Edinburgh Review in which Lewis defines flagging as "the only regular institution of which labour enforced by brute force which exists in these islands."

Among other criticisms is that of student-governance. In an environment which adhered to the traditional practice of senior scholar control over junior scholar, and to varying extent, schoolmasters as well, any attempt by internal or external forces to inhibit autonomy of self-governance was met with immediate rebellion.

The study appropriately concludes with the investigation of the Clarendon Commission into the administration, finance, curriculum, methods and instruction of the schools and the validity of the prevailing status quo. Past and present regard for scholasticism and civility are analyzed in lights of the changing mores of society and the reforms which would change the very nature of the English Public School are seen as reflecting changes in life and society.

While Chandos’ rhetoric is frequently biased and his stance, depending on the readers’ persuasion, debatable, his narrative is lively, authoritative and well documented. His study is a must read for scholars and academicians of education and 19th-century England and a recommended tome for readers of non-fiction.

Reviewed by Susan Day Harmison
Book Review Editor


In recent decades there has been a surge of interest in the subject of moral education. People have become concerned with the lack of attention given moral education as well as the decline of moral and ethical standards.

James S. Leming is a professor of education at Southern Illinois University. In these two volumes he has attempted to chronicle and summarize some of the major developments in the field of moral education. The time covered in both bibliographies is the period from the mid-1950s to 1981.

In Contemporary Approaches to Moral Education, Leming presents important research and analyses surrounding the "practical" side of the moral education movement. Whereas this volume is a guide to the literature on the practice of moral education, the companion volume, Foundations of Moral Education is a guide to more theoretical philosophic and psychological literature on this issue. In Contemporary Approaches to Moral Education, for example, there are a number of references to the values clarification approach, which concerns the practice realm.

In Foundations of Moral Education Leming devotes the first major division to "Reflections on the Domain of Moral Education." References are predominately philosophical in nature, defining or clarifying the general purposes of moral education and related aspects. The second major division of the bibliography, "Moralization: The Learning of Morality," contains references that are taken largely from the behavioral sciences, with a third section devoted to "Additional Topics." This volume concludes with a section containing the major collections of readings on the topic of moral education.

Contemporary Approaches to Moral Education opens with a general analysis of those sources that present a broad overview of the field. Leming includes sections on values clarification, cognitive development, psychological or developmental education, humanistic or affective education, value analysis, directive moral education, and a comparison of approaches. This volume concludes with a listing of bibliographies on moral education, collections of readings related to moral education, and special editions or sections of journals devoted to the topic.

Some valuable items have not been included: Q. G. Milgram, Alcohol Education Materials: An Annotated Bibliography (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Center of Alcohol Studies, 1975) and Grace M. Barnes, comp., Alcohol and Youth: A Comprehensive Bibliography (Westport, Ct.: Greenwood Press, 1982). Substance abuse is an enormous problem and certainly education materials addressing the issue fall into the category of moral education. While it would not be possible to include all references on alcohol and drug education (or necessary) it would be advisable to include bibliographies on the subject. The same would be true of other related areas such as a "bibliography of bibliographies" on substance abuse education and business

Harmison and Watts: Boys Together; Contemporary Approaches to Moral Education; and Fo

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Collaborative Program in Educational Administration at Kansas State University and Fort Hays State University is Established

The faculties in the educational administration programs at Kansas State University (KSU) and Fort Hays State University (FHSU) have entered into an agreement to facilitate the post-master's degree programs of graduate students admitted to the collaborative program. It is the intent of this arrangement to assure graduate students in educational administration that they may receive the best preparation possible with the economy of time and effort which may be achieved through close cooperation.

Admission

Each potential student for the collaborative program is identified by the educational administration faculty at FHSU as soon as possible after having earned a master's degree (not necessarily at FHSU). Joint admission to the specialist in education (Ed.S) program at FHSU and the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) program at KSU must occur at the beginning of post-master's coursework at FHSU.

All programs of study include formal coursework, guided individualized study, clinical/laboratory experience in knowledge applications, and a dissertation. Primary responsibility for planning the program rests with the major advisor, the doctoral supervisory committee, and the student.

Ed.D. Program of Study

Preparation to provide leadership in the resolution of problems of professional practice requires a firm grounding in the foundations of educational thought, in the nature and methods of education inquiry, in understanding the extent and complexity of educational activities and decisions, and in the knowledge base of educational administration. A carefully planned combination of coursework, supervised practical experience, problem-solving practice, individual study, and intellectual interaction among students, faculty and practicing professionals provides the best opportunity to develop the knowledge and disposition for leadership. The Ed.D. program of study will meet the requirements of the KSU Graduate School, College of Education, and educational administration program.

The Ed.D. program requires a minimum of 94 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree, planned and approved by the supervisory committee, and approved by the department head and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies for the KSU College of Education and the Dean of the Graduate School.

The residency requirements for the Ed.D. program are the same for students in the collaborative program as for others. Up to one-half of the formal residency requirements may be fulfilled at FHSU.

For further information contact:

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