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The Dewey Newsletter

Center for Dewey Studies

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# THE DEWEY NEWSLETTER



*The Center for Dewey Studies*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE • Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Volume XI

Number 2

October 1977

DEWEY'S  
POEMS  
ARE  
PUBLISHED

The long-awaited publication date for *The Poems of John Dewey* is formally set as 13 October 1977. Books have been available since the end of September, however, from the Southern Illinois University Press. The limited edition of 1,000 copies was more than half sold when the volumes arrived. One session of the John Dewey Society meeting in early March 1978 will feature a discussion of Dewey's poetry.

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MIDDLE WORKS  
VOLUMES 5 & 6

Two additional volumes of the *Middle Works of John Dewey* will be published before the appearance of the next *Newsletter*, or approximately March 1978. They are Volume 5, (1908) *Ethics*, with an Introduction by Charles Stevenson and Volume 6, (1910-11) *Essays and HOW WE THINK*, with an Introduction by Ralph Ross. Both volumes carry the "Approved Text" emblem of the Modern Language Association's Center for Editions of American Authors--the last of the series to have been inspected by that body before it was superseded by the now-one-year-old Center for Scholarly Editions.

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HOOK ON  
JOHN DEWEY

The foremost interpreter of Dewey's life and work, his protégé and colleague, Sidney Hook, will present the John Dewey Lecture at the concurrent meetings of the John Dewey Society and

the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. In the history of this distinguished Lectureship, no previous lecture has treated Dewey directly--that honor having been reserved appropriately enough for Professor Hook.

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DEWEY OR JAMES--

WHO'S ON FIRST?

In the *Times Literary Supplement* for 24 June 1977, John Passmore reviewed the first three volumes of the *William James Works*. His review opened with the following:

As the first philosopher to be elevated to the American pantheon, to be published, that is, complete and with formidable bibliographical attention under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies and with the seal of approval of the Centre for Editions of American Authors, William James was the natural choice.

As *TLS* did not print the letter sent by Sidney Hook in response to that review, the *Newsletter* hereby provides a forum for his answer:

Editor, T.L.S.  
Times Newspapers Ltd.  
New Printing House Square  
Gray's Inn Road  
London, WC1X 8EZ

Dear Sir:

One minor and one major point is in order in connection with Professor John Passmore's interesting review of The Works of William James (T.L.S., June 28, 1977).

He is in error in asserting that James is "the first philosopher to be elevated to the pantheon, to be published, that is, complete with formidable bibliographical attention under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies and with the seal of approval of the Center for Editions of American Authors . . . "

The first American philosopher to be so "elevated" was John Dewey. In 1967 the publication of the definitive text of all of Dewey's works was begun under the auspices

of the Center for Dewey Studies at Southern Illinois University and under the editorship of Professor Jo Ann Boydston, Director of the Center. Nine volumes have already been published, two are in press. Each volume bears the Seal of the Modern Language Association Center for Editions of American Authors. Fredson Bowers was the textual consultant for the Dewey edition from the outset. He subsequently became the Textual Editor of the James edition. The editorial costs for both editions were subsidized in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In his review of one of the Dewey volumes, Professor H. S. Thayer predicted that the Dewey edition "will be a model for the publication of other American philosophers." And in fact both the James edition and the forthcoming editions of other American philosophers have been strongly influenced by this pioneer venture of the Center for Dewey Studies and the Southern Illinois University Press in publishing the definitive critical text of Dewey's works.

In asserting that "William James was the natural choice" for such elevation, Professor Passmore was expressing his own evaluation of American philosophy. Comparisons of rank among leading philosophers are usually invidious, and serve no useful purpose. But regardless of the validity of Dewey's ideas, I do not believe that it is an exaggeration to say that John Dewey was far and away the most influential of all American philosophers. William James was better known in Europe than Dewey, but if anyone is entitled to be regarded as America's national philosopher in virtue of his profound influence on the intellectual and practical life of the nation in education, psychology, law, history, sociology and politics, it is John Dewey. Although quite close in the doctrines they opposed, on key points Dewey's views differed from those of James, especially in their scientific and social orientation. Neither one has recently received much attention from professional American philosophers but the publication of the definitive texts of their works may contribute to arousing renewed interest in their ideas among professional philosophers, if only because it makes easily available the corpus of all their writings. . . . To those who desire to familiarize themselves in depth with modern American civilization, the works of Dewey and James, especially in these editions, will be very helpful.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sidney Hook

CHECKLIST OF  
WRITINGS ABOUT  
JOHN DEWEY

The first edition (1974) of the *Checklist of Writings About John Dewey, 1887-1973*, has been allowed to go out of print to make way for the new, enlarged second edition now in press, with publication expected early in 1978. The second edition has been expanded with the numerous new writings about Dewey since 1973 as well as with the many previously undiscovered works for the period covered by the first edition. Interesting statistic: whereas the number of items written about Dewey each year from 1887 to 1973 averaged around 25, in the four years between editions of the *Checklist*, the average skyrocketed to 60 items each year.

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JOHN DEWEY  
RESEARCH FUND

The second round of grants by the John Dewey Research Fund in 1977 has been announced. The persons receiving awards, with their research topics, were:

- Marianne S. Glazek, Wayne County Community College,  
"Hegel's Influence on the Social and Educational  
Thought of John Dewey."  
Katherine Ward Ernst, Georgia State University and  
Stephen I. Brown, State University of New York at  
Buffalo, "*Progressive Education and Social Frontier:*  
A Reading Text."

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1977  
ESSAY  
PROJECT

In 1974, the first John Dewey Essay Project on "John Dewey's Philosophy of Ethics" elicited 23 studies by matriculated graduate students. The next most challenging topic was the 1977 theme, "John Dewey's Philosophy of Aesthetics," for which 19 entries were submitted. Judges Monroe Beardsley, Ralph Ross and Alexander Sessions picked the two top essays:

- #1 Mark Rollins, Columbia University, "John Dewey:  
Expression in Art."
- #2 Arthur S. Lothstein, C. W. Post Center, Long Island  
University, "The Affective is the Effective:  
Politics as Environmental Sculpture."

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1978  
ESSAY  
PROJECT

The 1978 Project will be announced with the usual printed flyers later in October; in the meantime, *Newsletter* readers might like to know that the theme will be "John Dewey's Social and Political Philosophy." Judges are:

Steven Cahn, University of Vermont  
Martin Golding, Duke University  
Herbert Deane, Columbia University

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PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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