Dinner

IN HONOR OF

JOHN DEWEY

ON HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

HOTEL COMMODORE • NEW YORK • OCTOBER 20, 1949
A Word of Greeting
(from)

Columbia ................. FRANK D. FACKENTHAL, Former Acting President, Columbia University
The N.E.C. ................. JOY ELMER MORGAN, Editor, Journal, National Education Association
The Teacher .......... REBECCA C. SIMONSON, President, N. Y. Teachers Guild
The Student .......... ALICE HOFFMAN, Student, Abraham Lincoln High School
The City Colleges .......... ORDWAY TEAD, Chairman, Board of Higher Education
The Community .......... JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, of Community Church
Abroad ................. HU SHIH, former Chinese Ambassador to the United States

Fields of Influence

Philosophy ............... RALPH BARTON PERRY, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Harvard
Education ............... WILLIAM H. KILPATRICK, Emeritus Professor of Education, Teachers College
Art ....................... IRWIN EDMAN, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia
Law and Society .......... FELIX FRANKFURTER, Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court
Labor .................... DAVID DUBINSKY, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Presentation of Citation ........ WILLIAM PEPPERELL MONTAGUE

JOHN DEWEY
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dewey:

Blessed is the man who arrives at fourscore and ten rich in the wisdom of experience and the love of friends—and endowed with the unconquered and unconquerable spirit of youth. To you a happy birthday full of cheerful yesterdays and confident tomorrows.

Very sincerely,
Harry S. Truman

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A Few Messages from Abroad
(Excerpts)

Austria: From President KARL RENNER of Austria:

"The great scholars of any land belong not to one country alone, but to all civilized society. A celebration in honor of a leading scholar, such as John Dewey, the Dean of American philosophers, cannot be confined to one country; it must needs be a world celebration. In the name of the Austrian people I, the President of Austria, congratulate you and extend to you the greetings of all Austrians."

Belgium: From CAMILIE HUYSMANS, Minister of State:

"We in Belgium who are concerned with philosophy know the work of John Dewey whose independence of spirit and clarity of mind have captured the imagination of the men of my generation. My sincerest felicitations on his 90th birthday."

Britain: From Prime Minister CLEMENT ATTLEE:

"It gives me much pleasure to send you my congratulations on your 90th birthday. The impact of your writings and teachings have reached thinking men and women throughout the English-speaking world, showing them the true meaning of democracy and thereby strengthening their faith in the democratic way of life. We in Great Britain, no less than your fellow-countrymen in the United States, share your confidence in education as a means of uplifting mankind and of promoting human progress."

Canada: From HON. M. J. COLDWELL, M.P., President C.C.F. of Canada:

"Your contributions in the realm of progressive education have influenced teachers in all paths of the world. Your notable contributions in the realm of social sciences have assisted all who are endeavoring to promote a finer, freer, society."

Chile: From His Excellency FELIX NIETO DEL RIO, Ambassador of Chile to the United States:

"I beg to convey to you the most cordial greetings and good wishes of my people as a token of our recognition and appreciation of your long sustained and most useful work as educator, philosopher and humanist."

China: From His Excellency, V. K. WELLINGTON KOO, Ambassador from China to the U. S.:

"To the West, John Dewey brought a system of philosophy which taught the freedom and dignity of man. To China and the East, he brought modern science, not the techniques and processes of science, but the basic essential of the scientific spirit and method. His contribution to the East was one of injecting into an ancient and mellow culture the modern spirit, and leaving to many of his disciples the task of reforming their society into one imbued with the philosophy of science and democracy."

Colombia: From AVEL NARANJO VILLEGAS, Secretary-General, Ministry of National Education:

"We of the Colombian Ministry of Education consider it a duty to be associated with this celebration, in view of the fact that the thinking and the work of John Dewey are among the most glorious that America can exhibit in the universal culture. This Ministry has ordered that on October 20th in the National Library, the National radio network, and in the universities and colleges, lectures in explanation of John Dewey's thinking be broadcast."
Costa Rica: From His Excellency Jorge Hazer, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States:

"On the occasion of the 90th Birthday of one of the greatest philosophers of our times it is an honor for me, as Representative of the Government and the people of Costa Rica, to acknowledge the debt that civilization owes to John Dewey for his work as a student of life and as an educator."

Denmark: From His Excellency Henrik Kauffmann, Danish Ambassador to the United States:

"Our generation is aiming at a goal where difficulties and conflicts may be straightened out by peaceful means without shedding the blood of our youth. If we are to succeed in this undertaking, it will be necessary to follow the wise guidance of the great thinkers of the world and one of the great thinkers of our own time is John Dewey."

France: From His Excellency Henri Bonnet, Ambassador of France to the U.S.:

"Many years ago John Dewey gave voice to a prophetic warning when he said: 'Physical science has, for the time being, far outrun psychoanalysis. We have mastered the physical mechanism . . . we have not gained a knowledge of the conditions through which possible values become actual in life, and so are still at the mercy of habit and hence of force.'"

"In the same way Henri Bergson used to say that for each increase in our material possibilities there should correspond an increase of soul.

"This harmony is a symbol of the profound unity of aspirations and ideals which holds away between our two peoples and of the respect and admiration which they have for these who, like John Dewey, want to help them acquire an increase of soul."

India: From Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, of India:

"I have long been an admirer of Dr. John Dewey and it would have been a great privilege for me to be associated with any function on his 90th birthday. If this is possible, I shall welcome it. If not, then I hope you will convey my greetings and homage to Dr. Dewey." (President Sir Serur J. J. Singh of the India League and M. S. Keiswur, Executive Secretary of the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations are attending this dinner.)

Italy: From His Excellency, Alberto Tarchiani, Ambassador of Italy to the United States:

"The results of Dr. Dewey's studies and works in the educational and social fields are not only a glory for the United States, but a common heritage of civilization."

Japan: From Koichi Shimada, President, Waseda University, Tokyo:

"In the post-war Japan where people are endeavoring to learn the ways of democracy, the philosophy of Dewey occupies a paramount place in its influence on the national patterns and ways of thinking. It is thus not only a pleasure but highly appropriate, too, that we in Japan should celebrate his 90th birthday on October 20th. So far as this university is concerned, we will observe a three-day period of celebration."

Mexico: From President Alfonso Reyes, of El Colegio de Mexico:

"Hail to John Dewey, great philosopher, educator, the honor of the new world, master and most distinguished citizen."

United States Ambassador Walter Thurston to Mexico declare that "in Latin America no name since that of Horace Mann has stood for the best and most progressive in American education to the same degree as that of John Dewey."

Mexico is celebrating Dr. Dewey's birthday with a large and representative conference at the National University, a radio broadcast, and the publication of essays, pamphlets and books by or concerning Dr. Dewey.

Netherlands: From Prime Minister Willem Drees, The Netherlands:

"Conveying to you my warm congratulations with your 90th birthday I can assure you that in the Netherlands your important work in the field of philosophy and education is well known and highly appreciated. It has helped to open good doors to the movement for renewal of our educational system and to further the principles of sound democracy."

New Zealand: From Walter Nash, Deputy Prime Minister:

"Dr. Dewey has exercised an abiding influence on the philosophy, education, aesthetics and political theory of our time. His life and works have won him a permanent place in the history of the world. (The University of New Zealand has designated Mr. Arnold E. Campbell to represent the college at this celebration.)

Pakistan: From His Excellency Mr. M.A.H. Isphahani, Ambassador of Pakistan to the U.S.:

"We in Pakistan are currently engaged in the re-orientation of our educational system and are happy to find inspiration and guidance in the thoughts of Dr. Dewey towards the creation of an educational ideology based on genuine democratic principles."

Sweden: From Dr. Sven Tunberg, Rector, University of Stockholm:

"The University of Stockholm wants to pay homage to Professor John Dewey for his outstanding contributions to modern philosophical empiricism, to psychological and educational theory and to the great cause of true democracy."

Switzerland: From W. H. Schoffer, Rector and the Professors and Lecturers of the University of Berne, Switzerland:

"Your name shines bright in our country, both for the boldness and independence of your thought, and for your incessant endeavor to ameliorate the conditions of human life. The living presence among us of a personality like yours is an uplifting factor in these our troublous times."

South Africa: From Jan Christian Smuts:

"John Dewey, more than any other American thinker, has wedded philosophy to life and striven to make it a real force, not only in the thought, but also in the practice of today."

Turkey: From Professor Omer Celal Sarc, President, University of Istanbul, Turkey:

"On the 90th anniversary of John Dewey, we in Turkey do not only think of his great achievements in philosophy, psychology and education, of his pioneer work in the educational problems of democracy, we also remember that we owe him a twofold debt of gratitude. His ideas have spread over the country and many of his books have been translated into our language, since we started to rebuild our civic life and he has become our highest reputed educationalist. Moreover, we had the fortune of having him in our country and of benefiting from his advice on the reconstruction of our school system. Indeed, his report on our schools has become a classic of Turkish educational literature.

"The University of Istanbul, for which it will be a great pleasure to celebrate his birthday in a special ceremony, wishes John Dewey many more years of fruitful and inspiring activity."

Uruguay: From Professor Emilío Orbe, University of Montevideo:

"The influence of John Dewey has been very great among the recent generations of educators in Uruguay. I send them their greetings and homage."

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JOHN DEWEY 90th BIRTHDAY COMMITTEE

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**Other Messages from the States**

Hundreds of other messages have been sent to Dr. Dewey and the Committee from distinguished Americans. Governor Thomas E. Dewey declares that John Dewey’s influence on education has been unequaled by any other single individual. “Above all, in his teachings and his contact with his fellowmen, he remains unforgettable because he was a great human being.” Mayor O’Dwyer declares that Professor Dewey “has left a permanent imprint on the life of America.”

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin praises Dewey for showing “how individualism can be most satisfactorily reconciled with social action.”

Herbert H. Lehman declares that “already democracy is being broadened and strengthened by a new generation, whose perspective and intelligent grasp of the realities of life are the direct result of Dr. Dewey’s philosophy of progressive education.”

Harold L. Ickes asserts: “I know of no American who, in the intellectual and spiritual fields, has made a greater contribution to our civilization during an almost half century.”

Channing H. Tobias writes: “Just as Franz Boas rechanneled the thinking of the people of the world on race, so your philosophy has contributed to clearer thinking on how people of different races, classes and cultures may live and work harmoniously and constructively together.”

Among other men and women in the political field who have sent greetings are Vice-President Alben W. Barkley, Eleanor Roosevelt, Senators Douglas, Humphrey, Ives, Morse and Elmer and Elbert Thomas, Graham, Leon H. Keyserling, Benjamin Davidson, Norman Thomas, Congressmen Helen G. Douglas, D. F. Roosevelt, Jr., and others.

On the labor front, messages have come to the Committee from William Green, David Dubinsky, George M. Harrison, Jacob Potofsky, Victor G. Reuther, Rebecca C. Simpson, Mark Starr, Nathaniel M. Minkoff, A. Philip Randolph, and others.

From educators, publicists and writers impressive messages have been received by the Committee from President James B. Conant of Harvard; Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase, N.Y.U.; Board Chairman Karl T. Compton of M.I.T.; Byn J. Hovde, President School; President William T. Russell, Teachers College, Columbia; President Ludd Spivey of Florida Southern; President Harold E. Stassen, U. of Pennsylvania; President George D. Stoddard, U. of Illinois; President Harold Taylor, Sarah Lawrence College; Chancellor William F. Tolley, U. of Syracuse, among others.


**Other Messages from Abroad**

In addition to the above, have come a host of messages from public men and women and leading scholars all over the world.

**Canada**

From our Northern neighbor, Canada, the Committee has received letters from Prime Minister T. C. Douglas of Saskatchewan and from Presidents A. A. Mackenzie of the U. of British Columbia, A. W. Truman of the U. of New Brunswick, G. Edward Hall of Western Ontario University, Watson Kirkconnell of Acadia University, (Nova Scotia) and Robert Newton of U. of Alberta. All speak of the American educator’s great influence on the educational system of Canada.

**Latin America**

On our Southern border comes word of numerous celebrations, as has been said, in Mexico, Uruguay and other Latin American countries. Professor Emilio Oribe of the University of the Republic, Montevideo, declares that Dewey’s influence has been very great among the recent generations of educators. In Mexico Professor Eugenio Imaz is engaged in a book on Dewey’s philosophy, and numerous of his works are being translated under the supervision of Professor William H. Kilpatrick and Dr. Nima H. Adlerblum.

**Britain**

Across the water Great Britain come many warm greetings from men and women of eminence. Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister, joins with Prime Minister Attlee in expressing his appreciation to Dr. Dewey for what the latter has meant in terms of world democracy.

Oliver Franks, British Ambassador to the United States, declares that “wherever British children today are active, purposeful, and happy in school, there is little doubt that they owe something to the active, purposeful, happy, and long life of a great American philosopher.”

Arnold Toynbee maintains that Professor Dewey’s thoughts have become “the common spiritual property of mankind.”

Harold J. Laski writes that he would give a year of his life to be able to join in the cheers at this dinner.

John Maud of the British Ministry of Education declares that Dr. Dewey would be happy to see the extent to which British schools were achieving “that lively interest and purposefulness in their studies which you have always wished to see developed.”

Lady Allen of Hurtwood, President of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education, writes that in Great Britain Dr. Dewey is known as the Father of Modern Education because he has “made educationalists realize the vivid importance of the child’s interest in the real world and the magic of his immediate environment,” and because he has shown us “the richness of democratic cooperation between children who work together for a common purpose.”

G. B. Jeffrey, Director of the Institute of Education, University of London, declares that the “University and its 32 constituent colleges gratefully acknowledge Dr. Dewey’s leadership in the wider adoption of an experimental attitude in educational theory and thinking and his influence towards humanizing the attitude of educators toward children.”

Other messages were received from the Secretary of the British Ministry of Education; Professor Godfrey Thomson, Professor of Education, U. of Edinburgh, Scotland; R. W. Livingstone, President, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Professor George Catlin; C. E. M. Joad, Sir Hector Hetherington, Vice-Chancellor, U. of Glasgow; Sir Frederick Clarke, University of London, and Professors Brian Stanley of Durham University, Robert R. Rusk of Glasgow and E. B. Castle of Hull; John H. Newsom, Educator, J. Raymond King, Chairman of the English New Education Fellowship and Iwad Jones, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University College of Wales.

From the European continent, besides those mentioned, messages have come, among others, from Dr. Willelaid M. Fleisch, acting chairman, Austro-American Institute of Education; H. M. Hansen, Rector, Copenhagen University; Jean Sarrailh, Rector, University of Paris; Erich Hylia, Educator, of Germany; Carlo Antoni, Director of Institute of Philosophy, U. of Rome; Benedetto Groc, leading Italian philosopher; Guido Gonella, Minister of Public Instruction, Italy; Guido Calogero, Professor of History of Philosophy, U. of Pisa; Luigi Voluficelli, Professor of Education, U. of Rome and Giovanni Capo, President, Italian Institute of Philosophical Studies.
Also Pierre Friedeu, Minister of Education, Luxembourg; the Senate of the University of Leiden, Netherlands; Professor Einar Tegen, U. of Stockholm; Professor Wilhelm Keller, Psychological Institute, U. of Zurich; Professor Georges Tierce, Rector, University of Geneva.

From China comes a message from Chih Meng, Director, China Institute in America. From India, a message from Her Excellency V. L. Pandit, Ambassador of India to the United States, and from Madhu Limaye, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Indian Socialist party, and Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Watumull, from the Watumull Foundation.

Pakistan sends greetings from Fazlur Rahman, Minister of Education; Dr. M. I. Khuda, Director of Public Instruction, East Bengal and O. H. Malik, Vice-Chancellor, U. of Penjub.

From the Near East, important messages from Israel are on the way, while Dr. Dewey's birthday is being celebrated by numerous meetings in Israel's educational institutions. Rhoda Orse, Dean, American Junior College for Women, Beirut, Lebanon, writes that youth in her part of the world are being stimulated and inspired to think by contact with Dr. Dewey's writings.

As this folder goes to press, we have likewise received a message from Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen of Norway, declaring that "to no philosopher in our age is Norwegian education so indebted as it is to John Dewey." Thirty-two educators from Norway have also sent greetings. Messages have likewise come from Douglas Copeland, Vice-Chancellor, Australian University; Lord Samuel, President Royal Institute of Philosophy, Great Britain; the South African Secretary of Education; the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, Feridan C. Erkin, and many others.

DEWEY CELEBRATIONS IN MANY COLLEGES

Among the colleges in which special exercises are being held in celebration of Dr. Dewey's life and works during this week are: Alabama: Jacksonville State Teachers College; Arizona: Arizona State College at Tempe and Flagstaff; California: University of California, L. A.; College of the Pacific; Stanford University; Colorado: Western State College; Connecticut: Danbury State Teachers College; Connecticut Teachers College; District of Columbia: Wilson Teachers College; Minnesota: Teachers College; Florida: University of Florida; Georgia: Albany State College; Hawaii: University of Hawaii; Iowa: Iowa State Teachers College; Kansas: Kansas State Teachers College; Kentucky: Morehead State College; University of Kentucky; Maryland: State Teachers College; University of Maryland; Coppin Teachers College; Massachusetts: State Teachers College; Harvard University; Michigan: University of Michigan; Wayne University; Minnesota: State Teachers College; Bemidji State Teachers College; Mississippi: Jackson College; Missouri: Central Missouri State College; Stowe Teachers College; Nebraska: Nebraska Teachers Colleges at Wayne and Chadron; New Jersey: New Jersey State Teachers Colleges at Montclair, Paterson, Glassboro, Newark; New Mexico: New Mexico Highlands University; New York: Brooklyn College; City College; Queens College; New School for Social Research; New York University; Teachers College, Columbia University; Child Education Foundation; Cornell University; New York State Teachers Colleges at Potsdam, Brockport, Plattsburgh; New Paltz, Fredonia; North Carolina: East Carolina Teachers College; North Dakota: State Teachers Colleges at Dickinson and Valley City; Ohio: Bowling Green State University; Ohio State University; Oklahoma: Northeastern State College; Pennsylvania: State Teachers Colleges at Mansfield, Lock Haven and Cheney; Pennsylvania State College; South Carolina: Bob Jones University; South Dakota: General Beadle State Teachers College; Tennessee: University of Tennessee; Texas: East Texas State Teachers College; Utah: University of Utah; Brigham Young University; Virginia: St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute; State Teachers College; Washington: University of Washington; Central Washington College of Education; Western Washington College of Education; Eastern Washington College; West Virginia: Fairmont State College; Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin; Wyoming: University of Wyoming.

The John Dewey 90th Birthday Fund has been incorporated to raise $90,000 for presentation to Dr. Dewey during his 90th year for distribution to those causes which he wishes to support. The sponsors of this Fund, among which are included the most eminent men and women in the country, believe that this means of making it possible for Dr. Dewey to give financial assistance to some of the projects which he has inspired, is a fitting way to celebrate so fortunate an event.

A sizeable portion of his fund has already been raised. An intensive effort during the next few months will it is hoped, raise the remainder. Friends and admirers who wish to join as contributors to this Fund will be welcomed. Checks should be made out to Mrs. John Dewey, Treasurer, and sent to the John Dewey 90th Birthday Fund, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y.

"Ninety years have stood between you and immortality. Ninety times ninety will go by before men can think of forgetting John Dewey. And then they will have a second thought. Who taught them to live without fears that have no ground?

And John Dewey will live for them yet again."—Alvin Johnson.