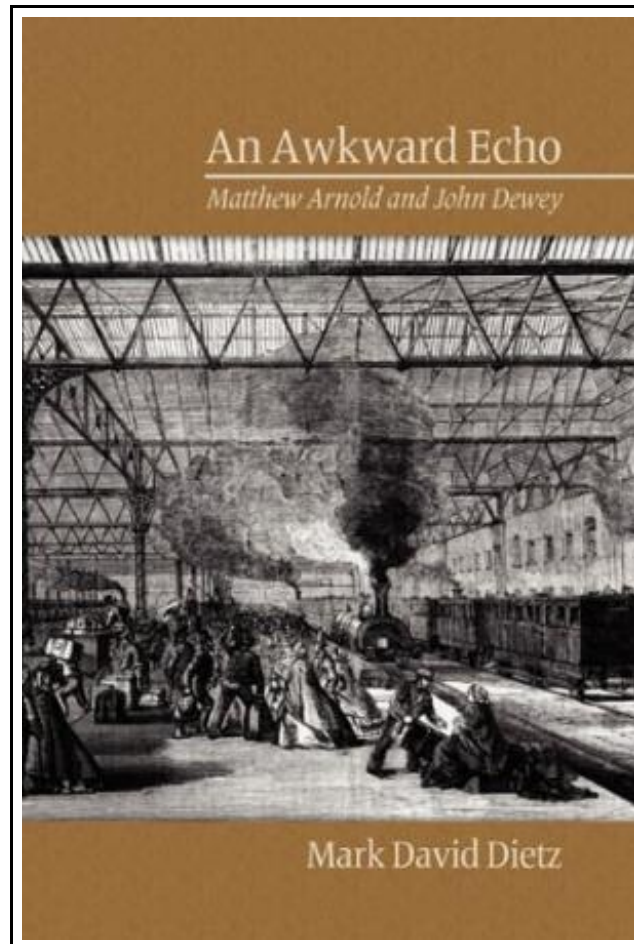


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AN AWKWARD ECHO: MATTHEW ARNOLD AND JOHN DEWEY (HC)



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Information Age Publishing. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 282 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.2in. x 0.9in. A volume in Research in Curriculum and Instruction Series Editor: O. L. Davis, Jr. The University of Texas at Austin Matthew Arnold, 19th century English poet, literary critic and school inspector, felt that each age had to determine that philosophy that was most adequate to its own concerns and contexts. This study looks at the influence that Matthew Arnold had on John Dewey and attempts to fashion a philosophy of education that is adequate for our own peculiarly awkward age. Today, Arnold and Dewey are embraced by opposing political positions. Arnold, as the apostle of culture, is often advocated by conservative educators who see in him a support for an education founded on great books and Victorian values, while Dewey still has a notably liberal coloring and is not too infrequently tarred for the excesses of progressive education, even those for which he bears no responsibility at all. Both, no doubt, are misread by those who rather carelessly use them as idols for their own politics of education. This study proposes a pluralistic approach to education in which pluralism means not only plurality of voices, but also plurality of processes. Using a model built out of a study of rhetoric and hermeneutics, four aspects of mind are identified that draw Arnold and Dewey into close correspondence. These aspects are the tentacle mind (using Dewey's favorite metaphor for breaking down the barrier between mind and body), the critical mind (which builds on the concepts of criticism that animated both Arnold and Dewey's approach to experience), the intentional mind (which attempts a long overdue rehabilitation of the concept of authority and an expansion upon the increasingly apparent limitations of reader-response theory) and the reflective-response mind (in which...



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