

included in school leadership, especially when it relates to issues of curriculum development and discipline. This idea for "shared decision making," which is, to be sure, a contentious one (especially among school administrators), has been suggested in part as a way to "revitalize public schools." What is significant is that this idea has come not just from teachers themselves but also from teacher educators, state education department staff, and elected officials.

How, then, do these recent developments fit in with the general picture of the erosion of teacher professionalism that predominates in the Lawn and Grace book? Has the situation made a sudden turnaround during the last few years? If so, how do we account for it? Will these developments merely serve to incorporate teacher dissent into an acceptable and "domesticated" form? Will they turn out to be proposals that fizzle out in the long run? Are the situations in England and the United States and elsewhere in fact significantly different from one another, and if so, how and why? Clearly, this is a critical juncture in the work of teachers and there is still much to learn and think about.

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**Mac Linscott Ricketts.**

**MIRCEA ELIADE: THE ROMANIAN ROOTS, Vols. 1 & 2.**

**Boulder, CO: East European Monographs**

**(distributed by Columbia University Press, New York).**

**1453 pp. US\$180.00.**

Given Eliade's published notebooks, journal entries, autobiography, and novels containing autobiographical accounts, one may wonder why Professor Ricketts undertook the task of writing a detailed biography of the famed University of Chicago scholar. Yet, as one soon discovers upon reading *Mircea Eliade*, this book adds greatly to the already known facts.

Ricketts argues that to truly know Professor Eliade intimately, one must get acquainted with his formative years. This includes not only developmental milestones but also his intellectual growth as a budding scholar and genius. Thirty well-written chapters take us step-by-step through this erudite man's early childhood, the lyceum and university years, as well as his pre- and post-India adventures. Besides describing the events and experiences that shaped young Eliade, Ricketts also provides a detailed analysis of his journalistic contributions, as well as his fiction and nonfiction writings up to 1945. Eliade's novellas, for instance, are summarized, interpreted, and also deciphered in terms of the

autobiographical information they contain. The cultural and historical contexts within which Eliade grew up are also prominent in this impressive biography. No details seem to escape the author.

Mac Linscott Ricketts is well-qualified for having assumed this mammoth project of 1453 pages. As a student of Eliade at the University of Chicago from 1959 to 1964, he learned to read Romanian and soon became one of the Professor's official translators of his fiction as well as scholarly works, including the translation into English of the first volume to the savant's autobiography. Moreover, upon receiving a Fulbright-Hays grant in 1981, he traveled to Romania to unearth articles and manuscripts written by (and pertinent to) the historian of religions which for nearly half a century were buried in obscure local newspapers. In addition to recovering these materials, the author eventually received from a Romanian colleague full texts of Eliade's radio talks, his licentiate and doctoral theses, as well as boxes of notebooks, correspondence, manuscripts, diaries, plays, and so forth, written by the savant in his youth. (Some of these were found by stroke of luck in Bucharest in 1981 after Ricketts' departure.)

Over 90 percent of Eliade's entire *oeuvre* was in Ricketts' hands before writing his book. Thus, by the time the monumental work was completed, he had consulted thousands of items. As a result, scores of new biographical information about Mircea Eliade are integrated within this book. In his later years, the historian of religions himself never had access to the documents Ricketts was privileged to consult, and in fact did not refer to many of them in his memoirs. (Upon leaving Romania for England as cultural attaché in 1940, Eliade fully expected to return to his homeland and resume his creative activities. He therefore left behind scores of manuscripts, books, notebooks, and so forth, believing he was to eventually retrieve them. Fate, however, decided otherwise.)

I have only a few reservations regarding *Mircea Eliade*. Firstly, its price is exorbitant (\$180.00). Secondly, the footnotes for Volume 1 are located at the end of Volume 2, making reading somewhat tedious. Thirdly, there is no topical index to help orient the reader. Finally, while Professor Ricketts exonerates Eliade from alleged anti-Semitic sentiments with sound and detailed expositions of facts, quotes and events, I would have welcomed an integration of all these within a specific chapter or appendix. These minor points aside, this book is a remarkable piece of scholarship filling many gaps about Eliade's life while in Romania. What we have here is a labour of love deserving the highest praise. No one interested in Eliade's life and thought can afford to by-pass Ricketts' contribution.

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