

working alone – it is now a sharing, cooperative venture with the students, with all working toward the same goal. To me, this is what teaching is all about.

Perhaps this book will help spread “the climate of delight” across Canada. If it helps prevent the anguish of another Tina Cain, it will be worthwhile. If it helps lower our national rate of illiteracy, it will be wonderful.

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John N. Miner.

**THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND:
A.F. LEACH IN HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

**Montreal & Toronto: McGill Queen's University Press, 1990.
384 pp. \$42.50.**

In 1884 A.F. Leach, a young barrister, a graduate of Oxford, was appointed a charity commissioner with the purpose, in the light of the findings of the Endowed Schools Act, of re-organizing the allocation of funds from endowments made to schools and other educational bodies. This proved to be a formidable task for many reasons. First, there was no unified central system of accounting and recording the diverse forms of endowment. There were, it is true, lots of partially relevant documents stored in many offices of ancient boroughs, in cathedrals, churches, and universities, but these were widely distributed, in many forms and usually written in idiosyncratic Latin. Further, many were very old, damaged, and missing. They referred to a confusing number of different kinds of schools. There were, for example, charity schools for choristers, hospital schools rather like alms houses, and there were some which awarded degrees. Some schools had ceased to exist, others had been refounded in a similar or different form with the same or different name. Over the medieval period social upheavals, such as the dissolution of the monasteries, the rejection of papal influence, and catastrophes like the Black Death, all led to difficulties in collecting and integrating information about schools in different places at different times; then, some authorities refused to give evidence.

For some 40 years, Leach was closely involved in tracing and studying old manuscripts amassing an enormous, but not complete, amount of data from which he published extensively. He wrote a number of detailed specific works on individual schools which had adequate records. His major contribution from the documentary study of England's medieval grammar schools was of an institutional kind. He was unable to deal adequately with evidence

about what happened in the schools, what was taught, how it was taught, and what the social life was like. He did however produce considerable evidence in the teaching of Latin; that instruction was by formal, rhetorical reasoning; the Church controlled the content which was derived from classical Roman antiquity.

In spite of the output of publications and the fact that he drew important conclusions from his studies, his work was virtually unknown until the author of this book, John N. Miner, of the University of Windsor, began to study Leach's work for a doctoral dissertation. After completing the degree he continued "to track down all Leach's extensive and scattered writing on the history of the grammar schools." This book is the result of 28 years of study by Miner, including two sabbatical years. Experienced medievalists will find it a most rewarding and demanding study. Other practitioners in education with little Latin and limited knowledge of pre-Reformation English history will be handicapped but they will find a great deal here to interest them.

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Gallup Organization.
A GALLUP SURVEY OF GEOGRAPHIC KNOWLEDGE
IN THE SOVIET UNION.
Princeton, NJ. Gallup Organization, November, 1989.
53 pp.

It is tempting to call this survey "Son of Glasnost" as it is the Soviet sequel to the nine-nation survey of geographical education (1988) which was reviewed in the *McGill Journal of Education*, Vol. 24 No. 3, 1989. The significance of this survey, however, is not simply that it adds the USSR to the list but that this is the first Gallup geographical education survey inside the USSR, and, even more importantly, the first survey of geographical knowledge ever made by anyone inside the USSR. The West has become somewhat blasé about surveys, paying less attention than is wise: this survey should be regarded with greater attention as it, in keeping with all good surveys, not only provides answers to questions but also raises more questions consequent to those answers, e.g., the setting.

The setting is the largest of the republics in the USSR, the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic (RSFSR), which has over half the population of the USSR, 90% of its oil, 70% of its natural gas, an area covering eleven time zones (further than from Newfoundland to the Aleutians), and has just elected Boris Yeltsin its Chairman of Parliament and nonexecutive