

Reaction To Alar Lipping's Paper

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1. First reaction was to recall Eliot, his five-foot shelf book idea, that Dudley A. Sargent was employed there at that point, his unwillingness to meet with the Leland Stanfords and the aftermath, and why Harvard's endowment is now more than double that of Yale.

2. When Lipping refers to liberal arts education at that time, he is really referring to a liberal arts **and science** education! (Eliot's subjects were mathematics & chemistry.) Some feel that he went overboard on the elective system idea too (Harvard in 1900 and Western in 1952) - recall the core of gen. educ. subjects now recommended.

3. I immediately went to Bruce Bennett's doctoral study on the life of Dr. Sargent, especially in connection with Sargent not receiving a professorship probably because of his presumed antipathy with intercollegiate athletics! It does appear that Eliot and Sargent saw eye to eye on the subject of the finest type of athletic experience for young men . . .

4. Further, I was delighted to learn about Eliot's concern with the person's overall development. When Harvard revised its core curriculum in the 1970s (that had been in effect for some 30 years), I wrote the dean about the question of including theory & practice of developmental physical activity in sport, dance, play & exercise as a core subject, etc., etc.

5. Eliot's concept of 'amateurism' in athletics rang true for the purists of the Ivy League (Seward Stately had the same antipathy against spectatoritis!); our great challenge is to figure out a way that semipro and professional sport can be carried out in a truly professional & education manner.

6. Interesting that less or greater excesses in athletics began in the 1870s app. and raged up to the end of Eliot's tenure as President. The 1929 Carnegie Report catalogued them and the problems exist down to this day.

7. The Clemson President was recently forced to resign; at least Eliot was able to nobly survive his steady criticism of athletic excesses while at the same time extolling the virtues of participation in "manly amateur sport!"