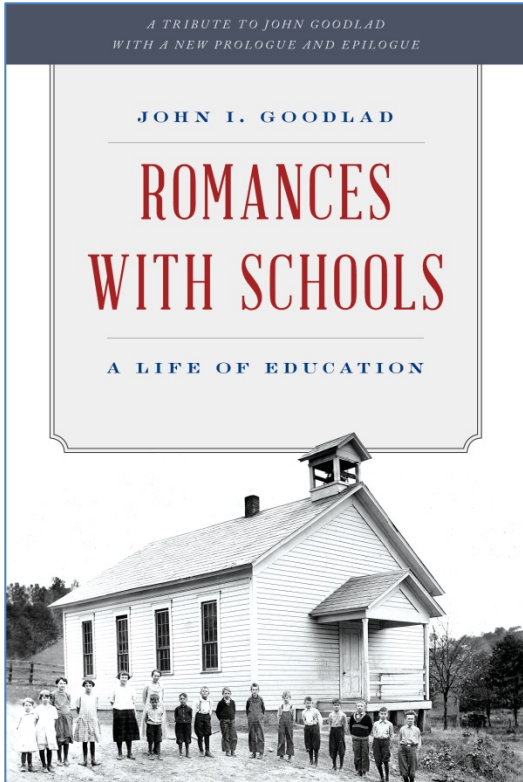


# Romances with Schools

## A Life of Education

John I. Goodlad

Continued by Stephen J. Goodlad



“One of America’s leading school reformers . . . [a] humane, sensible, and creative educator. He was a formidable philosopher on wheels.”

— **Carl F. Kaestle, University Professor of Education, History, and Public Policy, emeritus, Brown University**

“Throughout his professional life, John Goodlad was a ‘drummer for alternatives,’ always asking ‘Why?’ In *Romances with Schools*, the gentle professor recounted intimate details of his journey (from humble beginnings in British Columbia to international renown) and shared what he learned along the way. Insistent upon the moral dimensions of teaching and learning, Goodlad reserved his scorn for those who would base all educational decisions on so-called ‘scientific research.’ Most of what passes for educational reform, he said, is mere ‘monkeying around,’ and this trivialization threatens the foundations of our democracy. *Romances with Schools*, John Goodlad’s gift to his many admirers, ought to read by everyone who cares about public education.”— **John Merrow, Former Host and Executive Producer of National Public Radio’s “The Merrow Report”**

“Honest, revealing, occasionally acerbic and always thoughtful. It may be that age and vast experience allowed him this luxury, but the rest of us stand to gain immensely from his boldness. Reading his educational autobiography, tracing the changes in schools and all that went with them over almost 90 years through his own experiences offers a rare treat: the people, ideas, passing fads, and vivid stories, stories, stories. When last had I read a book to match his for vivid

recollections of childhood schooling—his memories of each and every teacher, of fellow students, the smell of chalk, the daily traumas, his early teaching experiences in Canada’s one-room schoolhouses and reform schools, as well as his many years of focused attention to what democratic schooling is all about? A tour de force—and in his way, a call to arms! I loved it.”

— **Deborah Meier, senior scholar at New York University’s Steinhardt School of Education and MacArthur Award-winning founder of the Central Park East School in East Harlem and the Mission Hill School in Boston**

In *Romances with Schools*, John Goodlad steps out from behind the public persona of distinguished scholar and advocate for public schooling to offer a moving personal account of a life devoted to educating the young. He deftly interweaves fascinating personal details with reflections on many of the larger issues in education that he has explored throughout his career. Stephen Goodlad, John’s son, has written a moving Prologue to the book that provides behind-the-scenes insight into John’s life. An Epilogue by Roger Soder, a long-time colleague, places John’s work of school renewal in the context of political change.

**John I. Goodlad** is the author of *A Place Called School*, the groundbreaking study of the effectiveness of the American system of education. For over sixty years, he has been a leading force in improving public schooling in North America. John died in November 2014.

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