

Rees, Gary W. and Mary Hoeber. *Catalogue of Sanborn Atlases at the California State University, Northridge*. Western Association of Map Libraries, Occasional Paper no. 1. Santa Cruz, Cal.: Western Association of Map Libraries, 1973. Pp. xxi, 122. Illustrations. \$4.00

Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. Western Association of Map Libraries, Occasional Papers nos. 2 and 3. Santa Cruz, Cal.: Western Association of Map Libraries, 1976-77. Vol. 1 (*Alabama to Missouri*) by R. Philip Hoehn. Pp. xvii, 178. \$5.00. Vol. 2 (*Montana to Wyoming; Canada and Mexico*) by William S. Peterson-Hunt and Evelyn L. Woodruff, with a Supplement and Corrigenda to Vol. 1 by R. Philip Hoehn. Pp. xv, 201. \$6.00

Frances Woodward

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In the preface, the authors compare themselves to small boys who cannot resist the temptation to take an alarm clock apart. Like many small boys with dismantled clocks, Armstrong and Nelles do not quite succeed in putting things back together again.

Although the book deals only with Toronto during a nine year period, it is incredibly complex. There are at least five main subjects: municipal politics, municipal corruption, municipal reform movements, the relationship of business and local government, and the sabbatarian movement. In addition, there are two important subsidiary themes: class conflict, especially applying to the relationship between organized labour and businessmen, and religious differences, particularly between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Compounding the confusion is a mass of detail and an unsatisfactory system of organization. Just as the reader thinks he has sorted out the leading characters and arguments on the Sunday car question, for example, he is thrown into a chapter detailing yet another squabble between the street railway company and the city council. Moreover, the authors, by deliberately relegating their "sermonizing" (p. vii) or analysis to the conclusion, deny the reader guideposts along the way.

It is unfortunate that the authors let their almost antiquarian enthusiasm for the subject carry them away for they do raise some significant questions in the course of reaching their conclusion:

the stridency and militancy displayed in these crusades [concerning Sunday cars and municipal reform] reflected deep and abiding tensions within the community--tensions created not simply by a clash of ethical standards but also by a jockeying for power and influences amongst competing groups in a time of economic uncertainty (p. 173).

No doubt in their forthcoming larger study of Canadian public utilities at the turn of the century, Armstrong and Nelles will rise above the minutiae and will explore and develop the themes they have raised here only tangentially. One also hopes that they, or some other historian, will develop this "footnote" into a full scale study of the secularization of Canadian society.

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Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. Western Association of Map Libraries, Occasional

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Fire insurance plans are a valuable source of information for urban history, almost unknown to the researcher ten years ago. They are now amongst the most heavily used parts of historical map collections, and becoming more easily accessible through catalogues such as Fire Insurance Plans in the National Map Collection (reviewed in June 1978 Urban History Review), and the first three Occasional Papers of the Western Association of Map Libraries.

Occasional Paper No. 1 is the catalogue of the collection deposited by the Sanborn Map Company, the major American producer of fire insurance plans, with the California State University, Northridge, when the Company's San Francisco office was moved. After a brief introduction to Sanborn fire insurance plans, the collection is listed alphabetically by state, with an additional page for Canada and Mexico. The bibliography is a useful addition as so little has been written about fire insurance plans. The index, arranged by state, county and community, is somewhat redundant. The entries in the catalogue are very brief, with a statement at the beginning of each state section giving the number of maps or volumes of maps and the number of communities covered. Symbols are used to indicate whether the maps are loose, bound, or small format bound. "The Key to Symbols" and a sample page have been reproduced in colour, giving the user a good idea of the information contained in fire insurance plans. The two Canadian plans, New Westminster (1931-1947) and Vancouver (1927-1951), do not appear to be extant in Canada.

Occasional Papers Nos. 2 and 3 are a union list of Sanborn fire insurance plans in libraries and public institutions in North America, excluding the Library of Congress (where a catalogue is currently being prepared in the Geography and Map Division), and California State University, Northridge (Occasional Paper No. 1). The entries, although in a smaller type and double columns, are easier to read. The arrangement is alphabetical by city within the state, with Canada and Mexico following Wyoming. If a city is large enough to have more than one volume, the volumes are listed separately. If other cities, or subdivisions with other names, are included in an atlas, it is so stated on the second line of the entry. The entries give the dates of publication and final revision, the number of sheets in the volume (if provided by the contributor), and the standard abbreviation for the institution holding the plan. Appended to Volume 2 are a supplement and corrigenda to Volume 1, and a two-page bibliography. The only Canadian plans listed are five for British Columbia (Granville, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Victoria and Yale), all done in 1885, and available in Special Collections Division, U.B.C.

These three Occasional Papers are invaluable reference guides to anyone interested in urban history in western Canada, the United States

and Mexico. It would have been more valuable if the holdings of Northridge and the Library of Congress could have been combined with the other institutions listed in Occasional Papers Nos. 2 and 3, but perhaps a more inclusive guide can be produced sometime, now that the National Map Collection's catalogue is available, and the Library of Congress' catalogue of fire insurance plans will be published in the near future.

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Fishman, Robert. Urban Utopias in the Twentieth Century: Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier. New York: Basic Books, 1977. Pp. xiv, 332. Illustrated. \$13.95.

This work offers intellectual biographies of the only three men of our century, as Fishman argues with some persuasiveness, who developed fully fledged conceptions of urban utopias. The aims of the book are three: to "recapture the historical context - the political movements and the climate of ideas - from which the three ideal cities first emerged; to connect the three planners' innovations in urban design with the revolutionary goals these innovations were intended to achieve; and . . . to understand the personalities and motivations of the three planners" (pp. x-xi). With the aid of tight organization and lucid writing, the author in large measure achieves each of his objectives.

Fishman's attempt to understand such origins of the utopian models as may be found in these men's personalities extends in the cases of Wright and LeCorbusier to childhood and adolescence. That Wright's association of stable family life with a rural setting originated partly in the contrast between the failing marriage of his parents in an urban setting, and the family solidarity of the rural Lloyd Jones family with whom he spent his boyhood summers, does appear plausible. However, as elsewhere in this book, Fishman here expresses likelihood as demonstrated fact. Howard's youth receives no analysis. Perhaps the material was not there; perhaps the personality of this mild-mannered and avuncular stenographer was deemed uninteresting beside those of the mercurial and unyielding Wright and LeCorbusier. In middle age, all three suffered from a sense of powerlessness which precipitated radicalization of their ideas: Howard's failure as an inventor; Wright's frustration by 1907 with his inability to shape the environment beyond the "asylum" of Oak Park and his suburban neighbours' opposition to his divorce; LeCorbusier's recognition in the late 'Twenties that large corporations would not effect massive urban renewal schemes. Oddly, while Fishman makes many illuminating comparisons among his subjects, this obvious parallel is ignored.

Fishman's achievement in showing the influence of contemporary movements and ideas on the urban utopians is impressive, and all the more