

Seidensticker, Edward. *Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991. Pp. ix, 362. Illustrations, maps, index. \$14.95 (US)

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méthodes, il aurait été intéressant d'en avoir une appréciation.

Dans son article qui discute comment les stratégies récentes de développement scientifique du Fonds FCAR et du CRSHC orientent la recherche au Québec, Normand Séguin fournit un aperçu très éclairant sur un volet des "contextes socioculturels dans lesquels évoluent les scientifiques." Ses propos concernant l'apparition du terme "excellence dans le discours officiel sur le développement scientifique" (p.109) et la priorité accordée à la "recherche collective" au Québec, loin de vider la question, constituent néanmoins une bonne base de réflexion. Le texte de Conrad Ouellon qui critique avec énergie la nature des rapports que nourrissent les linguistes du Québec avec la société et qui offre des conseils pragmatiques pour y remédier impliquant le Fonds FCAR et CRSHC, entre autres, vient nourrir d'autant plus l'analyse. On ne peut malheureusement pas en dire autant du texte de Gérald Grandmont sur l'évolution des pratiques muséologiques. Il s'en tient à des généralisations qui valent pour l'ensemble des musées occidentaux. Les musées du Québec ont-ils des approches, des préoccupations distinctes? Ces dernières suscitent-elles de la controverse, des débats parmi les chercheurs et les muséologues? Aucun moyen de la savoir.

Si l'on en vient aux articles censés annoncer des "voies de recherche parmi les plus récentes", les apports s'avèrent des plus inégaux. Du côté des contributions enrichissantes signalons le texte de Guildo Rousseau concernant la commercialisation publicitaire de la ceinture électrique en Amérique du Nord entre 1890 et 1915, celui de André Paradis au sujet des changements des

conceptions de la maladie au 19e siècle au Québec, de Josias Semujangua sur les littératures francophones et enfin de Marcel Fournier sur les représentations symboliques associées à la construction de l'édifice de l'Université de Montréal. Dans ces "micro-études", les auteurs ont bien su marier les considérations théoriques qu'ils entretiennent à l'égard de leur discipline avec des illustrations pratiques, des recherches appuyées sur le terrain.

En revanche, on comprend moins bien l'inclusion des articles de Jocelyn Létourneau et de Guylaine Girouard. Les deux auteurs, chacun dans leur domaine (l'histoire du Québec depuis la Deuxième Guerre mondiale et l'histoire des femmes), semblent avoir occulté des pans importants de la recherche effectuée au cours de la dernière décennie. Jocelyn Létourneau semble n'avoir pas tenu compte des thèses révisionnistes qui remettent en question depuis quelques années déjà les analyses privilégiant une conception toute en rupture entre le Québec des années cinquante et celui des années soixante. Notons de plus que son vocabulaire "jargonneux" risque fort d'en faire un promoteur de ces "sciences tristes qui ont très peu d'audience sociale" (ndr #16, p.61) auxquelles fait allusion le directeur de ce recueil. Les propos de Guylaine Girouard appartiennent davantage à un pamphlet de promotion pour vanter les mérites généraux de faire de l'histoire des femmes, des propos qui malheureusement ont encore besoin d'être réitérés à de trop fréquentes occasions, mais pas dans le contexte d'un ouvrage consacré à mettre en relief les dynamismes de la recherche en histoire des femmes au Québec; des dynamismes qui sont, soit dit en passant, entièrement passés sous silence ici.

Il s'agit donc d'un ouvrage sur un sujet important qui n'a pas toujours atteint attentes suscitées dans sa Présentation.

NICOLE NEATBY

Seidensticker, Edward. *Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991. Pp. ix, 362. Illustrations, maps, index. \$14.95 (US).

The history of Tokyo in many ways reflects the history of modern Japan itself. Following the Meiji Restoration of 1868, Edo—the seat of the Tokugawa shogunate—was chosen to replace Kyoto as the new capital and was renamed Tokyo (Eastern capital). Since then, it has been transformed into one of the most sophisticated and modern cities of the world. The story of Tokyo in its first decades was the subject of the author's earlier book *Low City, High City* (1983). In the book under review, *Tokyo Rising*, the author brings the Japanese capital's history from the Great Earthquake of 1923 right up to the present.

The author's name needs no introduction to students of Japanese literature and culture. Now an emeritus professor at Columbia University, Edward Seidensticker is a distinguished translator of numerous Japanese literary works, from the famed eleventh-century masterpiece *The Tale of Genji* to modern novels by Nagai Kafû and the Nobel laureate Kawabata Yasunari. In his account of the metamorphosis of Tokyo through the disaster of the earthquake and the catastrophe of the American air raids in 1945, Seidensticker deliberately has chosen to adopt an impressionistic and anecdotal style, documenting the social and physical changes of the city by perceptive passages from the writings of Kawabata, Tanizaki Jun'ichirô, Takami Jun, and most notably, Kafû.

It will not take the reader long to realize that even though the book is entitled *Tokyo Rising*, the author's nostalgic heart is with Edo's once popular quarters of *shitamachi* (translated by the author as Low City; originally implying the settlement below the castle where the merchants and plebians resided). One readily notices the impact of Kawabata and Kafû, which the author seems to have warmly acknowledged, on his view of Tokyo and his distinct sense of aestheticism. Low City, by the way, was cruelly devastated by the great earthquake of 1923. One of the themes of the book is the decline of Asakusa, a "bustling place" (*sakariba*) with its celebrated theatres and brothels, and the devastating changes that took place in other quarters such as Ginza in the Low City. The feelings of an aging character for the fading flavours of the past in Kafû's novel *During the Rains*, cited in the book, seems to be those of Kafû and the author himself: "The Ginza of today is not the Ginza of yesterday. ... The old pleasure centers are gone, and the good taste threatened to go with them" (pp. 24-25).

The urban change in the years following the earthquake is recorded by a chronology of anecdotes, which can hardly be found anywhere else in English-language literature. Through these seemingly disparate materials, the author gives life and character to different places in what now becomes the multi-centre Tokyo metropolis. One learns all sorts of behind-the-scenes stories about the architecture, dress, food, entertainment, and crime during the past seven decades. For example, the author describes the circumstances in which Tokyo's first subway line was built in Ginza in 1927 and traces the origins of Tokyo's first *meitengai* (shopping mall) at the Yaesu Mouth in Tokyo station, and then takes pains to identify the etymological root of the name of Yaesu to a certain Dutchman, Jan

Joosten, who served the first Tokugawa shogun in early seventeenth century. On other occasions, with a fine eye for detail, the author tells the reader trifles which should become good materials for a Trivial Pursuit game exclusively for Tokyoites: that customers were allowed to wear shoes in the department stores only after the earthquake, or that the practice of wearing Western-style underpants among the female employees at the Shirokiya began after this famed department store was struck by a fire in late 1932.

The author acts here neither as historian nor as a researcher intending to provide a methodical and comprehensive study of Tokyo's history. The book rather should be read as a distinctive literary expression of the author's affection and attachment to the city.

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Mollenkopf, John Hull, *A Phoenix in the Ashes: The Rise and Fall of the Koch Coalition in New York City Politics*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1992. Pp. xi, 285. Tables, maps, index.

Recently American cities have tended to develop in one of two ways. After rejecting conservative governments, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia, for example, elected liberal biracial coalitions. Boston, Minneapolis, and San Francisco, on the other hand, choose white, liberal, neighborhood-oriented administrations heavily dependent on minority votes. Although it was the nation's biggest metropolis and had a large minority population, New York took yet a third course. Campaigning for mayor in 1977, Edward Koch appealed to white ethnic constituencies by attacking black leaders and ardently defending

middle-class values and interests. Thus he added to his usual white liberal support the votes of middle-class Jewish and white Catholic elements from outer-borough neighborhoods. This strategy involved the risk of alienating black voters, but Koch apparently accepted this as a necessary cost and attempted to minimize the damage by cultivating his ties to minority politicians. His shrewd implementation of this approach carried him to victory over Mario Cuomo in both primary and general elections.

Recognizing that his electoral base was weak, Koch sought to create an effective governing coalition by seeking support from municipal unions, black defenders of poverty programs, and the white Catholics who had voted for Cuomo. At the same time he cultivated alliances with the regular Democratic county organizations and Manhattan's post-industrial corporate elite. These measures established his conservative credentials so effectively that Republican county leaders were willing to offer him their party's nomination for mayor in 1981.

This unique conservative political coalition emerged in the context of a city making the transition from an industrial to a post-industrial era. Major features of the change were a sharp decline in manufacturing activity and a remarkable growth in financial and service industries. The mayor took advantage of the new conditions by advocating ambitious construction projects that appealed to the real estate developers, investment bankers, and lawyers who constituted the post-industrial elite. In return they provided the financial support he needed to make the coalition effective. Meanwhile, an economic recovery made it possible for him to provide pay raises for public employees, while shrewd distribution of patronage kept the regular Democratic county organizations in line. In this way