

## Review Notes

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**Fletcher, Katharine. *Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1993. Pp. 252. Illustrations. Maps. \$16.99 paper.**

*Capital Walks* is the latest and probably the best of books describing walking tours of Ottawa, though it tends, like its predecessors, to see the "city" through the prism of the "capital." What Fletcher brings to this guide, however, is the experience of prior publication—her *Historical Walks of Gatineau Park*—and of an abiding interest and activity in the heritage community of the city. As well, this book is more field-tested than most.

It also has the added virtue of enveloping the artefacts of the city, notably its buildings, with the history of the people who made and use them. It is rich in detail, and useable for touring and as a quick introduction to the history of Ottawa.

**L'Aménagement urbain: Promesses et défis. Sous la direction de Annick Germain. Montreal: Institut Québécois de recherche sur la culture, 1991. Pp. 270. Illus. Maps. \$25.00 paper.**

This volume when first published was one of 18 in an IQRC series entitled "Questions de culture." It consists of an introduction by Prof. Germain, followed by seven separately-authored chapters by scholars from many disciplines in the social sciences, though all are attached to centres of planning, urbanism, or architecture.

In a broad sense, all of the articles revolve around the question posed by Denise Piché for Quebec City: How does one place people and their culture at the heart of planning? In even posing the question, the author (and her colleagues) are reflecting on what is probably the major planning trend of the past 10 or 15 years, one that has seen "science" as

the heart of the planning enterprise at least partially replaced by "art."

These are thoughtful articles for scholars engaged in the study of planning or in its application.

**Bloomfield, Elizabeth, with Linda Foster and Jane Forgay. *Waterloo County to 1972: An Annotated Bibliography of Regional History*. Kitchener: Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, 1993. Pp. 734. \$55.00.**

This bibliography must rank as one of the finest of its type published in Ontario. It is part of the foundation of the Waterloo Regional Project, but the occasion of its birth was the twentieth anniversary of the regional municipality.

It is comprehensive, embracing 4,531 items, and it is accessible, organized thematically and cross-referenced to author, place, and subject. It is available in both machine-readable and print formats.

What is especially impressive is the strength of the annotations, which have both breadth and depth, and as an added bonus are literate. Clearly the three bibliographers brought extensive prior knowledge to the material. Moreover, it was knowledge that required mastery not only of the English material but the German Mennonite and Scottish material found in the county.

Rounding out the volume is a brief introduction to the county. This is a marvellous example of what happens when capable scholars and bibliographers make the best of what computers can do.

**Grenier A., and J.-M.M. Dubois. *Publications et recherches en géographie et télédétection à l'université de Sherbrooke (1957–1993)*. Sherbrooke: Département de Géographie et télédétection, 1993. Pp. 250.**

This is a bibliography of a different kind, essentially a compendium of the academic product of a university department over a period of more than 35 years. It includes theses and research essays, publications, and even a list of research grants awarded through the years.

For the most part, the material focuses on the Sherbrooke area, though some does go farther afield. It is a potentially important resource for urban historians, especially those with an interest in the area of the Eastern Townships.

**Roger, Richard. *Research in Urban History: A Classified Survey of Doctoral and Master Theses*. Brookfield, Vermont: Scolar Press, 1994. Pp. 264. \$78.95 cloth.**

This bibliography classifies and cross-references some 2,000 British theses chronologically, thematically, and by place. It is one of three new publications with a British focus but released through this American press. The others are Helen Dingwall's *Late 17th Century Edinburgh: A Demographic Study*, and Neil Collins's *Politics and Elections in 19th Century Liverpool*.

**Spry, Irene M., and Bennett McCardle. *The Records of the Department of the Interior and Research Concerning Canada's Western Frontier of Settlement*. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1993. Pp. 198. \$32.00 paper.**

In some ways this remarkable volume is an archivist's version of putting Humpty-Dumpty back together again.

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When the Prairie provinces gained control over their resources in 1930, the records of the federal Department of the Interior (1873–1936), which had managed these resources, were dispersed. The coherence of the record of the "Western Frontier of Settlement" was thus lost. This is an attempt to recover it, in part by locating the elements of the dispersed records, but also through a fine introductory essay of T.D. Regehr on pioneer scholarly work, and by noting additional material, for example on local government and the territorial lieutenant-governors.

An exemplar of reproductions of maps, pictures, prints, and documents complements the printed sections of the volume. This volume should receive first-order consideration for the shelves of scholars of the Prairie provinces.

**Wilson, R.D., and Eric McLean. *The Living Past of Montreal*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's, 1993. Pp. n/a.**

Eric McLean was the first person to restore a house in Old Montreal as a private residence, marking perhaps the beginning of the heritage restoration movement. The first edition of *The Living*

*Past of Montreal* in 1964 was also part of that process, McLean as now, providing the text. The volume was revised in 1976, and the current edition further revised, with some 20 new drawings by R.D. Wilson, to bring the total to 57.

This is among the most sympathetic of the urban histories of Montreal, though probably the least comprehensive (the emphasis is on buildings) and in many ways the most personal and idiosyncratic. It is nonetheless a joy to look at and to read.

**Smith, Donald, ed. *Centennial City: Calgary 1894–1994*. Calgary: University of Calgary, 1994. Pp. 88. Illus. \$4.95. paper (limited edition).**

This volume is a collaboration of scholars at the University of Calgary and the community (as contributors and sponsors) in celebration of the city's centennial.

In addition to the seven substantive chapters, it contains a useful timeline and bibliography. And while all articles are necessarily short and directed to a school-age audience (two copies were given to every Calgary school), they are

serious for the most part, and include (rare in such volumes) the usual academic apparatus. They also include players often ignored—notably natives, women, and artists.

*Centennial City* is not an urban history, nor even history in the usual sense of the word, but rather a number of forays into the city's past from (mainly) specialists in other areas. It is a collage, and in this sense is an interesting experiment in bringing together (*integrating* is not quite the right word) pluralized historical practice to bear on one subject.

**Hutchinson, T.P.. *Version 2 (History and Archaeology) of Essentials of Statistical Methods*. Sydney, Australia: Rumsby Scientific Publishing, 1993. Pp. 152. \$15.00 paper.**

This small volume provides one of the best short reviews available for those who use statistics historically. It presumes prior knowledge and is thus intended as a quick review or reference, one easily carried about. It is a rare example among volumes on statistics that actually uses examples from history (and archaeology).