

## Notes and Comments

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## CANADIAN ETHNIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Ethnic Studies Association was founded in 1971 as an interdisciplinary organization of persons actively interested in or working on the study of ethnicity, race, immigration and intergroup relations in the Canadian context. As a forum for promoting research, study and publications of interest to members, the C.E.S.A. sponsors biennial interdisciplinary conferences, produces a regular bulletin, and is planning for the publication of a scholarly journal. For further information write to:

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## RECENT MAJOR MONOGRAPHS

Two books of interest to urban historians have been released in the past year: Louise Dechêne, Habitants et Marchands de Montréal au XVII<sup>e</sup> Siècle (Plon: Montreal, 1974); and Alan F. J. Artibise, Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth, 1874-1914 (McGill-Queen's: Montreal, 1975).

Prof. Dechêne's book is a major study of the development of a new colonial society. It analyzes immigration, economic activities, demographic development, family life and religion; studies the relationship between the economic foundations of the city and its cultural and social evolution; and considers the origins of the tensions between the city and hinterland, between the merchants and the habitants.

Dr. Artibise's book is a biography of one of Canada's major cities. It describes and analyses the events, people, trends, and social movements that played a key role in its phenomenal growth and development up to the First World War. The book's unifying theme is the domination of the city's political, economic, and social life by a growth-conscious commercial elite. A second major theme is the far-reaching results this commitment to growth on the part of Winnipeg's leaders had on the social fabric of the city.

Both these books will be reviewed in the next issue of the Review.

#### CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVIST

Dr. Edwin Welch has been appointed archivist for the City of Ottawa. Dr. Welch was formerly an associate professor at the University of Ottawa Library School. He is a graduate in history from Liverpool and Southampton Universities and holds a diploma in archive administration from the same institution. He was formerly archivist for the cities of Plymouth and Southampton, and for Churchill College, Cambridge. Dr. Welch was appointed by the City of Ottawa to launch both records management and archival programs for the city.

#### VANCOUVER INVENTORIES

The Vancouver City Archives has announced the publication of its second Preliminary Inventory. The first Inventory was published in December, 1973.

The Preliminary Inventory project has been undertaken by the City

Archives as a means to inform students, teachers, professors, librarians, and interested citizens of the holdings of the Vancouver City Archives.

Each inventory entry includes the reference number, the title of the collection, the linear shelf space occupied, a brief biography of the individual, organization or institution, description of the types of donor material in the collection, and the donor.

Copies of Preliminary Inventory 1 and Preliminary Inventory 2, both edited by Mrs. Sheelagh Draper, may be obtained by sending a cheque or money order in the amount of \$6.75 to the City Archives. Inventories may be obtained separately for \$3.50 each. All orders must be pre-paid. Address orders to:

City of Vancouver Archives,  
1150 Chestnut Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6J 3J9.

#### GUIDE TO ARCHIVES IN TORONTO

The Toronto Area Archivists Groups in June, 1975, published a Guide to Archives in the Toronto Area. The guide contains descriptions of more than 40 repositories in the Toronto area and listings of 30 more. Various sections of the Guide include Business Archives, Educational Archives, Government Archives, Religious Archives and Miscellaneous Archives.

Cost of the publication is \$1.50 for members of the Toronto Area Archivists Group (TAAG) and \$2.50 for non-members, post free. Address orders and enquiries to R. Scott James, Secretary TAAG, City of Toronto Archives, City Hall, Toronto, M5H 2N2.

#### NATIONAL MAP COLLECTION PUBLICATIONS: A REVIEW

Thomas L. Nagy, Ottawa in Maps, Ottawa, 1974; and Alan F. J. Artibise and Edward H. Dahl, Winnipeg in Maps, Ottawa, 1975: National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

Samplers of maps of two major Canadian cities have now been produced by the National Map Collection of the Public Archives of Canada. Other samplers are expected to be forthcoming. Each of the published volumes is about 80 pages and each contains some 32 maps with a brief accompanying text in French and English. The cost of each volume is \$2.50 and it is available at Information Canada bookstores and some commercial outlets.

The maps are drawn primarily from the National Map Collection in Ottawa, though other repositories are used, and in the Winnipeg volume some private material is included. An appendix in each volume contains additional listings of other maps for the respective cities.

Such volumes publicize a minor national treasure and provide a form of access to it, especially for those who are distant from Ottawa or who desire cartographical material on urban development at low cost. In theory, the volumes make a good deal of sense. The two produced so far, however, reveal some technical and substantive deficiencies, more extreme in the Ottawa than the Winnipeg volume, that tend to call into question both the motives behind and the functions of the publications.

In terms of public relations, the two volumes make an impressive impact. The production is lavish, the size generous (about 10 by 12 inches), and the price low. They should certainly make someone aware of the National Map Collection and might generate a much greater use of it than has been the case.

The volumes are, however, incomplete as references, virtually unusable as teaching aids, generally shallow as learning devices, and almost meaningless as documents. Though the condemnation applies to both volumes, it can be applied more certainly to the Ottawa than the Winnipeg volume.

As reference material, the volumes suffer mainly from two deficiencies. First, there is little indication of what the samples of maps indicates: the best of maps? the worst of maps? the average map? It would be tragic, as well as dishonest to discover that these

volumes represent the first-string line-up and that the bench strength is non-existent. The appendices in the volumes are of some help, particularly in the Ottawa volume. The appendix in the Ottawa volume contains "A listing" (in English) or a "Liste exhaustive" (in French) of the maps in the National Map Collection. (This is one of a number of points, incidentally, where the translators art could have been used with greater precision.) As for the listing or liste, itself, we have an example of bilingualism ad absurdum. Parallel lists in French and English of map titles are a waste of space, of time and of money. In turning to the Winnipeg volume, however, we find, only "selected maps" or "une sélection des cartes" (take your pick) that not only detracts from its usefulness as a reference but indicates an apparent inconsistency in policy as compared with the Ottawa volume. By printing French map titles in French and English map titles in English and by putting the text on something less formidable than a 14-point slug would provide space not only for complete lists in both volumes, but possibly more maps and more explanatory text. But waste of space is endemic in both volumes to no discernable artistic or academic advantage.

As teaching aids the volumes, especially the Ottawa one, are disasters. Presumably the maps, as published, are to be usable. But technically, the Ottawa volume defies the skill, energy and expertise of the Xerox Corporation. For some reason the maps in the Ottawa volume are reproduced in blue on puce. Even good black and white line maps in the original are destroyed for copying purposes by this infelicitous choice of screens. The glossy stock--which gives every map a photographic quality--probably adds to the difficulties. Blue and puce was abandoned for black and white in the Winnipeg volume, but again, the glossy paper tends to turn xerox copies into a muddy, indecipherable, grey smudge. If preventing reproduction by any means was the aim of the publishers, they certainly succeeded. As well, the stock and the color scheme also make classroom reproduction difficult. Tests made with overhead projectors indicate that the Ottawa volume would generally be unsatisfactory as a teaching aid, and the Winnipeg volume barely adequate. In addition, many maps in both volumes run so close to the spine of the book that it would have to be broken to obtain the flat surface needed for good projection. Almost as

if to compound difficulties, the narrow margins at the spines (which detract from usability) are complemented by enormous margins at the edges (especially the top and bottom) that are filled with gigantic and well-nigh over-powering type. Given the reduction needed on most maps, logic would seem to have dictated the maximum use of page space available--even to the extent of "bleeding" the maps to the edge of the page. Excessive (and unnecessary) reduction of originals, combines with inappropriate stock and incomprehensible production serve only to obliterate the very detail that makes maps usable. Conveying information clearly plays second fiddle to what seems to be an effort to make a visual impact. But surely these collections are intended for more than an illiterate public? A matte stock, more sensitive production, and more careful treatment of margins would help to make future volumes more useful resources.

Much of the criticism of the volumes as teaching devices can be applied to the volumes as learning devices, primarily in the matter of reproduction. What can be learned from maps whose detail is so inadequate as to be undecipherable? One supposedly could turn to the text. But here we find severe failings at both the micro and macro levels. If we are to have a sampler of the cartographer's art, then the text should supply some information about the cartographers and something about the significance of the maps they produced, the purpose of the maps they produced, the problems with the maps, the errors and omissions in the maps, and some indication of why the maps that appeared were chosen. Are they unique? Special? Representative? Ordinary? Of historical value? Of technical value?

In the broader sense are these volumes supposed to demonstrate something about urban development in Canada? If so, why the gratuitous "Introduction" to the Ottawa volume? Thankfully it does not appear in the Winnipeg volume since its main function would appear to have been to take up space--that chronic failing which should be remedied without regard for the producer's feelings. But the text in neither volume provides adequate context--a failing much more severe in the Ottawa than in the Winnipeg volume. One looks almost in vain for the systematic expression of

themes such as political expansion, the development of urban infrastructure, the impact of transportation or the nature of ecological segregation. One might add that the text includes neither footnotes nor bibliography. The source of these soliloquies cannot be checked nor can they be investigated further. If the text is to be no more than promotional puff then why bother with it. Much better that an uninformed audience be left in ignorance than led into error. One can only assume the text to be secondary to the maps.

The maps as documents are virtually meaningless. Anyone at all serious about using the maps in these volumes would not only have to send to the map division for reproductions, he would have to go to Ottawa to properly find something out about them. Properly reproduced and properly identified these volumes would make such a trip unnecessary for many. Perhaps most saddening, the volumes are a departure from those dull, grey, but enormously edifying volumes, like Documents Relating to the Constitutional History of Canada, which the Public Archives has produced in the past. The map division has picked up too much of the spirit of Expo and InfoCan and not enough of the tradition of the institution of which it is a part.

Perhaps this review of the volumes of maps is too long and too critical. But they are a first effort of the map division and further volumes are to be forthcoming. To some extent the reputation of a valuable division of the Public Archives is being placed on public display. What sort of reputation the division wants is implicit in the publication of these volumes and begs some important questions that in the mind of this reviewer are insufficiently answered. What audience does the map division want to establish its reputation with? Politicians? The taxpaying public? The informed amateur? The student? The teacher? The researcher? What is the over-riding purpose of the volumes? As travel brochures? Catalogues? Teaching aids? Learning devices? Selected documents? Where is the emphasis to be placed? On the maps? The cities? The text? The bibliography? The services of the map division? What set of principles motivated the publication of the volumes in the first place? What set of principles guided the selection of maps, the text and the format?

It would have been nice to see the following phrase at the end of



each preface: "Such are the principles upon which the documents have been selected and edited." That phrase appeared at the end of an introduction to a series of documents published by the archives in 1935. But 40 years have passed and possibly we find ourselves in an "other-directed" world where a quick flash is preferred to a slow high.

John H. Taylor.

#### WESTERN CANADIAN URBAN HISTORY

The papers that were presented in Winnipeg in October 1974 at the Western Canadian Urban History Conference have now been published. Cities in the West: Papers of the Western Canada Urban History Conference was edited by A.R. McCormack and Ian MacPherson and is available from Marketing Services Division, National Museums of Canada, 360 Lisgar Street, Ottawa K1A 0M8. It may be purchased by forwarding a cheque or money order for \$3.75 to this address.

URBAN RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

The transfiguration of the Urban Research Council of Canada from its former embodiment--The Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research--continues apace with the publication this year of the first issues of Urban Forum/Colloque Urbaine.

The Urban Forum, to be published quarterly, succeeds the six-year-old Urban Research Bulletin.

The publication of the Urban Forum follows on the heels of the development of the Urban Research Council of Canada, which is intended to involve a much larger constituency and have a somewhat narrower focus than its predecessor organization, the CCURR.

The first two issues of Urban Forum, beginning with Volume 1, Number 1 in the Spring of 1975, have thus far contained articles such as "Immigrants and Cities", "Sharing Space: Zoning Laws and Alternatives", and "The Changing Structure of the Tertiary Economy of Newfoundland". The Forum also contains interviews, book reviews, a calendar of events and a section on studies in progress.

Subscriptions to the Forum are \$3 for four issues, or are free with a \$20 membership to the Urban Research Council of Canada. Cheques should be made payable to the Urban Research Council of Canada, 251 Laurier West, Suite 1100, Ottawa, Canada, K1P 5J6.

The council continues to print its Supplements to Urban and Regional References. They are available at \$8 for council members and \$15 for non-members.

## PUBLICATIONS ON OTTAWA REGION

Two in-house publications by departments at Carleton University of interest to urban historians have been produced in the past year.

The first is Urban Politics in Ottawa-Carleton: Research Essays, edited by Donald C. Rowat, and published by the Department of Political Science, Carleton University, 1974. The second is Language and Income: Ottawa-Hull, 1961-71, by Bill Murch and Stefan Palko, under the direction of D. R. F. Taylor, and published by the Department of Geography, Carleton University, 1975.

Urban Politics is a volume of five essays produced by students in Prof. Rowat's graduate seminar. Each deals with some aspect of local government in the Ottawa area in the contemporary period.

Language and Income is a 57-page statistical and mapping study of Ottawa Hull. It is the product of two students in a computer mapping course given by the Geography Department. The study uses census tract data which is analyzed and mapped by the Synagraphic Computer Mapping (SYMAP) system.

Both these volumes appear to represent a growing movement to the in-house publication of student research. The Review editors would appreciate information on similar efforts at other universities.

THE URBAN HISTORY COMMITTEE OF THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The committee, acting as an executive of the Urban History Group (made up of anyone interested in Canadian urban history), met in Ottawa in late May and with the general group in Edmonton in June. Decisions were made in the following areas:

1. The future of the Urban History Review

In an effort to make the UHR a more effective vehicle for disseminating current information, we have set up the committee as a sort of editorial board. Each committee member will have the responsibility of acting as a regional or thematic correspondent, sending in short items or reports and even abstracts of theses done on his or her region (eg. west coast, prairies, maritimes) or in a particular area of interest (eg. social structure, government, resource communities).

We therefore urge historians and social scientists in all parts of the country to contact the committee member most accessible to them. The list of members is given below. What we want is information regarding research projects, reports on publications which may escape the attention of those outside the region, major new archival sources, innovations in teaching urban history, meetings, and conferences.

2. The membership of the Committee

We have generally agreed that committee membership should be revised periodically. As much as possible, we have tried to incorporate coverage of various regions and approaches. The following have agreed to serve for the coming year:

Pat Roy, History, University of Victoria

Lynn Ogden, Vancouver City Archives (liaison with Archives section)

Iain Taylor, Social Sciences, Athabasca University

Gilbert Stelter, History, University of Guelph (chairman)

J.M.S. Careless, History, University of Toronto

Michael Katz, History, York University

John Weaver, History, McMaster University

Alan Artibise, National Museum of Man (co-editor, UHR)

John Taylor, History, Carleton University (co-editor, UHR)  
 Paul-Andre Linteau, Histoire, Université du Québec à Montréal  
 Normand Seguin, Histoire, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi  
 T. W. Acheson, History, University of New Brunswick  
 John Hiller, History, Memorial University

3. Future programs at the CHA

Quebec City (Laval), 1976

The program committee of the CHA has set aside time for two sessions in urban history. Planning for these is in the final stages.

- a. municipal reform movements
- b. the restoration projects in Quebec City

Fredericton (UNB), 1977 and beyond

In planning ahead, we are looking at possible sessions on:

- a. urbanization in the Atlantic provinces
- b. municipal records preservation
- c. diverging approaches in urban history

. Suggestions regarding these or other possibilities should be sent to me or to any committee member.

Gilbert Stelter  
 Chairman