

Notes and Comments

Numéro 3-77, february 1978

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019503ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019503ar>

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Éditeur(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

ISSN

0703-0428 (imprimé)

1918-5138 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

(1978). Notes and Comments. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, (3-77), 86–98. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019503ar>

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Streetcar and other traffic on Toronto's Yonge Street, north of King Street, c. 1910. Photo reproduced courtesy of the Toronto Transit Commission.

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Back issues of all numbers published to date are still available. They can be obtained by sending a cheque or money order to: Marketing Services Division, National Museums Canada, 360 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, K1A 0M8. The issues published in 1972, 1973, and 1974 are

available at \$2.00 for three numbers, or \$1.00 each. The 1975, 1976, and 1977 issues are available at \$3.00 for three numbers, or \$1.00 each. The issues published to date are listed below:

<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
No. 1-72 (February, 1972)	No. 1-73 (May, 1973)
No. 2-72 (June, 1972)	No. 2-73 (October, 1973)
No. 3-72 (November, 1972)	No. 3-73 (February, 1974)
<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
No. 1-74 (June, 1974)	No. 1-75 (June, 1975)
No. 2-74 (October, 1974)	No. 2-75 (October, 1975)
No. 3-74 (February, 1975)	No. 3-75 (February, 1976)
<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
No. 1-76 (June, 1976)	No. 1-77 (June, 1977)
No. 2-76 (October, 1976)	No. 2-77 (October, 1977)
No. 3-76 (February, 1977)	No. 3-77 (February, 1978)

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URBAN HISTORY COMMITTEE OF THE
CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The committee met at Carleton University on October 28, 1977. The fall meeting included a walking tour of downtown Ottawa led by John Taylor and a seminar on recent developments in urban history led by John Weaver and Alan Artibise.

The following committee members attended the meeting: John Taylor, Chairman (History, Carleton); Alan Artibise (History, Victoria); Gilbert Stelter (History, Guelph); John Weaver (History, McMaster); Del Muise (National Museum of Man); Larry McCann (Geography, Mount Allison); and Paul-André Linteau (Histoire, Université du Québec à Montréal).

The items discussed at the business meeting are summarized below:

1. C.H.A. Sessions in Saskatoon (1979)

Two formal sessions were suggested:

- A. Stages of Urban Growth
This session would compare the dynamics of urban growth via the case study over a fairly lengthy period from the founding of cities. Al Artibise could do Regina (or the Prairies); John Taylor could do Ottawa. Other offerings?
- B. Patterns of Urban Development
This session would concentrate more on form. Gilbert Stelter has offered us a proposal on the demographic characteristics of Upper and Lower Canadian towns.

Other proposals, either for papers or for critics, should be canvassed by all members of the committee and the sessions should be fairly firmly set for discussion at the CHA meetings in London, June, 1978.

A tour of Saskatoon was proposed for the 1979 meetings. Al Artibise and John Taylor to make appropriate inquiries and arrangements.

A business session to be held as usual.

Proposals for a session on Lethbridge and its region were sent to the committee. Al Artibise suggested these might be more appropriate for regional history sessions and is to make the necessary arrangements.

2. Future Conferences

Discussions were held on the possibility of another generically urban conference, like that of Guelph, but embracing scholars and organizations from the United States, and possibly other countries. Tentative date would be early 1980s.

All members of the committee are asked to consider possibilities and forward these (and names of organizations and individuals that might have an interest in collaborating) to the Chairman.

Al Artibise to contact the (American) Western History Association. Chairman to contact members of the Community Development Network of the Social Science History Association.

For the 1980 meetings of the CHA, it was suggested that there be a session on the History of Canadian Cities Series now emerging under the auspices of James Lorimer and Co. and the National Museum of Man. Future Chairman take note.

For future meetings of the CHA, it was suggested that greater efforts be made to produce interdisciplinary sessions on urban history. Matter to be placed on agenda for urban history committee meetings, June, 1978.

3. Jim Dyos

Al Artibise and the History Department at Victoria plan to seek funding to bring the eminent Prof. H.J. Dyos to their university for a period in the Spring of 1980. Prof. Dyos is prepared to make his considerable expertise available to other universities while on the continent. Funding and other arrangements would have to be negotiated. These would have to be made within the next six to eight months as the University of Victoria has to make the application for his funding by September, 1978. All members of the committee to spread the word.

4. Committee Membership

Chairman to seek replacement members.

5. Chairman for 1978/79

John Weaver, History, McMaster, has agreed to serve.

6. Urban History Review

Al Artibise reported that an index for the Review has been finished and will be published in the near future.

Del Muise has undertaken negotiations for the CHA to manage subscription lists. This will necessitate an increase in the subscription rate. Del is also engaged on the preparation of a new advertising brochure.

John Weaver, History, McMaster, has agreed to serve as book review editor for the Review. In future, suggestions for both reviews and reviewers should be made through John. All Members of the Committee take note.

A suggestion was made that efforts be made to have the Review advertised in other learned journals. Larry McCann is to negotiate a review of the Review in the Canadian Geographer. The Chairman is to make similar efforts with respect to the planning journals.

John Taylor
Chairman
Urban History Committee.

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CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

Since last reporting on the City of Edmonton Archives (U.H.R., No. 3-74), various changes have taken place. In July, 1976, an Assistant Archivist, Dr. David Leonard, was hired to bring the Archives staff to four. With the addition of Dr. Leonard to our staff, we have been able to catalogue and index the Town Treasurer's papers from 1892 to 1912 and the City Secretary's papers from 1892 to 1915. By the end of 1977, the records of the City of Strathcona to the date of amalgamation in 1912 will be catalogued and indexed. Inventories have been prepared for these documents with the call number R.G.8 and are available to those who are interested in them. Copies of these inventories are also supplied to other archives in Alberta. The programme of cataloguing early city records is continuing.

As the City Departments are becoming more and more aware of our existence, the Records Retention Committee is transferring more records to us each year, and many of these records are fairly recent. We are, therefore, preparing to set up a holding area for semi-current records

in another building to alleviate the space shortage in the Archives.

In 1975, a New Horizons Grant was applied for and received by the Edmonton Archives Auxiliary. This group is made up of retired people who prepare their own budget and have complete control of their funds. The budget covers supplies only and the people who work under this grant are considered volunteers and are not paid. With the help of these and other volunteers, the City Archives has been able to catalogue and index, to date, 3000 photographs, 1000 reference books and 2000 subdivision plans. Other volunteers are working at sorting and cataloguing manuscript collections. Those collections of special interest which have now been catalogued and indexed include those of Emily Murphy, Edna Kells, Alberta Pensioners Society, Edmonton Hospital Board, Canadian Handicraft Guild, Edmonton Branch, and the Edmonton Creche and Day Nursery Society.

The hours of operation for the city of Edmonton Archives are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Helen La Rose
Archivist
City of Edmonton Archives

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THE JAMES COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS
CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

The James Collection of photographs, acquired by the City of Toronto Archives in July 1976, is a wide ranging pictorial record of life in Toronto from 1906 until well into the 1960s. The great majority of the more than 6,000 images in the collection were taken by William James (1866-1948) with the balance taken by his son, Norman (b.1907).

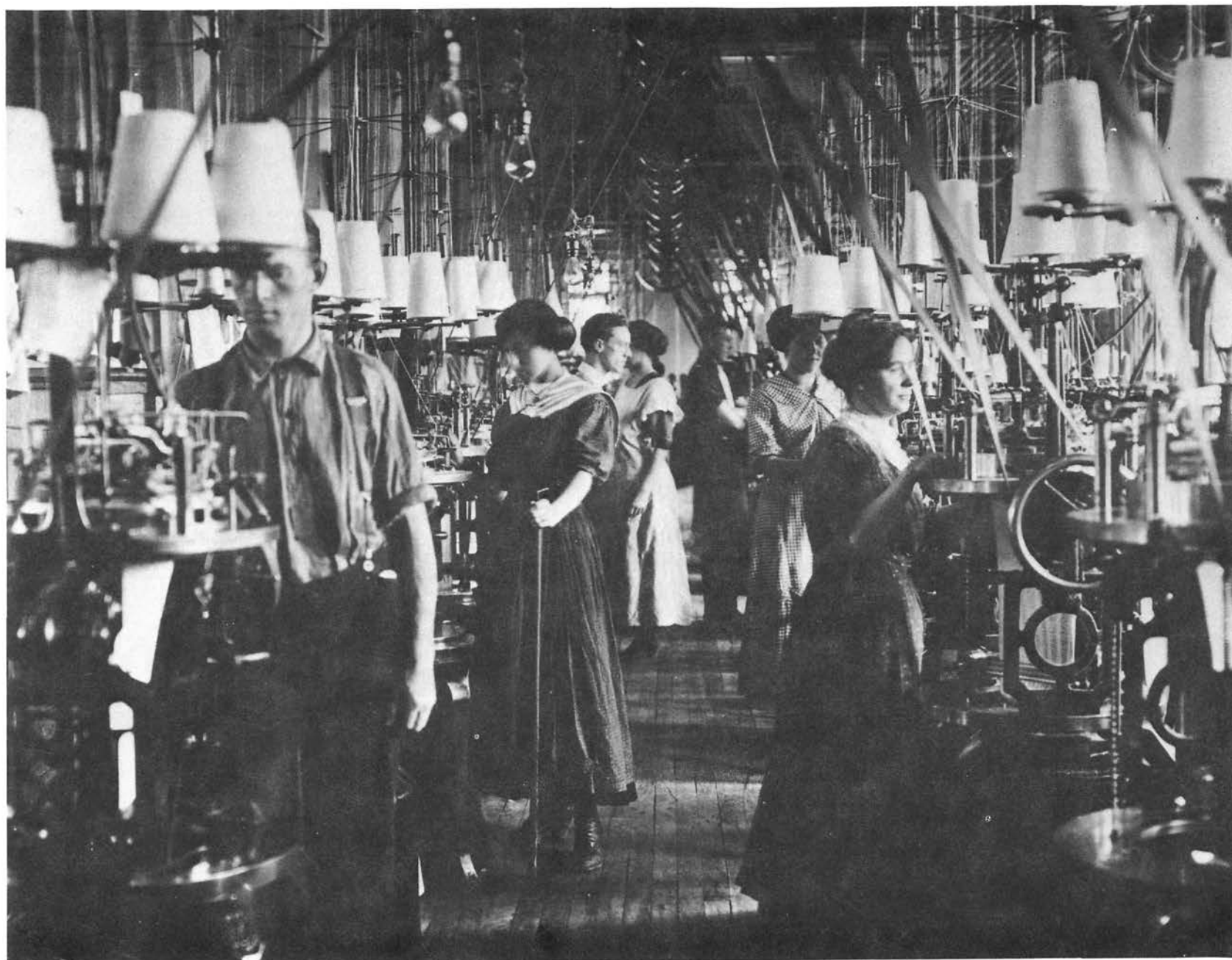
William James emigrated to Canada in 1906. A photo-hobbyist in England, he worked briefly at several jobs and then began to take pictures full time. After producing a series of stereoscopic views, he moved into the field of news and commercial photography. Since news photographers were almost non-existent, he found a ready market for his photographs among the seven or eight daily and weekly newspapers then being published in the City. At the rate of \$2.00 per picture, he was able to sell most of his daily output. Among his best customers was the Toronto Star and, although never employed by them directly, he continued to sell to them until 1938.

Norman James joined his father's business in 1928 and continued to work with him even after joining the Star as a staff photographer in 1933. Norman James retired in 1973 and presently lives in Thornhill, Ontario.

The James Collection should be of considerable interest to the historian, urban geographer and sociologist. Since it is a 'news' collection, there are few posed portraits or set pieces. The majority of the collection



Toronto Star building, #18 King Street West, 1911
James Collection - City of Toronto Archives



Workers at textile looms, c.1908. James Collection - City of Toronto Archives.



Major Street, 1912. James Collection - City of Toronto Archives



Summer 1912. Rear of #94 Elizabeth Street. Drain being installed to connect with Chesnut Street Sewer.
James Collection - City of Toronto Archives

shows Toronto going about its everyday business oblivious of the camera. This immediacy and informality is, however, balanced by James' strong, instinctive sense of composition, making the photos useful both as documentary evidence and as illustrative material.

Certain newsworthy events are covered in great detail. There is extensive coverage of the first airplane flight in Toronto (1910); of the aftermath of the Great Fire of 1904; of the C.N.E.; and of the city during the Great War. Political and social notables who visited Toronto (Wilfrid Laurier, the Prince of Wales, etc.) also received James' attention. James also covered the entire social and political spectrum of life in the City. There are large numbers of photographs of Sir Henry Pellat and Casa Loma; of the Eaton Family; and of annual Jockey Club events. These images of a City's social register are balanced by views of the middle class and its business district and by many shots of the slums and poverty which surrounded it.

While the collection was purchased by the City Archives from Norman James, there was already a high degree of organization. 8 x 10" reference prints for researchers are contained in 37 loose-leaf binders. These binders are arranged by subject area ("Toronto Streets"; "Waterfront"; "Sports"; "V.I.P.'s"; etc.). A detailed inventory is also available.

Despite the relatively high degree of organization in which the photographs came to the City Archives, a programme is underway to create a more detailed finding aid to the collection. Included in this programme is the production of a complete set of 4 x 5" copy negatives to facilitate reproduction of the collection for users.

The City Archives considers the James Collection to be an invaluable addition to its collection of almost 35,000 images of the City of Toronto.

Linda Price
City of Toronto Archives

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CITY OF KINGSTON ARCHIVES

The next issue of the U.H.R. (No. 1-78) will include an article on the City of Kingston Archives. It will be written by Anne MacDermaid who was appointed archivist in March, 1977, replacing former archivist Ian Wilson. Wilson is now provincial archivist for Saskatchewan.

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UNITED STATES CONSULAR POST
RECORDS AS AN URBAN HISTORY SOURCE

The records of United States Consular Offices in Canada offer urban historians a set of useful, if uneven, documents. Beginning with a commercial agency in Halifax in the late 1820s, the State Department opened offices in British North America to assist American nationals and to invoice exports to the United States. By Confederation, there were Consular Offices in Halifax, Saint John, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton. Lesser communities, like Clifton and Sarnia, also had offices - in some ways more significant because of their status as railway crossings.

Consular records are arranged in several different groups. The actual post correspondence - incoming and outgoing - is held in Washington at the National Archives and at a depository in suburban Suitland, Maryland. Catalogued as RG84, these records are now open to 1947. As an indicator of the international scope of Consular Offices, Hamilton, Ontario was filed between Hamilton, Bermuda and Hancow, China. For Hamilton, Ontario, there were roughly 300 volumes of correspondence. Commencing in 1912, the State Department applied a coded filing system which assists research since all Consular Offices used the arrangement. For example, the 100 series contained material on the international operation of the Office: orders for office forms, salary information and related matters. These files, for local history purposes, can be ignored. On the other hand, the 800 series were quite rich. The 800 folders, for example, pertain to Bolshevik activity. The 811 folders contained information on immigration, while the 850-860 folders related to industry.

Among the RG84 group for Hamilton were ledgers of "fee books." These began in 1867 and continued into the 1930s. They recorded fees paid for invoicing; that included a description of the goods shipped, their shipper, their value and the destination. From Hamilton, the Little Wanzer sewing machine was being exported by the thousands monthly in the 1870s. Perhaps most interesting, the fee books recorded the movement of household goods. This type of entry stated the name of owner, date of invoice, value of goods, and the destination. The value of goods often was low suggesting that, while biased in favour of individuals with property, these records could be of use in examining transiency. For the nineteenth century, the only other items in RG84 that seemed of value were pension matters pertaining to Civil War veterans living in Hamilton (a certain amount of personal information was involved), and reports on Americans violating local laws. Apparently prostitutes were a very mobile group, moving between Buffalo and Hamilton.

The truly fascinating material began to appear in the 1920s. The quotas on immigrants forced Consular Offices to keep exact reports on the movements of aliens, particularly since Hamilton was a centre for smuggling aliens into the United States. Then, too, there began to appear reports on industry. These have proven exceedingly useful in establishing files on individual companies as well as providing a month

by month understanding of the Depression and of the wartime economy. Reports on Labour and on Communist activity appeared in the late 1930s through to 1947.

To research RG84 requires a trip to Washington. There is a free shuttle-bus service from the National Archives to the Suitland record centre (for records between 1935 and 1947). However, there is another collection available on microfilm. RG59 consists of the reports sent by Consular Offices to the State Department. In the case of Hamilton these could not be located in RG84, but the microfilms were available up to 1906. The Hamilton reports, annual and compulsory, included some factory descriptions, the state of the rural economy and labour conditions. Most useful were the sections pertaining to immigration. The Consular Offices along the Great Western and Grand Trunk provide some insights into the transiency established by Michael Katz. They suggest that Hamilton was not a typical commercial city, but a special type of immigrant entrepôt.

In sum, the Consular Office records provide a supplement to routinely generated sources; they also complement newspapers and civic records. The National Archives will send, at no cost, the shipping list descriptions of records for any city or town in RG84. They will sell any reel of microfilm in RG59 for a \$12.00 per reel charge.

John C. Weaver
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A PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIMENT

"A Public History Experiment in Urban Policy: A Field Experience in Passiac, New Jersey" is the title of a unique, day-long session scheduled as part of the annual convention of the Organization of American Historians in April, 1978, in New York City. The experiment will focus on Passaic, an ethnically diverse textile center of 55,000 inhabitants twelve miles west of Manhattan. A classic post-Civil War "mill town," its best days - so the prevailing wisdom states - are gone. Its population is changing rapidly, the tax base has eroded and its citizens are fearful of the future.

The day will begin at the convention center with an orientation seminar entitled "Passaic in Urban America since 1860" commencing at 9:30 a.m. A formal "call" for participants will be issued through the 1978 program of the O.A.H., with the applications procedure outlined therein. Participation will not be limited to urban historians.

The climax of the project will be a seminar on "Urban Policy in Passaic," featuring a dialogue between the participating historians and a cross section of Passaic's citizens.

Request for additional information should be directed to the Project Director, The New Jersey Historical Commission, 113 W. State Street, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625; or, to the project originator, Professor Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, 60045.

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UNDERSTANDING URBAN DEVELOPMENT
IN CANADA

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education has recently published a booklet entitled Understanding Urban Development in Canada. The booklet was written by T.J. Plunkett, a staff member of the Institute of Local Government, Queen's University, Kingston.

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education is a federally-chartered, non-profit organization. Non-partisan in its approach, the Foundation is committed to increasing an understanding of economic matters through encouraging and assisting with the teaching of economics.

Enquiries should be sent to: Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, 155 University Avenue, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3B7.

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