

**Kerr, Don, and Hanson, Stan. *Saskatoon: The First Half-Century*. Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1982. Pp. xxv, 342. Tables, figures, maps, illustrations. \$24.95 (cloth), \$9.95 (paper)**

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cultural blinkers of the contributors, and (3) the compilation was never up to date.

I suspect that the Artibise-Stelter bibliography was compiled in a similar way to the one described, and it has certainly already had an influence on the published works of the authors and their students. Thus, the contribution of the bibliography to scholarship has, in a sense, been demonstrated prior to its publication. The question is, therefore, whether the more widespread availability of the compilation will provide additional stimulus to those that have not already had access to it.

In answering this latter question, it should be noted that the organization of the compilation is not terribly exciting. The authors are quite evidently place-oriented, and part from a general section covering works pertaining to growth and economic development, population, the urban environment, and municipal government, the bulk of the bibliography pertains to specific urban places. The researchers have, for example, found twelve publications pertaining to Shawinigan, six of which are bachelor's or master's level theses, and one is a newspaper article. The listing of references of these kinds is useful, but an obvious non-critical approach has been taken in the selection of materials included. In fact, the adoption of a place approach leads a compiler to try to find something, anything, on a particular urban area just for the sake of completeness.

This place approach also leads to a fascination with the unique and an apparent inattention to theories and models pertaining to urban development. In fact, a critical reviewer might raise the spectre of antiquarianism, but that might be overstating the case. The basic point is that some empirical examples about places may be useful, but they do not help the budding urban historian that much, for the fledgling scholar needs a clear understanding of a variety of social, economic, and political theories pertaining to urban development.

The bibliography does not highlight these theories well. That is not to say that the authors are not aware of the importance of them, for in their other work such knowledge is demonstrated. It is just that the mass of references conceals the theoretical work, and the material is not organized to give empirical examples of analyses of theoretical concepts. The compilation cannot, therefore, be regarded as something that will stimulate scholarly inquiry.

Reviewers can gain amusement from searching for obvious materials that are ignored. Given my particular university base, I have to comment that the work of the late Dr. W.A. Mackintosh on transport development in the prairies should not have been overlooked, because the interrelationship between transport development and set-

tlement in that area is vital. Furthermore, the predilection of the compilers for Canadian and British authors has led them to ignore much of the work on Canadian settlement undertaken by German geographers, and published, for example, in the Marburg geographical series.

Thus, the bibliography is of limited use. Artibise and Stelter are making lasting contributions to scholarship in Canadian urban history, but this compilation will not, of itself, stimulate others. The materials have obviously been of importance to the authors and their students, and perhaps the compilation should have remained one of those mimeographed computer listings that is passed around and built upon by other like minds.

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Kerr, Don, and Hanson, Stan. *Saskatoon: The First Half-Century*. Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1982. Pp. xxv, 342. Tables, figures, maps, illustrations. \$24.95 (cloth), \$9.95 (paper).

What to include, what to leave out — that is perhaps the greatest problem urban biographers face. Don Kerr and Stan Hanson limit their study of Saskatoon to the fifty years before 1932 but to little else; they bombard the reader with a host of topics, all supplemented with useful illustrations, maps, tables, and graphs. If a central theme emerges from this avalanche, it is the cyclical, boom-bust nature of Saskatoon's development and its impact on population growth, land speculation, and construction, as well as on municipal government and its ability to finance and provide utilities and services. The authors succeed best when they stick to these themes, in large measure they focus as closely on failures as victories. The boosters make their inevitable appearance and while the authors recognize their importance in securing rail connections, favourable freight rates to stimulate wholesaling, and the provincial university, a discussion of their inability to lure major industry to the city is one of the best sections of the book. Clearly the boosters' activities did not affect Saskatoon as much as powerful external forces beyond their control. The city's relationship with its hinterland is not explored systematically, but the authors leave no doubt that Saskatoon's destiny remained linked to the pace of rural settlement and the fortunes of agriculture. Hence its boom-bust cycles paralleled those of other prairie cities and of the west as a whole. There is little to question in this discussion, but neither do the authors offer interesting new interpretations to ponder.

Sandwiched between these themes are slices of social history: women, immigrants, crime, prohibition, culture,

recreation, charities, housing, working conditions, and many other topics appear briefly. While descriptive glimpses of life in Saskatoon emerge, the authors attempt no analysis of social structure and no conceptual framework ties these subjects together. Those acquainted with recent prairie historiography may weary when familiar accounts of these matters are simply plugged into the local scene. The authors select some dubious topics for discussion. Discourses on trench warfare and airplane combat in Europe, and on the rise of various farm protest movements seem out of place. Instead of telling us more about the important economic, social, and cultural role that the University of Saskatchewan played in the city, they squander a dozen pages on a faculty political squabble.

In short, this book deserves an assessment from two perspectives. It is a comprehensive, reliable, well written book for the general reader who knows little about prairie history. Students of the field will learn more about Saskatoon itself, but not so much about the nature of prairie urban development and social life generally.

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McGahan, Peter. *Urban Sociology in Canada*. Toronto: Butterworths, 1982. Pp. 402. Tables.

Many of us who teach Urban Sociology have been looking for a Canadian text for years. Peter McGahan has written the first Canadian Urban Sociology text. Congratulations!

Some books were available on Canadian urban problems, urban demography, urban planning, urban history, but no one had attempted a comprehensive Canadian urban sociology. Many of us tried to copy by using American urban texts, and/or by piecing together Canadian urban readings. Here we have a first attempt at a Canadian urban sociology.

The introduction, eleven chapters and a conclusion have been ordered into six major parts: the classical foundations of urban sociology, growth of the urban system, entrance to the urban system, spatial shape of the urban system, urbanism, and regulating the urban system. McGahan treats the major areas of beginnings, ecology, demography, social organization, social psychology and social planning which we are accustomed to.

In laying the classical foundations, he discusses typological perspectives beginning with European theorists (Tönnies, Durkheim and Simmel), the Chicago School

(Park, Wirth), the folk-urban typology (Redfield, Lewis), and the rural-urban continuum (Sorokin and Zimmerman). He also devotes a chapter to the ecological perspective focusing on the Chicago School where he gets into Park's natural areas, Mackenzie's concentration, centralization, segregation, invasion and succession, and Burgess' concentric zone theory.

Part two on urban growth is devoted to Canadian demography. McGahan has a delightful philosophical mind which seeks to place the numerical demographics into historical, and ecological, context to provide meaning and explanatory power. He is interested in the meaning of growth as a process discussing the early colonial town, the commercial center, and then goes on to look for these in Ontario (Toronto, London, Oshawa, Whitby) and the west (Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver). He then continues to develop metropolitan growth, touching on typical demographic (age, sex, mobility) questions, and ending up with functions and classification of cities using the metropolitan centers of Canada to discuss quality of life. Here he uses tables and data freely as demographers must.

Part 3, devoted to entrance into the urban system, deals with internal and external migration (demographic mobility and immigration). Regional shifts in migration, migration in urban and metropolitan centers, profiles of migrants, community destination, patterns adjustment of various ethnic groups are illustrated with diagrams, tables, figures and case studies, all part of internal migration. McGahan views Canada as an urban system into which immigrants enter. He traces the immigration flow to show when and where newcomers arrived. He introduces their settlement patterns, their ethnicity, socio-economic status, focusing especially on postwar economic and social adaptation. He explores immigrant maintenance of identity and assimilation by showing the problems of Italians in Toronto, Greeks in Vancouver, and Asians in Calgary. Ethnicity receives considerable attention.

In chapters 7 and 8 (part 4), the author deals with the process (evolution), and structure of urban space usually referred to as ecology. The usual concentric, sector and multiple nuclei growth models are discussed, but what is new, is that he uses Canadian cities such as Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal as his data. In connection with multiple nuclei he goes into social area analysis and factorial ecology as we would expect. To highlight internal urban structure he compares St. John's, Montreal, Regina and Vancouver by the dimensions of socio-economic, family, religious, and economic status. All the twenty-two metropolitan centers of 1971 are compared by residential segregation indexes, with more intensive comparisons of Toronto and Winnipeg. Although I was aware of many of these studies, McGahan has a way of bringing them all together in a very effective way.