

who has long been concerned with the philosophical problem of whether or not a study can be value-free. It is a concern about the harm that can be caused if countervailing studies adopting various value perspectives on regulation in a mixed economy are not completed and given the publicity in the popular press this one was.

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Canada's Urban Past: A Bibliography to 1980 and Guide to Canadian Urban Studies, edited by Alan F. J. Artibise and Gilbert A. Stelter. Vancouver and London: University of British Columbia Press, 1981. Pp. xxxii, 396; \$42.00.

The 1970s were a decade of experimentation, innovation and diversification in the field of Canadian history. Previously concerned about political and constitutional issues, scholars in the past decade redirected historical inquiry into long-ignored areas of Canadian life. Subjects such as the working class, Indian-European relations, women and the structure of rural society pushed traditional themes from the centre of Canadian historical interest. So did urban history, an area of Canadian studies whose solid beginnings date from the emergence of the *Urban History Review* as a newsletter early in 1972. Enthusiasm for urban history was in full bloom by mid-decade, marked by the recruitment of a solid core of urban-minded historians into Canadian history departments across the country. A broad range of new work relating to Canadian cities followed, shifting the field far from its traditional focus on urban biographies and local histories. *Canada's Urban Past: A Bibliography to 1980* provides a fitting celebration of Canadian urban history's first decade as a recognized field of study.

Edited by two of Canada's most energetic urban historians, this mammoth bibliography incorporates over 7,000 entries. The interdisciplinary nature of urban history has led the University of Victoria's Alan Artibise and Guelph University's Gilbert Stelter to bring together a wide range of urban and urban-related materials. Rather than just an historical bibliography, *Canada's Urban Past* is thus a reference guide to the many areas that constitute Canadian urban studies: history, economics, planning, political science, geography, architecture, sociology and public administration. Entries are divided first into an introductory section organized by themes such as Population, Urban Environment, and Muni-

cial Government; references divided by province and community comprise the remainder of the book. A Table of Contents lists almost two hundred categories and subcategories, and three comprehensive indexes record entries by author, subject and place. A fifty-page guide to available urban studies materials describes a wide variety of journals, archives, and organizations and directs readers to publications or agencies that can provide more detailed data on related subjects.

Several questions about layout and scope modify the reader's otherwise highly favourable impression of this bibliography. The editors have not divided contemporary from retrospective works; thus citations from policy-oriented publications or early-century journals are mixed with recent analytical studies. While this may be of less concern to social scientists, historians in particular would appreciate the separation of primary from secondary works. One of the book's strengths is the inclusion of references to some of the best non-Canadian material; should these not, however, have been listed in separate subcategories since they do not, strictly speaking, discuss Canada's urban past? In addition, while the connection between general literature listed in the first section and the place-specific works in the rest of the book is fully explained in the introductory "Directions for Users," thematic works are not as easy to identify as they could have been. For example, Ed Rea's essay, "Politics of Class: Winnipeg City Council, 1919-1945," tells as much about class divisions as any of the more general works listed in the introductory "Occupation and Class" section, yet Rea's article, recorded under "Winnipeg," is not referred to in the Subject Index at the back of the book under either "Occupation" or "Class." Cross-reference citations for relevant place-specific works located at the end of the appropriate introductory thematic sections would have made more accessible to users literature of general significance written about specific cities.

A more fundamental problem stems from the nature of urban studies, for, as the editors themselves note, urban history is not clearly defined (p. xvi). Understandably, then, Artibise and Stelter have been unable to delineate sharply the outer limits of the urban studies field. For example, some historical studies on the working class are included and some are not. Urban fiction also proved difficult for the editors, whose response appears to have been the rather unsystematic inclusion of only a sample of the relevant literature. Thus, John Marlyn's *Under the Ribs of Death*, an excellent novel about immigrant life in North End Winnipeg, is listed while Gabrielle Roy's *The Tin Flute*, an equally insightful study of poverty and working class life in Montreal, is overlooked.

But to pursue such criticisms would be to quibble with what is on the whole a superbly edited, well-organized and very comprehensive bibliography. As such, *Canada's Urban Past* will be embraced enthusiastically by students and scholars from the several disciplines which share in common an interest in Canada's urban heritage. One can only hope that this excellent work will help to sustain the high level of interest that marked Canadian urban studies during the 1970s. More than twenty pages of references to literature on every major urban centre in British Columbia should also stimulate heightened interest in the province's long neglected urban past.

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