

de revenu annuel) et cela contredit quelque peu l'opinion de l'auteur que les fermiers cultivateurs étaient incapables de consentir de nouveaux efforts.

La famille de Tavanès perdit beaucoup avec la suppression des droits féodaux, car le tiers des revenus bourguignons provenait des redevances seigneuriales. Le second duc émigra à Bruxelles à la fin de 1791, puis rejoignit l'armée des princes et gagna enfin l'Angleterre. En 1800, la famille rentra en France, comme tant d'autres maisons nobles, et reconstitua un domaine en Bourgogne.

La Restauration fit du duc un pair de France et, peu de temps avant les Trois Glorieuses, Polignac fit attribuer aux Tavanès une indemnité de 280.000 francs. La maison s'éteignit en 1845 avec la mort du dernier duc.

Au total, l'ouvrage de M. Robert Foster a le mérite incontestable de renouveler un genre encore trop dédaigné à l'heure actuelle, celui des monographies familiales. Qu'il nous soit cependant permis de regretter qu'il n'ait pas éclairé davantage les antécédents de la famille avant le XV<sup>e</sup> siècle, ainsi que la nature des carrières militaires dans les deux siècles suivants. On aurait pu souhaiter également que l'étude économique — certes de grand intérêt — fût menée avec un peu plus de précision dans l'exposé des modes de gestion des terres et que les activités et l'influence de la famille fussent plus clairement définies pour l'époque de la Restauration.

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E. P. HENNOCK. — *Fit and Proper Persons: Ideal and reality in nineteenth-century urban government*, London, Edward Arnold, 1973.

E. P. Hennock's study of the role of *Fit and Proper Persons* in the reform of two nineteenth century British cities owes much in its manner of approach to earlier efforts by such men as Asa Briggs and indeed to the ambience of British historical writing in general. The approach, which might be described as eclectic and humanitarian, contrasts with the bulk of writing on North American cities (such as that produced by the Chicago School), which is heavily influenced by social science. Even where the British and American traditions come closest, in Hennock's work, which makes its obeisance to quantification, and that of Sam Bass Warner Jr. in *The Private City*, where conventional historical documentation is heavily employed, the points of departure differ considerably. Both works are in large measure about urban elites and urban change. But where Warner tends to make the men who ran Philadelphia invariant and the city's structural changes variable, Hennock tends to do the reverse, demonstrating, for example, that a highly developed sense of privatism among the men who ran nineteenth century Birmingham and Leeds did not vitiate collectivist impulses, as Warner

argues in his book. Moreover, statistical analysis of urban structural changes do not loom large in Hennock's explanations of the genesis or motives of political change and reform at the municipal level. Statistics, rather, are used to set boundaries, to note where and when political metamorphosis occurred, with the bulk of the presentation devoted to demonstrating how and why it occurred. Hennock's statistics are not elaborate or complex. Nor are they used to impute causation or even co-relation. They have little life of their own; they are benchmarks. That too seems to be the English way, a way becoming increasingly rare in North America, where historical accounting is tending to become an end rather than a means.

Hennock's *Fit and Proper Persons* and Warner's *The Private City* are useful to consider for at least one other thing they have in common. In both it is a theme, more than a technique, time span or place which provides the literary cement. In both, the device tends to create problems with coherence and balance, problems which are becoming endemic in historical writing not confined by the boundaries of a man's life or a dynasty's rise and fall. Hennock, for example, uses the theme of municipal leadership to tie together studies on two cities (Birmingham and Leeds), using two techniques (those of the historian and the political scientist), in two eras (the late nineteenth and the contemporary twentieth) and throws in a comparison of the English, American and German municipal experience for good measure. Warner, somewhat less ambitious, embraced one city, three periods, and two methodologies with his theme of privatism. The theme as a device to bring continuity to historical work, which, as in the case of urban studies, is bound by neither time, space nor discipline, shows some promise. It has proven fairly effective in Hennock's undertaking though many difficulties remain to be resolved. Such an undertaking can only be successful if both the vehicle and the driver are up to the task. One or the other had some shortfalls in *Fit and Proper Persons*. In broad terms, Hennock's project lies somewhere between a real book and a collection of long essays by the same author. As a book, Hennock's work can be criticized for a lack of coherence and especially a lack of integration, and as a collection of essays for a lack of balance.

By far and away the best part of the work is Part II of the study of Birmingham. This part is launched only after a bow to the quantified political science that makes up Part I. Once the historian takes over, however, a fascinating account of municipal reform in nineteenth century Birmingham is developed. Hennock argues that the reform impulse in Birmingham was generated largely in the dissenting church in Birmingham and that "the prophet of the new movement [was] George Dawson, public lecturer and heterodox preacher," not Joseph Chamberlain, the screw-maker and politician. The reform impulse, Hennock says, "was an achievement of the creative imagination." It stemmed from a small cadre of men in the dissenting church concerned with reforms in education and health; Hall was seen

as a means of resolving these concerns. Moreover, it was from this small cadre that the municipal reformers, notably Chamberlain, were recruited, their success, Hennock notes, being the result of "skills joined to convictions."

The section on Leeds parallels that of Birmingham in its organization: a section laden with statistics is followed by one on the genesis of the "New Era." As with Birmingham, the second part is the more edifying, though documentation is not as rich. Nor is the drama of reform as evident, since reform in Leeds was late, derivative and largely motivated by the ambitions of the Conservative and Liberal parties in that city. Reform succeeded at various points because it was effective politics. In any event, the comparisons between the development of reform of the industrial environment of the two cities — comparisons which the reader is largely left to make for himself — are rich. Though problems of industrial Birmingham and Leeds were generally the same, the means, the motives and the process of coping with those problems was clearly unique to each city and had little in common. For example, the dissenting church was central to reform in Birmingham, whereas the same church, allied with temperance forces, in Leeds gave rise to the non-reforming "economists." In Birmingham, national politics tended to be peripheral to the rise of reform; in Leeds, central. In Birmingham, gas and water socialism proved an enormous and immediate success; in Leeds, it proved a troubled and for a long time unprofitable experiment.

Much of the rest of the work represents addenda in essay form, some of which addenda would appear to have potential as books in their own right. It is not surprising to find, then, that the author himself divides his work into three "Books," one "Book" on Birmingham, one on Leeds and one entitled "The Wider Setting."

The wider setting embraces the United States and Germany, geographically, and nineteenth and twentieth century Britain, chronologically. It serves mainly as a warning against generalizations about urban development once a framework of space or time is shifted. For Canadian urban historians it serves perhaps the valuable lesson that imported hypotheses and imported techniques may prove misleading, if not absolutely barren, when imposed on the Canadian experience. Different cities, a different national culture, and a different time frame seem to imply both different methods and different results.

*Fit and Proper Persons*, the second volume in a series entitled "Studies in Urban History" edited by H. J. Dyos, is illustrated and includes numerous maps and statistical tables. The author is Reader in History in the School of English and American studies at the University of Sussex.

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