

census returns, marriage registers have been. Perhaps Hamilton is particularly fortunate but elsewhere these documents survive in part and require careful evaluation. Undoubtedly this has been done but for this reviewer its handling has been too terse for comfort. Moreover we are not told the specific location of many of the documents so that others may make use of them. One presumes that they are located either in the Public Archives of Ontario or of Canada but for areas known to this author these documents have been found, in addition to the above, in municipal offices, in museums, in the hands of individuals or of the local constabulary who have used them for target practise. Hence the location and names of specific documents may be of critical importance to later workers.

Notwithstanding these comments this book which adds greatly to our knowledge of the urban past and is written in a pleasant style, happily reconciling quantitative and qualitative approaches (a feat in itself) should be welcomed by all.

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ROBERT F. HARNEY and HAROLD TROPER. — *Immigrants, A Portrait of the Urban Experience, 1890-1930*. Toronto: Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd., 1975.

*Immigrants*, a pictorial record of the experience of foreign immigrants in Toronto from 1890 to 1930, reveals through photographs an important and neglected aspect of Toronto's history. With this book, Robert Harney and Harold Troper hope to encourage a redress in the balance of immigration studies, which they believe have emphasized western Canada at the expense of the eastern urban experience. *Immigrants* shows that in spite of the Canadian government's policy of encouraging agricultural settlers for western homesteads, Toronto became the mecca of many foreign immigrants in the early twentieth century. The authors do not include in the book immigrants from the British Isles and the United States, English-speaking and predominantly Protestant, because they were not considered foreign by the government or society of the period. For Toronto, the foreign immigrants were primarily the Jews and the Italians, supplemented by lesser numbers of Chinese, Macedonians, Syrians, Greeks, Poles, Croats, Ukrainians, and Finns.

Harney and Troper provide commentary to explain the context of the pictures and counterpoint their analysis with contemporary quotations, but the written text is distinctly subordinate to the photographs. Over 180 photographs, selected by careful research into both public archival sources and private family records, form the core and the major interest of the book. Through these pictures, much of the texture of life in Toronto's immigrant community is revealed. Small decaying frame houses, overcrowded boarding rooms, littered alleys, and busy street scenes suggest the living conditions which the newly arrived immigrants encountered. Work experiences depicted vary from sewer digging, street railway construction, and assembly lines in large garment industries, to transient peddling and ownership of small shops. In addition, the contact with the wider city community is shown through the activities of Canadian educators, social workers, religious leaders, and public health officials.

The photographs, however, are not made as useful as they might be to the serious student of Canadian history. Too often the accompanying text provides only general information on living and working conditions which, although important in itself, does not explain the specific significance of details in the pictures presented. In addition, the interpretation of the pictorial evidence relies heavily

on written sources which were produced by the assimilating community rather than by the immigrants. As a result, *Immigrants* views the immigrant community of Toronto primarily from the outside rather than from the inside.

*Immigrants* has both important strengths and serious limitations. It provides a vivid kaleidoscopic impression of immigrant life in Toronto in the early twentieth century. It is, however, an insufficiently structured impression. There is no differentiation between immigrant groups or between those immigrants who arrived in the 1890s and the new arrivals of the 1920s. Even more important, a standard of comparison is necessary before the significance of life in the immigrant community can be assessed. Without a comparison with the English-speaking community of Toronto, the observer of the 1970s has difficulty deciding whether foreign appearance arises from the passage of time or from the ethnic origin of the immigrants.

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GEORGE A. NADER. — *Cities of Canada*. Vol. I. *Theoretical, Historical and Planning Perspectives*. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1975.

That a knowledge of the past is a necessary prerequisite to understanding the present is a fond assumption of many historians, but most social scientists tend to disregard this maxim, at least in practise. It is therefore with some pleasure that one finds an urban geographer providing a long historical section in a book basically concerned with urban theory and solutions to current urban problems. In *Cities in Canada*, three chapters out of nine are devoted to urban history, for Professor Nader claims that only by examining the past can "some of the apparently unrelated attributes of the present-day system be understood." Unfortunately, the reader's hopes for the usefulness of what purports to be the "most detailed account to date of Canadian urban history" are soon dashed, primarily because of the author's limited understanding of what constitutes urban history.

The first of the three historical chapters in an outline of some of the basic features of early Canadian economic history, reminiscent of the sort of thing one finds in the early Creighton and Lower works, but without their superior style. What the relationship of this might be to what follows is left to the reader's imagination. The survey of urban history in the next two chapters is confined to an emphasis on economic factors and population growth along the lines of Spelt's study of Southern Ontario. The graphs and charts are generally clear and will prove to be a useful reference tool for students. Some minor errors in the use of the census must be mentioned, however, particularly because they represent errors commonly made by those using the data on manufacturing in the 1901 census. In the footnote to the 1901 census tables, it is clearly stated that statistics for 1881 and 1891 represent *all* establishments regardless of size, but that data for 1901 represent only establishments with *five or more* employees. Thus, what appears to be a drop in the rate of growth of industrial production is not necessarily that at all, but some scholars write pages of nonsense to explain these non-existent trends of the 1890s. A list of other reservations about specific details and general interpretations could be a long one. Among those that stand out is the author's choice of 1867 as a division point in urban history; surely a three-way division, using 1851 and 1921, would have made more sense in terms of the stages of urban development. In discussing city growth and metropolitanism, the author emphasizes Montreal's problems in the 19th century; one would never realize from the material in this text that Montreal was in the process of becoming the national metropolis.