

Urban History Review Revue d'histoire urbaine

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW
REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

McGowan, Don C. *Grassland Settlers: The Swift Current Region During the Era of the Ranching Frontier*. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1975. Pp. xii, 205. Maps. Illustrations, \$5.50

A. F. J. Artibise

Number 2-76, October 1976

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1019536ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019536ar>

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Publisher(s)

Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine

ISSN

0703-0428 (print)

1918-5138 (digital)

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Cite this review

Artibise, A. F. J. (1976). Review of [McGowan, Don C. *Grassland Settlers: The Swift Current Region During the Era of the Ranching Frontier*. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1975. Pp. xii, 205. Maps. Illustrations, \$5.50]. *Urban History Review / Revue d'histoire urbaine*, (2-76), 71–72. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1019536ar>

Barth, G. Instant Cities: Urbanization and the Rise of San Francisco and Denver. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975. Pp. xxv, 310. \$13.75.

Although this book is a fairly detailed history of San Francisco and Denver, it is also much more than this since it places these two cities in the larger historical context of western civilization. Instant cities were not peculiar to North America; they go back at least to the Hellenic migration, and they dotted the landscape of Europe in the Middle Ages. In the first chapter of this book, Professor Barth unfolds the story of instant cities in Europe; and in chapter two he contrasts and compares chaotic San Francisco and Denver with the Mormons' planned instant city in Utah. The third chapter describes the differences between the two cities and the older, more static far western communities, particularly Santa Fe, New Mexico; Monterey, California; and Champoege, Oregon. The balance of the book carefully weaves the San Francisco and Denver experiences together, explaining how and why the cities grew, and when and why they evolved into ordinary cities. Much of this part of the book deals with quality of life in these two cities and illustrates what the obsession with making money did to environment, social status, dreams and culture.

Instant Cities is the seventeenth volume to appear in "The Urban Life in America Series" under the general editorship of Richard C. Wade. Although this book is not the first in the series to examine "boom cities", it is the first to place them in such a broad context, and to compare them with more conventional urban experiences. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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McGowan, Don C. Grassland Settlers: The Swift Current Region During the Era of the Ranching Frontier. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1975. Pp. xii, 205. Maps. Illustrations. \$5.50.

A common complaint of Canadian urban historians is that a general, comparative history of urban development in Canada is next to impossible since so few studies of individual towns and cities have been completed. Fortunately, this situation is changing since this study of the development of the Swift Current region is only one of several such studies completed and published in recent years.

Grassland Settlers traces the story of Swift Current and its environs from its original establishment in the early 1880's in south western Saskatchewan, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, through its early days of tented buildings and false-fronted stores, its exciting months as a military base during the North West Rebellions, its brief period of trail-freighting, its years as a ranching area for both cattle and sheep, to the coming of the sodbusters, and the incorporation of Swift Current as a town in 1907. In the process of writing this detailed account of the evolution of a community, the author has made effective use of several maps and statistical tables and included over thirty well chosen illustrations.

This volume is the fourth to appear in the Canadian Plains Studies series. Other books in the series are Esterhazy and Early Hungarian Immigration to Canada by Martin Louis; and two books edited by Richard Allen, A Region of the Mind and Religion and Society in the Prairie West. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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Lane, Robert. Policing the City: Boston, 1822-1885. New York: Athenium, 1975 (originally published in 1967 by Harvard University Press). Pp. 299.

This book is a reprint of an important study that pioneered the field of the development of police forces in North America. Three threads are interwoven into the fabric of the narrative: how Bostonians