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Artibise, Alan F.J., and Stelter, Gilbert A. *Canada's Urban Past: A Bibliography to 1980 and Guide to Canadian Urban Studies*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1981. Pp. xxxix, 396. \$42.00 (cloth), \$20.00 (paper)

Maurice Yeates

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*Meaning of Place Names in Canada* is indexed under Place Names - Ontario); and the *Bibliography of Ontario History, 1867-1976*, listed in the Ontario - General section along with some 250 other items.

Anyone who has ever compiled an index will view such aberrations with sympathy and, indeed, any apparent deficiencies noted in this review should be read in the light of my opening statement.

Some omissions seem inexplicable, such as the articles by L. Deshaies, D. Morin and H. Manseau in the 1975 *Cahiers de géographie de Québec*; R.G. Lillie's survey of CMHC's work from 1946-1966 in *Habitat* (1966-1968); and Jacques Henripin's 1954 work *La population canadienne au début du XVIIIe siècle*. Others, such as Johannes Overbeek's *Population and Canadian Society* (published in 1980) or the revised edition of Kalbach's *The Demographic Bases of Canadian Society* (1979) are more understandable. Another gap occurs in the listings on housing co-ops: three articles are listed, but several more, published in *Canadian Labour, Canadian Welfare*, and *Habitat*, from 1953 to 1979, are omitted. In a more peripheral area, it should be noted that the 1970 directory *Special Libraries and Information Centres in Canada* (Bibliography #1) has been superseded by the *Canadian Library Directory*, Part II, section 2 (1976); also, the *Gale Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centres*, currently published annually, has a section on Canada.

The informative Introduction defines the scope of the bibliography and provides a critical guide to current approaches to the field of urban history, with numerous bibliographical footnotes. It might be helpful to the beginning researcher if the key works listed in these footnotes, and perhaps some others in the General Section, were highlighted, by means of asterisks or some such sign, in the main bibliography.

The Guide which follows the bibliography constitutes a valuable aid to researchers whether experienced or novice. Developed from earlier guides published by Professor Artibise in 1977 and 1979, it describes newsletters and journals in the field, gives detailed information on archives and special libraries, and lists audio-visual resources and such other resources as publications series and research organizations. One possible useful addition here might be the inclusion of current bibliographical sources other than the *Urban History Yearbook's* Current Bibliography; such publications as the *Canadian Periodical Index*, *Population Index*, *Geo Abstracts*, *Bibliographie géographique internationale*, and *Political Science Abstracts* would help researchers supplement and update the references given in this bibliography.

The style and format of the volume are pleasing. The type is clear and easy to read, and all but the most obvious abbreviations are explained. There are remarkably few typographical errors, and the only ones that might cause the user some grief are a few cases of transposed digits in the Author index (e.g. 3362 [etc.] for 3662 [etc.] under Baldwin). All in all, a well-produced bibliography which lives up to its title.

Jane Szepesi  
Readers' Services  
Carleton University

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While most academic books stimulate some level of scholarly reflection, few cause personal reflection. The casual reader of this review will, therefore, be amused by the thought that a bibliography containing 7,054 references could do anything more than drive a person to distraction, but this particular compilation has caused some scholarly and personal examination.

Let me begin with the personal. Some twenty years ago, urban geography was emerging as a popular and rapidly developing sub-discipline in North American universities, and there was some considerable effort to define the focus of "urban geography" and its substance. The developing paradigm at this early stage was succinctly expressed by Brian J.L. Berry in his 1964 article with the classic one-liner title "Cities as Systems within Systems of Cities," in which the word "systems" relates to interaction, interdependence, and allometry.

As a part of the effort to define the substance of this emerging sub-discipline, a number of individuals accumulated bibliographies of mammoth proportions, and this reviewer was one of a number of graduate students, and faculty, who contributed to the accumulation, over a period of two or three years, of such a compilation relating to urban geography in North America. The sheer size of the bibliography meant that it had to be presented in a number of categories, beginning with the major two-fold division of topics suggested in the quoted one-liner. Each major division then contained a section grouping works of a theoretical nature relating to location, and separate categories of material pertaining to the various elements of the "systems."

That particular bibliography was not, of course, published, though a vast amount of work that was published grew out of the mind-set and substance of that bibliography. Looking back at the compilation, it is evident to me that (1) the organization of the bibliography was more influential than most of the contents, (2) the contents, that is, the actual citations, reflected the linguistic and

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.

Maurice Yeates  
Queen's University

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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,