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Cleary (1863-1905) and Clara Laughlin (1873-1941) were writers whose magazine short stories also stressed the experiences of "common" Irishmen in the New World. Perhaps the most prolific of Chicago's Irish Literaries was James T. Farrell (1904-79). Farrell's Washington Park novels keenly balanced culture, ethnic space, and time. Fanning notes that "his sympathetic portrayal of Chicago Irish working- and middle-class families established him as a pioneer in the field of urban ethnic literature." All four of these writers stressed the themes of working-class heroism, dignity amid poverty, and second-generation community disintegration.

This book's ability to compare and contrast things Irish-American with those particularly Irish and Chicago is perhaps its greatest attribute. The Irish in this city were active politically and religiously, but in the beginning they were economically subordinated. Unlike their countrymen in some eastern cities, however, the Irish in Chicago, the authors hold, consciously sought and attained social mobility. Here some contradiction arises. No one examines, for example, how the "communal Catholicism" of this group intersected with individual quests for "middle-class respectability." If the Irish "were not rugged individualists," how did their advances in politics, athletics, and entertainment come about? At the end of this volume that question remains unresolved.

Finally, perhaps because the book signals "the end of an era," the authors seem too willing to view the Irish experience in Chicago in a somewhat Whiggish manner. "Irish-America is an urban ethnic success story." The contributors tend to conceptualize this history in three phases: Irish community formation; second-generation "Americanization"; and, finally, "lace-curtain" social mobility. *The Irish in Chicago* provides a good summary of more than 150 years of

Irish experience in an important American city.

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**Squires, Gregory D.; Bennett, Larry; McCourt, Kathleen; and Nyden, Philip.** *Chicago: Race, Class, and the Response to Urban Decline*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987. Pp. xii, 230. Tables, maps, figures, index. \$29.95 (U.S.)

This volume is the first in a series of studies on the dynamics of economic development in major American cities since World War Two. The authors present a highly readable, analytical, incisive and usable text on how the leaders of Chicago's political economy directed the shape of urban development to the present time. This process began even before the political reign of Mayor Richard J. Daley in 1955 and has continued after his death. While the immense power of the economic forces as illustrated through the interests of the banks, the giant retail houses of Field's, Carson's and Sears, the realty associations and the industries such as USX and AMOCO have held sway for over three decades, a new movement is underway which has already seriously challenged their domination over the city's future. The convergence of interests of a new populist, political wave led by blacks and which culminated in the political victory of Harold Washington in 1983 and the populist, neighbourhood thrust of white ethnics and Hispanics has presented the formidable forces that heretofore controlled the political economy with an alternative agenda. In the post-war years, the growth ideology promoted by business interests held centre stage, controlling access to information. Since 1983, the open, responsive city government that is emerging has provided neighbourhood interests with an opportunity to shift economic investment away from the

business districts to the city's Loop and neighbourhoods.

The problems of a public policy that focused only on market growth in the center of the city included misguided diagnoses that the decline in industrialization was caused by high taxes, government regulations, high wages demanded by unions and welfare costs while overlooking the drain that avaricious corporate actions produced. One such example is USX's disinvestment that resulted in large scale unemployment with its attendant ills of loss of self-esteem, financial deprivation, family breakups, and neighbourhood disruption. Also, ignoring or accepting as inevitable certain social problems such as unemployment, crime and undereducation merely exacerbated social disruption. For over three decades, business growth in the corporate sector when coupled with political inaction on pressing social issues diminished the quality of life for those in the lower quarter of Chicago's social structure. Most important, the alternatives that allowed for an economic growth that complemented social progress were deliberately overlooked. Quoting economist Robert Reich of Harvard, "a social organization premised on equity, security, and participation will generate greater productivity than one premised on greed and fear."

The answer from Chicago's neighbourhood organizations to the challenge from corporate-municipal greed has come from citizen groups that to a remarkable extent are overcoming racial and ethnic differences to achieve some successes in eliminating "redlining," which restricted mortgages, home improvement loans and insurance, as well as in promoting crime prevention and control. Reinvestment is beginning to follow lines that stimulate rather than stymie citizens in their quest for a better life. The municipal leadership offered by Harold Washington before his untimely death in November 1987 was steering the city in a direction that challenged the partnership of self-interest

that the Daley years had nurtured. Some of the optimism that buoyed the authors in the writing of this study will undoubtedly be challenged by the new shape of municipal government after 1988 as the Washington revolution in participatory democracy undergoes new strains.

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**Huxtable, Ada Louise. *Goodbye History, Hello Hamburger: An Anthology of Architectural Delights and Disasters*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986. Pp. 206. Index, black and white photographs. \$14.95 (U.S.).**

On 21 March 1971, Ada Louise Huxtable, the renowned architecture critic, wrote an article in *The New York Times* entitled, "Goodbye History, Hello Hamburger". The focus of this article was the destruction of Mapleside, a stately century-old home in Madison, Wisconsin, and its replacement by a Burger King restaurant. As Huxtable observed at the time, "from historic home to 'home of the whopper' with the swing of the wrecker's ball."

The article gave its name to this anthology of Huxtable's writings which have been reprinted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The book should be a welcome addition to everyone's library since it addresses issues which concern us all. Written in engaging prose and well illustrated, each chapter is a short essay in the on-going development of the preservation field. Recurring themes, such as the demolition of buildings and their replacement by parking lots or fast-food restaurants, or the unsympathetic integration of old and new buildings, have become commonplace in the literature concerned with the urban environment.

The irony is that these themes have not changed much in the past 17 years. In fact, Huxtable is a true pioneer who early articulated these themes while she served as *The New York Times*' architecture critic from 1962 to 1973. Looking back at these articles today, one is struck immediately by their timelessness. On the one hand this is a real tribute to Huxtable's thought-provoking essays, and on the other hand, a rather sad observation that the battles of the sixties and the seventies to save historic buildings and neighbourhoods continue to rage at the end of the eighties. Indeed there has been some very real progress in changing the public perception that "new is better," and it is because of critics like Huxtable that urban issues are debated in the public realm. Her desire to ensure harmony among the past, present, and future, through the preservation of older buildings and neighbourhoods, has given her the conviction to speak out against developers, architects, and governments, while inspiring her readers to take a look around and consider the state of the built environment.

*Goodbye History, Hello Hamburger* contains 60 reprinted articles which have been organized into seven thematic groups with titles such as "How to Kill a City," "Urban Scenes and Schemes," and "Where the Past Meets the Future." Unfortunately the entire list of articles and their original date of publication are only listed at the end of the book so the reader is sometimes left wondering where and when the articles first appeared. In many cases, it is surprising how long ago they first reached the pages of *The New York Times*, and it would have been nice to see these dates at the beginning of each article. This would also serve to reinforce their foresight.

Since most of these articles were written for *The New York Times*, they focus to a certain extent on the buildings of Manhattan or other parts of the United States. Although for some readers this may seem to be too narrow a focus, it was in Manhattan that many

preservation initiatives emerged. Celebrated landmarks such as Penn Station were lost; court cases were fought, including the one involving Grand Central Station; new preservation techniques were initiated, such as the transfer of development rights in order to save the late 18th and early 19th-century warehouses at South Street Seaport; and one of America's most extensive historic district networks was developed. As a result, during the past two decades, Manhattan has served as the testing ground for these preservation planning strategies and in turn the city has provided the rest of the nation with a myriad of preservation case-studies. Indeed, a number of these strategies have been adopted in Canadian cities.

One of this book's most likable characteristics is its readability. Huxtable is an outstanding stylist whose witty and perceptive remarks make this book a delight. She also is an effective writer who provides novices as well as serious scholars with sufficient information to comprehend specific aspects of a subject with which they might not be familiar. In perhaps her most important contribution to the preservation movement, she has inspired millions of readers to open their eyes, to learn from others about how to save threatened buildings, to oppose the construction of yet another row of faceless skyscrapers, and to work collectively to create better urban environments throughout North America. As Huxtable herself writes in the book's afterword,

This is an extremely troubling and uncertain time, but I would not swap it for any other ... there are many successes and pleasures to celebrate as well, in new and old buildings and in a burgeoning sensibility to the built environment. I measure success by the street corner. My obsessions are now shared and my coconspirators are everywhere. Assuming survival, the battle for the future is well joined. I'll still be kicking buildings for a while.