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Atlas of Winnipeg

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[See table of contents](#)

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Ces quelques remarques négatives n'altèrent pas la qualité de cet ouvrage qui est, sans conteste, un outil précieux pour toutes les personnes intéressées aux sciences de la terre. L'auteur fait preuve d'un remarquable esprit de synthèse et d'une indéniable continuité de pensée. Tout au long du livre, il nous faut saisir, dans une conception résolument moderne, que les sols sont intimement intégrés au milieu, tant général que local. Avec P. Duchaufour, la dynamique des sols en fonction du milieu, deviant une synthèse écologique.

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Atlas of Winnipeg

Compiled and edited by Thomas R. Weir
University of Toronto Press, Toronto,
 67 p., 1978.
 \$25.00

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In response to demands from planners, geographers, historians and others there has been a tendency during recent years for commercial and scholarly publishers to issue more and more urban and regional atlases. Although this is particularly true for American and European cities, Canada has not escaped attention.

There are two very fine atlases of Winnipeg currently available: *Atlas of Winnipeg*, the subject of this review, and *Winnipeg in Maps. Winnipeg par les Cartes: 1816-1972* by A.F.J. Artibise and E.H. Dahl. Whereas *Winnipeg in Maps* provides a detailed historical treatment of the growth and development of this city, the *Atlas* gives up-to-date demographic, socio-economic and land use information.

The *Atlas of Winnipeg* is organized into nine sections as follows: physical (3 plates), historical (4 plates), demography, including language and religion (20 plates), family structure (6 plates), dwelling and income (14 plates),

occupations (10 plates), and educational status (4 plates). On these 67 plates there are a total of 151 maps with accompanying bar graphs, population pyramids and other interpretive aids.

In his one-page preface Weir states that "in the belief that people themselves are the most important elements in any city, demography constitutes the largest section." That this is how he has chosen to organize his atlas is somewhat unfortunate since it seems to be at the expense of the physical treatment. Here he has included one map showing the built-up area in 1976, four small-scale maps of bedrock topography and the nature of surface deposits (quite erroneously these four little maps have been assigned the caption Soil Characteristics), and one plate consisting of temperature and precipitation graphs.

Of the 151 maps, 44 (on a total of 11 plates) have an approximate scale of 1:175,000 (the only indication of scale on any of the maps is a bar graph); a further 41 maps (on 41 plates) are drawn at a scale of 1:100,000. These last-mentioned maps, measuring 36 by 30 cm, are an ideal size for the cartographic representation of various structural and socio-economic aspects of a city such as Winnipeg. Most of the remaining maps are at scales smaller than 1:175,000. By far the majority of the maps are choroplethic although there are several that are compiled using dots, graduated circles, isopaths, and the like. The quality of the cartographic work is excellent; this includes colour register, clarity of detail, and tonal or colour contrast. The visual impact of a small minority of the maps is slightly diminished through injudicious selection and application of colour (plates 46, 49, 50, 51, 65); the various shades of brown and orange are difficult to distinguish on the map and to relate to the key.

In terms of the text the atlas also scores very well. Each plate is accompanied by concise and lucid notes which serve to "point the reader to significant information contained in the maps and to encourage comparison between maps". The maps are well documented and reference is made in almost all cases (one of the

exceptions is the plate entitled Soil Characteristics; there are no notes and there is no documentation) to a specific publication rather than to some government department or other issuing body.

My major concern is the format of the atlas. The maps are reproduced on large sheets (49 by 37 cm) of high-quality, heavy-weight paper and yet the atlas has been given paper covers and is merely spiral bound. Consequently the volume is both awkward to handle (there is very little rigidity to the atlas when unsupported) and is readily susceptible to damage through handling; it would be very easy indeed to have an entire plate tear loose along the bound-in edge.

I agree with Weir that the *Atlas of Winnipeg* has been suitably designed to serve the needs of planners, university and high school students concerned with the city as a socio-economic and geographic unit, and business and professional people who may have occasion to study the city in respect to markets, population movements, land use and so on. Twenty five dollars is a reasonable price for this well designed and thoroughgoing atlas of Winnipeg.

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