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# Smith, P. J., ed. *Edmonton: The Emerging Metropolitan Pattern*. Western Geographical Series, Volume 15. Victoria: Department of Geography, University of Victoria, 1978. Pp. xxviii, 291. Tables, figures, maps, illustrations. $4.00

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See table of contents

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# BOOK REVIEWS

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Smith, P. J., ed. Edmonton: The Emerging Metropolitan Pattern. Western Geographical Series, Volume 15. Victoria: Department of Geography, University of Victoria, 1978. Pp. xxviii, 291. Tables, figures, maps, illustrations. $4.00.

This fourth collection of essays about a city published in the Western Geographical Series makes no less interesting reading than the three previous volumes which are devoted to Calgary (Vol. 11) and to Victoria (Vols. 5 and 12). According to the editor's preface, the subtitle conveys the belief that Edmonton, with its sustained growth over the past three decades, has become highly complex and is beginning to develop metropolitan characteristics. Most of the nine articles assembled in the book address themselves to the corollaries of numerical growth: the increasing diversity of the city, the changes in various spheres of life (sometimes only minor ones), and the attendant potential for conflict.

In an analysis of "The Changing Economy of Edmonton 1961-1971," N.R.M. Seifried demonstrates that, although every important industry has grown over the study period in terms of employment figures, by far the greatest gains have been made in the tertiary sector. Edmonton has basically remained a service and trade centre, but the range of tertiary activities has increased, largely through the expansion of community, business, and personal services. At the same time, the city has become more self-sufficient. By virtue of its population growth, the census metropolitan area of Edmonton, along with that of Calgary, has ascended into a higher rank of the urban hierarchy during the study period. The attendant entry of higher-order services cannot yet be documented, perhaps owing to a time lag, but pertinent indications are present. Applying various, admittedly vague, criteria of metropolitan status, the author concludes that the city "is in the process of crossing the threshold to the status of a regional metropolis" (p. 25).

The manufacturing sector of the urban economy is the subject of a contribution by K. J. Fairbairn and B. M. Barr, which complements a similar study in the Calgary volume. Comparing Edmonton with Calgary and Alberta as a whole, the authors observe that, in general, the manufacturing industries in the province are dominated by the two large cities, are basically oriented to the local market, and lack well-developed backward and forward linkages within Alberta. In short, the manufacturing economy of Edmonton, and indeed of the province, is still immature.

Two chapters are devoted to regional shopping centres. D. B. Johnson, in an article about a large unplanned retail nucleation, asks whether this business node can be regarded as a regional shopping centre. The results of his analysis of formal and functional elements are

somewhat ambivalent. The characteristic combination of retail and service outlets that encourages multi-stop consumer trips is partly present, a relatively high percentage of such trips is observed, and the trade area is compatible with the rank of a regional centre. On the other hand, functions are more varied than in a planned centre, and this fact, along with intervening streets, reduces the potential for pedestrian store-to-store shopping, if more than two stops are involved. As the case under discussion does not fully fit the centre concept, the author suggests that the latter may be reexamined and more sharply defined.

The proliferation of planned shopping centres in the city provides patrons with increasing freedom of choice. Starting with this observation, S. A. Brown argues that models designed to predict such patronage choice should include consumer attitudes towards retail facilities. In a case study about customers living midway between two centres that are comparable in size and functional composition, the author shows that patronage choice is made in a significant proportion of cases on the basis of attitudes, but that the probability of choosing a specific centre "is not a direct function of the relative magnitude of [a shopper's] attitudinal preferences" (p. 113). The factors that shape consumer attitudes, among which spaciousness of the retail facility was found to be most important, should be taken into account in designing new centres and renovating existing ones in order to increase their ability to compete.

The exceedingly interesting article on "The Residential Development Cycle in Space and Time" by L. D. McCann and P. J. Smith is related to previous research of the former author. In contrast to the simplistic three-stage model of urban residential evolution, which postulates a general sequence of initial development, conversion, and redevelopment, no less than twelve typical development sequences are identified. At the same time, as the city has become older, an increasingly complex array of housing environments has developed, which can only partly be subsumed under the current models of urban spatial structure. The kind of development, duration of development phases, and extent of conversion in a specific area are seen in relation to its location within the urban settlement and to the growth of the city as a whole. The importance of this contribution lies not only in the refinement of ideas about urban spatial structure but also in its emphasis on the cultural landscape, a field of enquiry which has suffered long and unwarranted neglect in urban geography.

Two further articles are concerned with the social differentiation of urban space. W.K.D. Davies' "Social Taxonomy of Edmonton's Community Areas in 1971" complements a similar essay included in the Calgary volume. Although the results of the usual multivariate analyses confirm established generalizations about the socio-spatial structure of cities, they also reveal, as in the case of Calgary, a migrant-status dimension which has not often been recognized before and point out some modifications that are particular to Edmonton.

K. J. Fairbairn's study of "Locational Changes of Edmonton's High Status Residents, 1937-1972" tests the established notion, incorporated in the sectoral model of urban spatial structure, that over a period of city expansion high-status residents move to the margin of the city in a well-defined direction. Contrary to theory, the Edmonton elite has, by and large, remained in place, even though a recent expansion of and distribution changes within its residential area are observed. As the author points out, this residential area is close to the places of work of most high-status citizens, e.g. the university and the central business district. Fairbairn's paper, like that by McCann and Smith, casts doubt on the universal applicability of accepted but simple land use models to North American cities.

R. G. Ironside studies the decentralization of public services as a locational adjustment of urban growth. After a useful overview of the spatial development of city-administered services, the author demonstrates shortcomings in the location of selected face-to-face services which make for inefficiency in performance and inequity towards the clients. The political dimension of the research is underscored by a record of government and, more important, citizen initiatives towards improving the delivery of personal services.

The equity problem, of major concern in the paper discussed previously, is also addressed in the final chapter by P. J. Smith and H. L. Diemer, which deals with Edmonton's unsuccessful bid of 1962-64 for annexation of the Strathcona industrial corridor. The territorial conflict between different jurisdictions that had resulted from this bid was arbitrated by the Local Authorities Board of the Province of Alberta. The arbitration is found to conform to the author's theoretical model of conflict resolution. The relevant decisions are interpreted as equitable within the limits imposed by the Board's emphasis on the global recognition of existing territorial rights.

The well-written articles open up a number of interesting perspectives. It is fortunate that the theoretical context of the individual studies, encompassing both background and implications of the empirical research, has been presented in greater detail than is usually possible in journal articles. This fact will be appreciated by readers who are not specialists in urban geography. Historians may find those chapters useful which explicitly address themselves to developments in time.

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