

Notes and Comments

Notes et Commentaires

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**Centre for Urban and Community Studies
Urban History Workshops, 1987**

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, held two urban history workshops during 1987. The first was a "Comparative Analysis of Housing Tenure in Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton, 1890-1914," seizing the opportunity of British social geographer Richard Dennis' presence in Toronto as Visiting Scholar at the Centre, where he spent his research leave from the Department of Geography, University College, London. The paper he presented at the workshop reported on an issue usually obscured by our preoccupation with single-family home ownership, Toronto's landlords and rental sector during the period 1885-1914.

Richard Harris (Geography, Scarborough College, University of Toronto) examined the

growth of home ownership in Toronto between 1899 and 1913, a growth not only in middle-class ownership but also in that of the working class; a housing shortage and rapid rent increase forced many families into home ownership. Michael Doucet (Geography, Ryerson) and John Weaver (History, McMaster) presented work on the long-term changing tenure composition in Hamilton. Edward Chambers (Faculty of Business, University of Alberta) and Gordon Darroch (Institute of Social Research, York) discussed the Toronto-Hamilton presentations.

Discussion on Montreal was in many respects of a more speculative nature since, as the presenter Marc Choko (INRS-urbanisation and Design, UQAM) pointed out, the period 1890-1914 has been little studied. Both Choko and discussant David Hanna (Geography, UQAM) questioned common interpretations of the determinants of Montreal's tenure structure, which remains heavily rental. The session provided a first step in identifying contrasts in public policy influences between Montreal and Toronto. Suzanne Mackenzie (Geography, Carleton) led a general discussion with some critical comments on the assumptions employed by all the presenters surrounding the concepts of tenure, class and housing.

The presentations of Dennis, Harris and Choko have been published as numbers 162, 163, and 164 in the Centre for Urban and Community Studies' Research Paper series, available from the Centre at 455 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, M5S 2G8 for \$6, \$5, and \$4 respectively. They are reviewed in the current issue of UHR/RHU.

The second workshop was designed around R. Home Smith, a figure prominent in early 20th century Toronto who as a developer, member of the Board of Trade, Toronto Harbour Commission and Advisory City Planning Commission, 1928-29, had a significant influence on planning decisions and the direction of development. James Gunn, of North Carolina, traced the

biography of Home Smith and his developments through Humber Valley Surveys of the Kingsway area of West Toronto. Ross Paterson (Geography, York) examined the influence on Toronto between 1900-1941 of several prominent developers, including Home Smith. Gene Desfor (Faculty of Environmental Studies, York) reviewed the evolution of plans for the harbour, which were strongly influenced by Home Smith.

The workshops were organized by Jim Lemon (Geography, University of Toronto) and Judith Kjellberg (Centre for Urban and Community Studies), and chaired by Jim Lemon.

Judith Kjellberg
Centre for Urban and
Community Studies

***Edinburgh Conference on Nineteenth Century
Canadian Cities 4 - 7 May 1989***

The Centre of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh, announces a forthcoming conference on The Nineteenth Century Canadian City: Internal Change and External Lines. The conference is scheduled for 4-7 May 1989. The conference will bring together scholars from different disciplines who share research interests in the nineteenth century Canadian city. Some papers might consider the Canadian city in the early twentieth century. Comparative studies relating to British and Canadian urban settlements will be welcome.

Papers should be available for distribution before the conference and presentations will be confined to twenty minutes. The Centre of Canadian Studies regrets that it is unable to provide travel costs to those giving papers.

Please submit abstracts of papers, of 100 words or less, in either English or French, to:
Judith P. Wiesinger
Centre of Canadian Studies
21 George Square
Edinburgh, Scotland
EH8 9LD

Electronic Mail: CCS UK. AC. ED. GEOVAX

Abstracts should be received by
10 October 1988

Annual Bibliography

The annual urban history bibliography will not be published. The editorial board, having reviewed the commitment of resources required, has determined that the entire question of bibliographic services in Canada needs to be addressed by the national bodies serving Canadian humanists and social scientists. The bibliography was the result of dedicated effort by Elizabeth Bloomfield. The undertaking had reached such a scale that the only feasible means of producing a bibliography was to contract with a central information bank, but none yet appear to have the completeness required. Recommendations from subscribers are invited.