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Cockburn, Cynthia. *The Local State: Management of Cities and People*. London: Pluto Press, 1977. Pp. 184

Schechter, Stephen, *The Politics of Urban Liberation*. Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1978. Pp. 203

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Space has not allowed me to mention all of the themes in *Moralism and the Model Home*. Perhaps its greatest contribution to our understanding of urban housing is the analysis of public perception of the roles to be played by homes and housing in society. It is here that Wright is at her synthetic best, skillfully interweaving the images and attitudes of workers, professionals, reformers, and others to uncover the dynamics of popular opinion. While the image of the role of the home, indeed even of household management, changed dramatically between 1873 and 1913, some of the attitudes formulated then remain important today. Victorian builders,

suggested a vision of America filled with independent, attractive homes, each economical enough to be owned by its occupants. That vision had been an integral part of the American dream for countless immigrants from many countries. It would continue its hold for future generations (p.45).

Not only was this image important, but housing also came to be viewed as "a direct way to stabilize the society" (p.294).

*Moralism and the Model Home* is a first-rate book. It deserves a wide readership. A similar study for Canada would be useful, since it could shed considerable light upon the Canadian identity. In our country too, housing is deeply entrenched in middle-class dreams. We like to believe that our experience has been different from that of our American neighbours. A detailed study of Canadian images concerning housing could be very revealing in this regard.

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## Book Notes/Notes bibliographiques

Ivonoffski, Vrenia and Campbell, Sandra, eds. *Exploring Our Heritage: The Ottawa Valley Experience: Proceedings of a Heritage Festival, Arnprior, October 21-22, 1978*. Toronto, 1980. Available from Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1Y7.

Discovery and conservation of heritage is a governmental growth industry. Some of its product is revealed in this 144 page volume, itself an outcome of a town and gown festival in the heart of the Ottawa Valley. The volume is not urban. Nor is it professional from cover to cover. Nor was it intended to be. Town and country; professional and amateur met in Arnprior in 1978 and meet in this collection. Of interest to urban historians or to professional historians or to both might be the following among the 33 articles:

Marilyn Miller, "The Opeongo Road: A Unique Historical Resource;" Julian Gwyn, "The Irish in Eastern Ontario: The Social Structure of Huntley Township in Carleton County, 1851-71;" Gaetan Vallières, "Franco-Ontariens in the Ottawa Valley;" C. Grant Head, "Nineteenth Century Timbering and Sawlogging in the Ottawa Valley...;" David Knight, "The Ottawa Valley and the Selection of Canada's Capital City;" and Carol Sheedy, "Aspects Professionnels et Socio-culturels de la Population de la Côte-de-Sable [Ottawa]."

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Morris, David and Hess, Karl. *Neighbourhood Power: The New Localism*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1975. Pp. 180.

This book is rapidly becoming a popular guide for the proponents of re-creating communities from the bottom up. It describes and recommends a variety of actions to be taken to re-establish human scale organization through building a community's sense of identity and returning political and economic power to the neighbourhood level: block parties, local ownership of neighbourhood media, co-operative businesses and housing, urban food production, etc. It recognizes limits to neighbourhood self-sufficiency, but the discussion of the inter-neighbourhood cooperation necessary to overcome these limits is weak and detracts from the general plausibility of the rest of the book.

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Cockburn, Cynthia. *The Local State: Management of Cities and People*. London: Pluto Press, 1977. Pp. 184.

At the turn of the century corporate growth and capital reorganization precipitated and at the same time provided models for new forms of municipal organization. This book is about the efforts of British local governments to respond to the crises created by the most recent wave of capital reorganization through the implementation of modern corporate management techniques. Popular scepticism about electoral politics has led to an increase in extra-parliamentary militancy. Local governments have expanded their corporate management strategy to try and encompass this through community development programmes and the creation of neighbourhood councils. Although it has too limited an historical perspective, this book is valuable for its insights into the role of the local state and for its attention to the efforts of workers to combat the reduction of the social wage (public expenditures on housing and collective services) through struggles at

the local level, where the labour force is reproduced and maintained.

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Schechter, Stephen, *The Politics of Urban Liberation*. Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1978. Pp.203.

To help libertarian socialists understand the importance of the city in the history of social revolution, this book tries to provide an analysis of contemporary urban development – which draws extensively from the work of Braverman and O'Connor – and to apply it to Montreal; it surveys the history of revolution from below and its continual repression, not only by fascists but also by communist and social democratic parties (Russia, Germany, Italy 1920, Spain 1936-39, Hungary 1956, Portugal 1974-75), and it evaluates the current state of urban movements in Chile, France, Italy, and Montreal. The account of the Montreal Citizens' Movement – in which Schechter has been an active participant – reveals (but does not recognize) that at the heart of the libertarian socialists' urban project is the same unresolved contradiction between a need for united action and long-term strategy and a respect for local spontaneity and autonomy that is to be found in much of the current discussion on citizens' participation.

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Cimon, Jean. *Le Dossier Outaouais: réflexions d'un urbaniste*. Québec: Éditions du Pélican Québec, 1979. Pp.183

Ce collage d'extraits de documents locaux, provinciaux et fédéraux et de commentaires sur l'espace urbain et l'espace culturel de l'Outaouais amène l'auteur à deux conclusions: la quasi-intégration de l'Outaouais dans la capitale nationale représente un danger constant pour la culture et la langue des francophones; et la cohabitation de deux cultures sur un même territoire est un obstacle à l'élaboration d'une planification urbaine cohérente. Planifier c'est améliorer les conditions "d'habitabilité" dont, semble-t-il, la plus importante dans l'Outaouais québécois (il parle aussi parfois des francophones d'Ottawa) est la survivance culturelle. Le livre consacre plus de place aux sujets comme la protection du patrimoine qu'il n'en donne aux conditions du logement. Malgré un manque de synthèse dans le livre et des défauts de présentation commis par la maison d'édition, c'est un travail perspicace, parfois poétique, et sans question utile pour ceux qui veulent en comprendre plus sur cette région trop longtemps négligée.

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