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John H. Taylor

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## Book Notes/Notes bibliographiques

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Prof. Paul-André Linteau's prize-winning study of the promotion and development of the Montreal suburb of Maisonneuve is now available in English.

It was originally published in French in 1981, and quickly became a standard work on the process of urban and industrial development in twentieth century Quebec.

In its brief existence, from incorporation in 1883 to annexation by Montreal in 1918, the city's mainly French-Canadian promoters employed a number of strategies to induce growth, and these are recounted in a rare combination of scholarly erudition and literary clarity.

See the review of the original French edition in the *Urban History Review/Revue d'histoire urbaine* XI (June 1982): 59-60.

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Waterston, Elizabeth, ed. *John Galt: Reappraisals*. Guelph: The University of Guelph, 1985. Pp. 128.

The life and works of John Galt, as Elizabeth Waterston points out (p. 57), illuminate three large themes all of interest to urban scholars: the nineteenth century transition from rural to urban life; the founding of new towns on the Canadian frontier, notably Guelph; and in his novel, *Bogle Corbet*, the "form and a tone which not only caught his own experiences in small-town life in Canada," but which reappear in the writings of Stephen Leacock, Margaret Laurence, and many other Canadian writers.

Changes are rung on all of these themes in this volume of essays, originally presented at a conference in June, 1984, during the annual meetings of the Learned Societies at Guelph.

Of most direct interest to urban scholars is Gilbert Stelter's, "John Galt as Town Booster and Builder," in which the author's discovery of Galt's original plan for Guelph engenders a reassessment of some of the conventional wisdom on both Galt and on early town planning in Canada.

But readers should not overlook other essays in the volume, though most focus on Galt as a writer. Of especial importance are those essays that deal with Galt's "Cana-

dian" novel and his autobiography, notably the editor's "*Bogle Corbet* and the Annals of New World Parishes."

This volume is available from The University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1.

**CONTENTS:** Preface; John Galt's New World Novels, *Erik Frykman*; John Galt as Town Booster and Builder, *Gilbert A. Stelter*; Galt's life and the *Autobiography, Nick Whistler*; *Bogle Corbet* and the annals of New World Parishes, *Elizabeth Waterston*; *Bogle Corbet* and the Sentimental Romance, *Martin Bowman*; The Epistolary Novel and *The Ayrshire Legatees, Keith M. Costain*; The Narrative Perspective in *The Last of the Lairds, H.B. de Groot*; "Dependents of Chance," *Ian Campbell*; Galt and Politics, *Ian A. Gordon*.

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*A Capital in the Making: Reflections of the Past; Visions of the Future*. Ottawa: National Capital Commission, 1985. Pp. 63. Illustrations.

This publication is mainly a promotional "brochure" intended to give the reader a sense of past and future planning policies devised to establish Ottawa-Hull as the "political and symbolic centre of the Canadian Federation."

Its central thesis is that while much capital improvement has been carried out over the last 130 years, "our still young and incomplete capital can be developed and improved further so that it may truly be a source of pride and inspiration for all Canadians."

In this sense the brochure is clearly a "vanity publication" intended to rationalize future activity of the National Capital Commission in planning and developing the capital, particularly in the face of criticism both within and without the city that the NCC is largely a spent force.

But the political message aside, the brochure provides a compact and readable review — lavishly illustrated — of the history of efforts to plan and develop the capital, and leads the reader easily through the various capital improvement agencies — the Ottawa Improvement Commission, the Federal District Commission, and the National Capital Commission — and through the various plans they generated.

The powerful planning and development thrust by federal agencies sets Ottawa apart from other Canadian cities, even provincial capitals, and is central to the understanding of the history of the city.

The brochure is available from the Planning Branch of the National Capital Commission, 161 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa, Canada. K1P 6J6.

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*Preliminary Listing of Ethnic Libraries, Museums, Archives and Research Centres.* Compiled by Elizabeth Boghossian. Ottawa: Multiculturalism Canada, 1984. Pp. 78 (English) and 86 (French).

This listing embraces some 133 Canadian "ethnic resource facilities" with brief descriptions of their holdings and facilities.

It was compiled from lists of ethnic groups and organizations generated by the federal Multiculturalism Directorate, libraries, museums, and similar organizations. These were subsequently canvassed by mail to obtain basic data.

The list is indexed by ethnic group and by location, and is published under one cover in French and English.

It can be obtained from Information Services, Secretary of State, Ottawa K1A 0M5.

John H. Taylor  
Book Review Editor  
Department of History  
Carleton University

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**Property and Poverty in New York:  
Books not Known to Mamie O'Rourke**

When me and Mamie O'Rourke tripped the light fantastic on the east side, the west side, and all around the town, neither of us knew much about the real history of the city we loved. "Me," a young professor and a sobersides, digested Richard Hofstadter's and Lee Benson's books in graduate school and found them useful shovels to bury Carl Becker's naive, semi-Marxist notions of class conflict in New York's distant past. Mamie, a nurse, slightly more fun-loving and much less pedantic, learned her local history from a combination of her old neighbourhood, a high school textbook, and Broadway shows. Both of us thought we knew New York well and, despite our differing approaches to historical methodology, we agreed on the following four basic propositions. (1). Machine politics in New York had been and still were based on a boss's skill in arranging the right blend of ethnic coalitions: he who balanced best, triumphed; he who miscalculated the mixture did not survive the political explosion. (2). Despite the presence of the rich, the average, and the poor, New York City residents had never had a well-

defined sense of class consciousness. Divisions among the population ran more along ethnic and racial lines than economic class ones. Mamie's Irish-Catholic mother did not want her to marry me because I was Protestant not because my mother had gone to a private school in New England. (3). New York's mayor had power and authority that surpassed that of most state governors and often equalled that of New York State's governor. Mayor Wagner's and Governor Rockefeller's predictable seasonal squabbles were as heated and entertaining as the subway series between baseball's Yankees and Dodgers. (4). As the most important city by far in the United States, New York set the pace for urban development and change in the nation. Good or bad, if it was going to happen, it happened first in New York. Although neither Mamie nor I liked or used the nickname, "The Big Apple," we both felt it was an apt description: our distaste came from its obvious redundancy.

Alas for post World-War-Two consensus history and for New York media and street-corner gossip, three recent extraordinary books show that Mamie and me were dead wrong on propositions one and two and confused on proposition three; only on the "Big Apple" view of New York City's pre-eminence were we substantially correct. These three books all focus on New York between the Revolutionary era and the Civil War; collectively they provide the freshest thought on the early nineteenth-century development of one American city to be produced by the present generation of urban historians. Because the city in question is New York, the work is all the more valuable. Because the period in question is the first half of the nineteenth century, a wedge of time sandwiched between and much less explored than the colonial and industrial eras, the work is more valuable yet.

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Bridges, Amy. *A City in the Republic: Antebellum New York and the Origins of Machine Politics.* Cambridge, London, and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1984. Pp. xi, 210. Tables, index. \$29.95 (U.S.).

Amy Bridges argues that machine politics in New York originated before the waves of immigration that are usually credited/blamed for forming the social base the bosses exploited to build their local empires. According to Bridges, two other factors that emerged simultaneously in Jacksonian America did more than the Irish migration to create the pre-conditions for Tammany Halls' dominance: the early stages of industrialization and the elimination of property qualifications as a barrier to the voting franchise. Industrialization recast New York's social order as workers replaced artisans and entrepreneurs replaced master craftsmen. The conflicts that labour historians such as E.P. Thompson describe as inevitable when capitalists aggrandize wealth and