

Murray, Sylvie et Elyse Tremblay. Cent ans de solidarité, Histoire du CTM, 1886-1986. Collection « Études Québécois, » Montréal : VLB Editeur, 1987. Pp. 150. Illustrations, bibliography. \$14.95 paper

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economy has led. At the heart of the failure of political will is the fact that land provides an important part of the wealth of the elites which exercise greatest influence over the state in most of the countries mentioned in Oberlander's book.

There are two other important issues which international discussions of human settlements have tended to ignore, and the book, reflecting this, ignores as well. The first is the vital relationship between local level economic development and a community's ability to sustain land, infrastructure and housing improvements. The second is the significant differential effect of urban problems and the land issue on women and the important role women play in raising human settlements issues and in finding solutions to them. Women spend more time in the home than men, being generally responsible for the domestic economy. They suffer most if the infrastructure to support this economy is absent or inadequate. They experience important discrimination in regards to land, discrimination which has been intensified by the land registration process. For women heads of households the situation can be a desperate one. Because of this women everywhere are disproportionately present among the urban poor.

Women are disproportionately present in the urban informal economy, the wide variety of economic activities never registered in national statistics, which make survival possible for so many. They are also involved in the informal housing sector. Activities in the informal economy and the women who carry them out might provide the basis for an integrated local level economic development approach to human settlements problems and the land issue. In this, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, such an approach could represent an essential complement to the various policy and program shifts advocated by Oberlander at the end of his book.

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NOTES

1. For a perhaps more systematic account, see also: *Land for human settlements: Review and analysis of the present situation Report of the Executive Director United Nations Commission on Human Settlements*. HS/C/6/3. 11 January 1983. *Land for human settlements: recommendations for national and international action Report of the Executive Director United Nations Commission on Human Settlements*. HS/C/6/3Add.1. 13 January 1983.

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It is encouraging to see a study of the Montreal Labour Council; one of the oldest in Canada. However, there remain a number of other councils, including Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver and Halifax, that similarly need to be written about. These councils have played an important role historically in the direction of the labour and working class movement, as well as the social, economic and political life of municipalities. The Conseil des travailleuses et travailleurs du Montréal (CTM) has published its story as an official centenary history.

The work, produced by a collective, purports to be an organizational history of the Conseil's struggle to contribute to improving the working and living conditions of Montrealers. It also proposes to demonstrate the relationship between these activities, union organizing, and the development of union solidarity over the past 100 years. To illustrate this, chronological tables have been included as well as lists of significant strikes, brief biographies of prominent labour leaders and photographs to underscore aspects of the history (although these are not as well integrated as they could have been). Nonetheless, in some measure, the objectives have been accomplished, while in other regards the book tends to be an apologia.

Despite the stated purpose, this is not an organizational history; indeed little is provided on the structural functioning of the Conseil until its reorganization in the 1970s. How the Conseil functioned internally — meetings, affiliations, representations, per capita dues, control, etc. — has to be assumed. This is unfortunate, as the Conseil had a structured existence that was maintained by a core of labour activists.

The accounts of the CTM's recurrent activities are perhaps the strongest aspect of the book. A number of critical issues are addressed repeatedly. These include: organizing; improved and safer working conditions; workmen's compensation; health care; better housing and living conditions; minimum wage; paid vacation; elimination of child labour; improved women workers' rights; civil liberties; better care for the unemployed, the aged and the less fortunate; and public education. That many of these recurred during this period illustrates the difficulties they had in achieving their goals. But it could also indicate that the Conseil did not have a long term plan, and were reacting on an *ad hoc* basis.

Although the title emphasizes the "solidarity" of the CTM's objectives, down-played are the frequent schisms, due in part to the Conseil's actions which negatively affected the union movement — nationally as well as locally. The ejection of the Knights of Labour was the first and most significant, since it set the stage for the CTM's orientation as a moderate, Gomperist, narrow, exclusionist, union organization. But it also provided the means of making the Canadian labour movement the handmaiden of U.S. "International" unionism. Canadian workers are still paying the

price. The Conseil's attitude changed slowly, even after the fusion of the two Montreal Conseils in 1958. There were occasions when the differing Québécois national unionists worked with the CTM, particularly during the Common Front of 1972. But in most instances, the various unions went their separate ways.

Similarly, the question of politics was divisive and perplexing as the CTM grappled with functioning as a pressure group, or endorsing and/or establishing an independent workers' party. Despite the occasional success, they moved away from the latter and rebuked or ousted members who acted to the contrary. They concentrated their efforts at the municipal level, but in the 1960s encouraged support for the New Democratic Party and fluctuated in their position *vis-à-vis* the péquistes and québécois nationalism. Rank and file response, however, indicated their unwillingness to blindly follow Conseil directives.

The CTM's involvement with labour problems in the rest of the province is well documented. The broadness of their interests are documented in examples of the participation at Murdochville, the stand against federal wage controls, and the Conseil's increasing participation at the local level. The CTM became more of a community and workers' organization; not just unionist. And this remains one of the most positive aspects in its development.

There are some omissions in this study. Had they been included, they would have made the work far more useful. No attempt is made to demographically depict the Conseil's membership. Neither is there a close scrutiny of how involved the CTM was in municipal events. For example, the Conseil agitated for and organized the unemployed in the Great Depression. But what actions did the Conseil take in Montreal during the serious unemployment and housing crisis of 1913-15? And what was the CTM's relationship with the TLC and the CLC? Did the CTM uncritically adhere to all the directives of the Congresses or did they act independently? While the CTM can be justly proud of some of its labour leaders, a balanced assessment of them (warts and all), would have indicated why the CTM was not as effective as it might have been.

Although the book lacks the depth that a history of the CTM merits, it is a useful piece. It provides the reader with a quick and easy reference and thus fills a void. However, too many questions on how the Conseil affected, or was influenced by, Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa — politically and economically — still require elaboration.

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von Baeyer, Edwinna. *A Selected Bibliography for Garden History in Canada (Revised and Augmented)*. Ottawa: Environment Canada — Parks, 1987. Pp. 62. Also in French as *L'histoire du jardinage au Canada: bibliographie sélective (révisée et augmentée)*. Free.

Space devoted to gardens in cities doubtless rivals that devoted to buildings and transportation, yet garden space receives much less attention than either of the others. Moreover, urban garden space has arguably increased in importance over the last century as streets have relinquished their role as social space to become largely conduits, and as creation of private space has largely been accomplished through land (and gardens) in the suburbs and landscaping in the congested core areas where land rents are high.

Apart from a history of city gardens, the more general history of gardening in Canada has yet to be written, as von Baeyer points out. In the meantime her "selected bibliography may help in answering some of the questions about how past generations gardened in Canada."

Material here has been limited to the designed garden rather than the natural, either that published before 1950 or that about gardens existing before 1950. Urban garden space is thus incidental to categories that range from Travel and Immigrant Literature and Naturalists to Railway and School gardening and Parks.

Much has been excluded, notably "the larger landscape questions of which gardening forms a part," including town planning. Local history was not canvassed, British and American horticultural literature read in Canada was omitted as its extent and impact is unknown.

This publication is available, free, in English or French, from Research Publications, Environment Canada — Parks, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ottawa K1A 1G2.

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Petrelli, Robert, and Pierre Dubeau. *Guide bibliographique en gestion municipale*. Montreal: Ecole nationale d'administration publique, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-Urbanisation), and Université du Québec à Montréal, Département d'études urbaines, 1987. Pp. 278. \$10.00.

When a masters program in urban analysis and administration was launched in 1985 at the Université du Québec à Montréal, it seemed a useful first step to prepare a bibliography on the subject.