

Nadel, Stanley. *Little Germany: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in New York City, 1845-80. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990. Pp. viii, 242. Illustrations, tables, bibliography, index. \$37.50 (U.S.) (cloth)*

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to have benefitted employees with regards to occupational status and labour income, though it did produce some positive economic effects for the employers.

Raymond Breton discusses, in chapter five, the *Ethnic Group as a Political Resource*. The main theoretical concern underlying this chapter is the extent to which ethnic groups differ with regards to incorporation, their perceptions of problems of incorporation and their preferred strategies to deal with such problems. Breton reports the familiar patterns: non-European groups and Jews are most likely to encounter problems of incorporation, while the oldest European groups (Germans, Ukrainians) are least likely to have any problems of this nature. Interestingly, the "self-images" of ethnic respondents are in agreement with the views of "Majority Canadians."

It is regrettable that this chapter deals strictly with the survey data, without providing any information about the organization (formal as well as informal) of the various ethnic groups. Such data would certainly shed some light on some of the patterns in the self-report data.

While the main analytical chapters are overall well-written, there is a disturbing lack of *integration* in the book as a whole. I do not claim to have done a complete search on this, but I have not found any "forward" references in the initial chapters, and very few "backward" references in the final ones. More substantively, there appears to be no connection between Isajiw's classification of respondents by ethnic *identity* and Breton's by *attitudes* towards the ethnic community, or between either of these and Kalbach's approach to residential concentration and segregation.

To summarize: I found this a collection of four good to excellent "papers" in search of a "book."

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**Nadel, Stanley. *Little Germany: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in New York City, 1845-80*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990. Pp. viii, 242. Illustrations, tables, bibliography, index. \$37.50 (U.S.) (cloth).**

*Little Germany* is a commendable addition to the field of ethnic scholarship in North America. Neither filiopietistic nor essentially anecdotal, as an abundance of such works about the Germans in the United States and Canada have been, the study takes parts of four wards of New York City—"the first of the giant urban foreign-language settlements that came to typify American cities"—during a thirty-five-year period of the mid-nineteenth century, and develops from that base a generally interesting and worthwhile social history of a dynamic urban community. As a work of scholarship and also as a well-written, effectively contextualized, methodological case study of urban and community research, *Little Germany* makes important contributions to *what we know* about a city which, after Vienna and Berlin, was for a while the "third capital of the German-speaking world", and also to *how we can learn* about urbanization, community formation, and ethnogenesis.

The book's nine cross-referenced chapters concentrate on the variables of ethnicity, religion, and class. In the first chapter, Nadel describes Germany, the German states and regions, and the socioeconomic and geographical contexts of the Germans who migrated to

New York. His second chapter portrays a correspondingly useful picture of German New York—from step-migration and demography to urban geography and patterns of lifestyles over the thirty-five-year period of this study. The book's subsequent chapters address, in succession: marriage, family, and household; work and business; religion; social life; and politics, classes, and unions.

Nadel questions many of the assumptions which for too long have gone unchallenged in the study of invisible minorities. For most readers, this will be the most valuable aspect of *Little Germany*. Particularly interesting along this line are Nadel's discussions which run through most of the chapters of the different regional folkways of the Germans—practices of subcultural cohesion and endogamy within the larger community of "Little Germany" which the author traces through the first and second generations in family life, business, recreation, politics, and religion. He similarly questions other assumptions, and thereby expands many views of folk categories, social institutions, beliefs, values, tastes, and behaviour which give structure and coherence (albeit dynamic structure and coherence) to an ethnic group. Above all, he proves once again—a point which Canadians should note—that the metaphor of the "melting pot" bears little more semblance to reality than do other nationalistically romantic notions such as the "'natural' order of ethnicity."

*Little Germany* includes an adequate number of illustrations, graphs and tables to support the book's lucid argument that scholars "need to ... develop a new historical conception of ethnicity, one rooted in careful study of the complex social behaviour of real people and real groups acting in different social set-

tings." As a textbook, Nadel's work would serve as a fully adequate example of how to move toward that goal. Perhaps the major criticism of the book is only that Nadel does not adequately and deliberately define his concept of ethnicity until the last chapter, which, entitled "Particularism, Class Consciousness, and Community," is a masterful weaving together, in the manner of Fernand Braudel, of the level of "social time," or the social construction of reality, and the level of *l'histoire événementielle*, or the history of events.

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**Saddlemeyer, Ann, ed. *Early Stages: Theatre in Ontario 1800-1914*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990. Pp. xiii, 413. 105 photographs & drawings. \$40 (cloth); \$17.95 (paper).**

Referring to playwrights in her short introduction, Saddlemeyer observes that "[t]hen, as now, acceptance at home was achieved only after success abroad." I wonder whether the 'as now' really applies—any more than 'no one a prophet at home' ever and always applies. Maybe it does with TV and cinema, but with theatre? Have French, Freeman, Pollock, Fruet, Bolt, Walker, and a dozen more, had to be approved by London or Los Angeles before becoming draws in Canada? I think not. I think we turned that corner about twenty years ago.

Theatre in Ontario between 1800 & 1914, however, did have, in spite of the efforts of the essayists in *Early Stages* to paint a lively picture, a bleak time of it. It was perhaps no bleaker than theatre in, say, Australia or New Zealand 1850-1914, but bleak nevertheless. J. M. S. Careless, in his essay,

points out once more that Ontario began really to exist only after the United States' War of Independence; and Robertson Davies, in his piece, strongly implies, if he does not state, that theatre is an urban event: small towns and the long distances between them conspired against theatre in Upper Canada at least until the coming of the railways.

One of the results of keeping the tie with England was the constant looking toward "home" to find the tone to set, even in the case of stage entertainment. When plays did begin to be put on, they tended to be pieces by Goldsmith and Sheridan, Tom Taylor and T. W. Robertson, Jerrold, Jones, and Bulwer-Lytton—and Shakespeare. These, and plays by frothier writers as well, were put on often by regimental companies: the amateur British garrison troop-shows that formed a surprisingly large part of the Ontario theatre-scene during the last century, a large enough part to merit a chapter here devoted to their history.

Inevitably, when the railways came in, contact with the United States grew stronger. Plays by such United States writers as Boucicault and Denman Thompson began to be performed; and such United States entertainments as minstrel shows gained popularity here—not altogether understandably.

*Early Stages* has eight chapters by eight different writers. Three of the eight are much better than the others: Saddlemeyer's Introduction, Careless' chapter on the cultural setting in Ontario to 1914, and Davies' chapter on the 19th-century repertoire are all, in one word, excellent. It's not easy to write on theatre. Theatre is very much of the moment. The crowd, lights, mood, the alternating roars and hushes, make up theatre-atmosphere and it is hard to bring these into a serious history while still dis-

persing all the necessary information. The other five chapters here do not really try for atmosphere. They stitch together names, titles, dates, and recorded comments. The eighth chapter is a chronology, by Richard Plant, that does not pretend to be anything other than a list and it turns out to be more readable than the other four on variety, travelling-shows, regimental theatricals, and the theatre-buildings themselves.

I wish, by the way, that more had been made, by one or two of the essayists, of Graves Simcoe Lee. Lee, born in 1828, was "perhaps Ontario's first native playwright" and the author of, in 1853, *Fiddle, Faddle and Fozzle*, the first indigenous play "on the Toronto stage." There are two portraits of Lee in the book, one when young and looking like Edgar Allan Poe, and one when old, but nothing is said of his life and career.

Casual readers interest in most aspects of the history of Canada probably will enjoy only the *Early Stages* chapters by Saddlemeyer, Careless, and Davies. A theatre-buff will find everything in the book worth knowing.

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**Bell, John, ed. *Halifax: A Literary Portrait*. Lawrencetown Beach, Nova Scotia: Pottersfield Press, 1990. Pp. viii, 228. \$14.95 (paper).**

As befits a port city with one of the finest natural harbours in the world, John Bell's anthology, *Halifax: A Literary Portrait*, is freighted with a rich and varied cargo. The anthology, with thirty-one selections in prose and poetry, presents glimpses of Halifax as "garrison town, naval station, major East Coast port, and centre of