

similar geographical emphasis, and while it admits to American influence in barn design in the heart of French Québec, it fails to examine nineteenth century barn architecture in the American-settled Eastern Townships from which some of this influence may have derived. It is precisely in the southern border area of the province that research on the diffusion of architectural features and traditions should now concentrate. The area was crossed by a northward-moving frontier of American settlement in the nineteenth century, and a southward-moving frontier of French Canadian settlement later, and the extent to which each group transported its architectural traditions and field patterns can only be determined by research in this mixing zone.

A preliminary step in such research has been taken in southern Québec with the help of geography students at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, and the McGill Geography Summer School, Stanstead. Since 1966 several characteristics of farms buildings (including barn and silo roof material, color and type, wall material and color, foundation material, dormers, ramps, cupolas, wooden fences, connecting barns, and abandoned farms) have been recorded on bus and car traverses in the Eastern Townships and northern New England. Although these observations, which now cover more than 2 300 barns, have not yet been thoroughly analysed, they reveal a few themes that could be followed up in the future:

1. Taken together such observations will permit a general statement on the characteristics of barns throughout the region. For example it appears that in the study area approximately 41% of barns have simple gable roofs; about 15% have ramps to second floors; 17% have wood shingle roofs; and 16% of barns are accompanied by silos. Once determined, the regional characteristics of barn architecture can then be compared with the results of Trewartha for parts of the United States.

2. The mapping of the occurrence of specific features or types of buildings (such as covered ramps, dormers, or round barns) should provide some insight into the diffusion of architectural traditions and innovations.

3. The occurrence of certain features may reveal something of the nature of farm operation. The percentage of barns with silos, for example, varies from lows of 3 to 6% in remote hill country south of Québec city to highs of 35 to 40% in northern Vermont and the Saint Lawrence lowlands.

4. The prevalence of some features may indicate the level of social and economic vitality in an area. In remote parts of Mégantic, Wolfe and Frontenac counties, for example, observations reveal a high proportion of stone foundations, unpainted wooden walls, shingle roofs, wood fences, and abandoned farms, all symptoms of economic stagnation.

As these surveys are made from moving vehicles without stops to examine barns in detail, no data has been obtained on the finer points of building techniques, such as those collected by Rempel in Ontario. But these surveys will permit a comparison with his observations on roof types, the distribution of octagonal or round buildings, and other major features. Aside from supplying an image of the characteristics of barn architecture throughout the Eastern Townships, these observations should contribute towards an understanding of the routes of introduction and diffusion of building traditions, and the degree of mixing of the two main influences, New England and French Canadian.

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CHORONYMIE

HAMELIN, Louis-Edmond, et DORION, Henri. **Réflexions méthodologiques sur le langage géographique.** Université Laval, Institut de géographie, Publications du Groupe d'étude de choronymie et de terminologie géographique, 1966, n° 1, 57 p. dactylographiées au recto, 21 × 29.5 cm.

Suscités par l'activité bien canalisée d'animateurs actifs, des projets nombreux et variés ont été réalisés depuis la création de l'Institut de géographie de l'université Laval il y a une vingtaine