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Lutman, John H. The Historic Heart of London. London: The Corporation of the City of London, 1977. Pp. iii, 75. Illustrations, maps. $3.95.

This is the second publication of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of this city. The first booklet, Reflections on London's Past, written by Frederick H. Armstrong and this reviewer, appeared in 1975. It provided an overview of the heritage properties of the city, illustrating and discussing the major buildings and including tables of those that were of less importance. The Committee has now turned its efforts to coordinating its detailed research to dovetail into the ongoing revision of the Official Plan of the City. Thus, as the Planning Department revises the various district plans, the Committee is simultaneously preparing a survey of the heritage resources within the districts involved. It is the intention of the Committee to publish these surveys, rewritten and with supplementary material, illustrations, and maps, to provide the public and visitors with a comprehensive series of guides to the major historical districts of London. This booklet is the first of these specialized studies.

The modern planning division covered in this study, Central London North, is subdivided for administrative purposes into four areas: Talbot, Picadilly, Woodfield, and Midtown. All of these sections have been part of London at least since the original incorporation of the town in 1840, and have been subject to the same administration and process of growth. Yet, to designate these areas the "Historic Heart of London" is in one way something of a misnomer, as certain sections of the oldest part of the city are not included, particularly the central business district, which has, of course, been rebuilt many times. The study does include, however, all the residential areas that grew up around the original business district, except some sections to the south, and provides a comprehensive overview of the development of most of London's fine nineteenth-century residential areas. To his credit, Lutman wisely avoids the division of his study into the modern administrative sections of the district, but rather consolidates them into the two areas from which they have historically evolved.

The booklet begins with a discussion of why preservation and then touches on what has been accomplished in London by way of architectural and historical conservation. It next provides a brief historical sketch of the city's evolution, with particular reference to the central area, and an architectural outline, which ends in 1914, as, by that time, building in Central London North had been fairly well completed. Insofar as the areas do not provide a unified whole, the author has, to an extent, been presented with a difficult task; yet, he has most successfully presented an overview of the topics to which he has addressed himself.

The district covers some of the most interesting sections of the city. These include Queens Avenue, long the Jarvis or Sherbrook Streets of old London, where many of the oil, financial, or merchandizing millionaires built their mansions; the finest of the older churches,

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Basilica, First-St. Andrew's Presbyterian (United), Cronyn Memorial Anglican, and Metropolitan Methodist (United); and, finally, the fine Talbot residential district which stands on the bluff above the north branch of the Thames River and includes "Eldon House," the oldest mansion in the city, dating from 1834. Each of the major surviving buildings of these sections is given an historical and architectural description.

In view of the difficulty of obtaining much of the information provided, and the great number of legends, or semi-legends, that are inevitably found when working with local history, the study is remarkably accurate. The photographs have been judiciously selected, although it is to be wished that some of the buildings had been rephotographed, as certain of the older pictures do not reproduce too well. The same cannot be said of the maps drawn by Rob Turner, which are clearly delineated. These maps serve to support one of the most important features of the work, for it is the intention of the author that it be used as a handbook by those taking walking tours of the four areas under study. These tours are especially adapted for teachers and students, through the mapping out of clearly defined routes and the posing of appropriate questions that further one's knowledge of the architectural merits of many of the older structures of the district, as well as their functional changes over time.

As well as breaking new ground by providing hitherto unknown facts on the history of these areas, and giving us a discussion of their salient architectural features and streetscapes, Lutman very successfully captures the spirit of the times in which the buildings of central London were erected and the vicissitudes through which they have passed as the central core declined. This booklet is a useful addition to both our literature on the history of London and the growing bibliography on historical preservation; it promises well for the future studies of the city, and the Local Conservation Committee is to be encouraged in its work.

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Kloppenborg, Anne; Niwinski, Alice; Johnson, Eve; and Gruetter, Robert, eds. Vancouver's First Century: A City Album 1860-1960. Vancouver: J.J. Douglas, 1977. Pp. xx, 154. Illustrations. $19.95.

Vancouver's First Century is essentially an expanded version of five historical issues of the Urban Reader, a magazine produced by the city's Social Planning Department. Although the subtitle, A City Album, is not inappropriate, "A City Scrapbook" would be slightly more accurate since this volume is more than just a collection of five snapshots. The scrapbook model is immediately evident. Apart from dividing their sections chronologically, the editors made little effort to organize