

C. M. Wells

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feelings of many urban migrants.

Over the years there were, however, some significant changes in Dickens's literary vision. Through the chronological examination of the novels, Schwarzbach traces the shift in Dickens' perception to a view of the city as a new metropolitan environment which, while it harboured evil, allowed for the possibility of good. For instance, in the most substantive chapter of the book, the author shows how Dickens' changed view of London in Bleak House is the result of his maturing appreciation of social questions. His new concerns were reflected in several practical projects, such as a home for fallen women, a venture supported by his wealthy friend Angela Burdett Coutts, and in his new magazine Household Words. Here the interweaving of Dickens' social and imaginative writings might have been highlighted a little more precisely. For example, both the message and description of some of the novel's 'bleak houses' had their origins in specific articles in Household Words, a connection which could have been pursued fruitfully. Finally, Professor Schwarzbach shows Dickens' movement in his later works from predominantly social to more personal concerns, a change which involved a painful dispelling of his personal myth of a rural Golden Age and a new interest in passages of sustained streams of consciousness (especially in Our Mutual Friend), which, he argues, look forward to Henry James and James Joyce. In these and other ways the author documents the interaction between the novelist and his subject and demonstrates how Dickens' work came to terms with the obscurities and threats of the urban environment. This is a fine book which deserves to be read by historians and English specialists alike.

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Two books on the city, or one particular city, in history, but books of a very different sort. Krautheimer is a professor Emeritus of New York University, now living in Rome. He writes with obvious passion for the city. "I have tried," he writes in the preface, "to sketch a profile of Rome as a living organism from the time of Constantine in the early fourth century to the removal of the papacy to Avignon, a thousand years later. . . . I have striven to outline a history of Rome during a thousand years through, rather than of, her monuments." Before the enormity of the task, he is humble, but he concludes, "It was fun to find out so much I did not know after a lifetime and to sum it up."

This is, then, a very personal book. It carries its learning lightly; the enthusiasm is contagious. Again and again, I found myself thinking, "I never knew that, I've never noticed that, I can't wait to get to Rome again and have a look." One might single out for mention the vivid description of Constantinian Rome in the opening chapter, with the reminder that the distinction between areas entro and fuori le mura then had little importance, and the care taken to relate topographic detail to broader social and economic conditions. Or take the account of the abitato as it developed through the eleventh to thirteenth centuries (Chapter 12), where the crowded street was "an extension of the house rather than a self-contained entity," and the paragraphs on the transformations of the Capitol combine splendid lucidity with a conversational tone, as if the author were showing you around in person ("one keeps forgetting that in Roman times the principal buildings of the Capitol faced east overlooking the forum").

There are of course points of detail which might be challenged. Occasionally one feels that what is happening at Rome might have been brought into relation with conditions elsewhere. It might, for instance, be pointed out that the physical deterioration of the city from the fifth century on is part of the general decline of urban standards in the west. The economy did not permit the investment of the vast sums that were needed to maintain the services and monuments which an ampler age had provided. Carthage, second largest city of the Western Empire, was in the same state as Rome. One is reminded that in Britain today the cities face a massive investment programme to replace Victorian sewers, and on the weekend that this review was written, British Rail announced plans to close or curtail seriously services on two lines because it could not afford to repair two century-old bridges now, in the phrase of the Roman monuments, vetustate conlapsa, "collapsed through age."

This is then a necessary book for all students of the urban history of Rome and for all lovers of the city. It is beautifully produced. Photographs are outstandingly good and well chosen to illustrate the text. They are the fruit of many hours of archival research, and include a number of unusual and interesting views. The same is true of the drawings and watercolours which are reproduced. The author's own maps (e.g. figures 28, 1193a, 193b) are most useful. My biggest complaint is that the index is not detailed enough for a book of this density.

By contrast, Morris's work has a wholly different gene­sis and purpose. A friend of the author's describes it in a foreword as "the best single-volume general history of ur­ban planning and development that has yet appeared" (page vi, cf. acknowledgements, page ix). The author himself states that it is intended "for students of urban history in the widest sense," and that his "primary concern … has been to describe in detail the most significant interna­tional examples of urban form." Except for a series of brief appendices and some discussion of the Near East and the Indus valley civilisation in the opening chapter on "The Early Cities," "international" must be interpreted to mean only the Greco-Roman world, Europe, and the U.S.A. Even within these limitations, it is not clear what criterion of significance has been used.

Two difficulties in using the book strike the reader almost at first sight. Although the photographs are good, and most of the air photographs are particularly striking (e.g. Erbil, in Iraq, figure 1.11; three English villages, figures 4.18, 4.19, 4.20; Caernarvon, figure 4.53), the plans are often so reduced as to be virtually unusable, and frequently lack indication of scale and orientation. Sec­ondly, footnotes refer to modern works cited without giving page references, so that it is hard to follow references up. This is true also for the interesting passages forming a sort of descant to the main text, which are scattered through the margins.

The author makes it clear that he has commonly used single modern works as "the basis of individual chapters." It follows that the quality of individual chapters differs widely, depending on the value of the source used. A debt to Summersorn's Georgian London is acknowledged and much in evidence in the relevant pages of Chapter 8 ("Britain: Sixteenth to mid Nineteenth Centuries"). Elsewhere the choice of guides to follow has been less happy. The only book on Greece cited in the Select Bibliography which is not specifically concerned with architecture and urba­nism is Kitto, The Greeks, whose somewhat breathless enthusiasm for the Greeks is followed uncritically.

For the chapter on "Rome and the Empire," the main works used are said to be two nineteenth-century archaeo­logical works, plus Carcopino's Daily Life in Ancient Rome. The latter, first published forty years ago, is still a stan­dard text. But even the non-specialist might guess that the archaeology of Rome has not stood still since the 1890s. It will not do to quote Lanciani, no matter how much more about it; castra and "legionary fortress" are not wholly interchangeable, and the brief discussion of the relationship between a castra and a subsequent civilian settle­ment, if any, is misleading; Hadrian's Wall was by no means an "impenetrable frontier barrier" (the author actu­ally calls it "directly comparable" to the Maginot or Siegfried line); and so on. Throughout the chapter on Rome and her empire Septimius Severus appears as Septimus, and we also have Caracalla called Antonius (instead of An­toninus).

Later chapters give more space to preliminary analysis, but even there the case studies are not used specifically to illustrate the main themes, and the choice of towns dis­cussed seems as arbitrary as for the Roman period. Modern writers are cited for facts or opinions, but seldom critic­ized. It comes as a surprise to find the author citing some­one in order to disagree with him, as he cites Hofer (p. 83). The work contains a lot of interesting information, but it is not integrated. And the choice of authorities remains unreliable. For mediaeval Rome, the chief source is a work which Krautheimer, in the other book under review, does
not even mention. From the Renaissance onwards, the au­
thor has the advantage that the subject has been more tho­
roughly dealt with by the sort of general book which he
seems to know best. He often uses Pevsner's *Outline of Eu­
ropean Architecture*, though not listing it in the "General
Reference" section of his bibliography. Bacon, Mumford,
and Rasmussen are also laid under contribution, while the
chapter on the U.S.A. depends largely on Reps's *The Mak­
ing of Urban America*.

I described Krautheimer's as "a necessary book." Mor­
riss's is not. As a mere compilation of examples, it is way­
ward, lacunose, and uncritical. As a history of urban form,
it is poorly planned and lacks any clear narrative thread or
organizing principle. The reader must find his way as
through an Arab casbah (he will not, incidentally, find
Arab cities discussed, even in an appendix to this work, al­
though the author calls it "a fully international history" —
so much for Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Algiers). There is
no clear through street. He looks for familiar things, and
does not always find them. The turnings are not well sign­
posted. There are interesting passages, which all too often
end in a blank wall. Some of the stuff is modern, some des­
perately delapidated. Everyone will find something of in­
terest. But he will wish he had a better guide.

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