

Person, Dennis, and Routledge, Gavin *Edmonton: Portrait of a City*. Edmonton: Reidmore Books, 1981. Distributed by McClelland and Stewart Limited. Pp. 240. Illustrations. \$29.95

Alan F. J. Artibise

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"King of the Workers." The authors naturally rely a great deal on the Royal Commission that reported in 1905 on the practices of immigrant labour agencies.

Ramirez and Del Balzo's study was first given in Toronto at the "Little Italies in North America" conference sponsored by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. All the papers presented there, including this one, appeared in the society's 1981 volume. The authors justifiably pay tribute to the work of Robert Harney, the guiding spirit of the society, whose major work on the Italians in Canada is eagerly awaited.

Ezio Cappadocia
Department of History
McMaster University

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This work is not intended to be a comprehensive, analytical history of the city. It is a pictorial volume, containing over 400 photographs and enough text to explain each photo as it illustrates some aspect of Edmonton's history. Edmonton is more fortunate than most cities in having its past well photographed almost from its origins. Hence, beginning with an 1871 photograph of Fort Edmonton, this attractive volume documents Edmonton's transition from a rough-hewn fur-trading post to a modern, regional metropolis.

The volume is organized chronologically into eleven chapters: Fort Edmonton (1795-1870), Beyond the Fort (1871-91), Birth of Strathcona (1875-1911), Edmonton: The Town (1892-1903), City and Capital (1904-11), Amalgamation and Boom (1912-14), War, Women and Wings (1915-29), Depression and War (1930-46), Oil Capital (1947-57), Growing Up (1958-70), and Metropolis (1971-81). Each chapter has a short but useful introduction and virtually all the annotations are detailed and perceptive. The book also has a good index, a rare tool in such a volume. It is highly recommended as a useful, entertaining and well-produced volume.

Alan F.J. Artibise
Department of History
University of Victoria

"Urban Development in Latin America: A Special Issue." *Comparative Urban Research*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (1980). Pp.134.

This special number contains six articles drawn from papers presented at an urban studies symposium of the 1976 International Congress of Americanists (ICA) in Paris. This symposium was one of seven held between 1966 and 1979, a series which is to be continued at the 1982 meeting of the ICA in Manchester. Richard Morse's effective introduction, besides providing background needed by non-specialists and explaining the intent and content of the volume, also includes a bibliographical appendix allowing the reader to locate the nearly 140 articles making up the broader effort.

The articles fall into two categories. The first four (by Gasparini and Margolies, Borah, Brading, and Browning and Roberts) provide chronological overviews, and the last two (by Gilbert, and Clarke and Ward) deal with present-day dilemmas. Of the first group, that by Graziano Gasparini and Luise Margolies, "Urban Settlements of the Incas," is clearly the least satisfactory. Largely limited to a discussion of settlements as physical entities, this article barely touches their economic, social and political functions. Although regrettable, the authors' caution may be well founded since they deal with an era for which sources are either archaeological or unreliably literary.

Woodrow Borah's "Demographic and Physical Aspects of the Transition from the Aboriginal to the Colonial World," which is largely concerned with meso-America, is more useful. For that region, of course, archaeological and literary sources can be supplemented with Indian and Spanish archival material. In any case, Borah presents a stimulating overview of the literature, focusing particularly on the interplay between the aboriginal condition and Spanish desires in the creation of a new urban framework. Harley L. Browning and Bryan R. Roberts' "Urbanization, Sectoral Transformation, and the Utilization of Labor in Latin America," although more theoretical in its orientation, comprises none the less a fine companion piece to Borah's effort. The emphasis here is on the impact on the urban milieu of the shift from British to American hegemony. For Browning and Roberts, that shift had important consequences for the Latin American city because of the profound differences between the U.S. and U.K. economies. Wedged in between these two fine overviews is David A. Brading's "The City in Bourbon Spanish America: Elite and Masses," a pithy account of conditions in that period which reminds the reader that "it was the base rather than the apex of urban society that defined the individual characteristics of each city" (p.81).

The second group of articles is oriented to the present. Alan G. Gilbert, in "Planning for Urban Primacy and Large Cities in Latin America: A Critique of the Literature," raises questions about the literature's prevailing hostility to primate cities. The treatment is interesting and may be of particular interest to Canadianist scholars. Lastly, Colin G. Clarke and Peter M. Ward examine the