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Benevolo although he doesn't limit himself to the ideas of great visionaries or changes in design.⁸ The result is that *Towards the Planned City* will become the new standard work in the field.

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NOTES

1. The series, entitled "Comparative Studies in Social and Economic History," is published by Basil Blackwell and edited by J.R. Kellett. An earlier volume in the series will also be of interest to Canadian historians of urban government: Derek Fraser, *Power and Authority in the Victorian City* (1979), which deals with municipal reform in Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham and several smaller cities such as Leicester.
2. Some of Sutcliffe's earlier publications include *The Autumn of Central Paris, The Defeat of Town Planning, 1850-1970* (London: Edward Arnold, 1970); *Multi-Storey Living: The British Working Class Experience* (London: Croom Helm, 1974); *Birmingham, 1939-1970*, with R.J. Smith (London: Oxford University Press, 1974); "Environmental Control and Planning in European Capitals, 1850-1914: London, Paris and Berlin," in *Growth and Transformation of the Modern City*, ed. Ingrid Hammerström and Thomas Hall (Stockholm: Swedish Council for Building Research, 1979); "The Street in the Structure and Life of the City: Reflections on Nineteenth-Century London and Paris," with François Bédarida, in *Modern Industrial Cities: History, Policy, and Survival*, ed. Bruce Stave (Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1981). For a discussion by Sutcliffe of his own work see Bruce Stave, "A Conversation with Anthony R. Sutcliffe: Urban History in Britain," *Journal of Urban History* 7 (May 1981): 335-79.
3. Neithammer, "Some Elements of the Housing Reform Debate in Nineteenth-Century Europe, Or, On the Making of a New Paradigm of Social Control," in Stave, *Modern Industrial Cities*, 129-164.
4. For more details, see Sutcliffe's "Architecture and Civic Design in Nineteenth Century Paris," in Hammerström and Hall, *Growth and Transformation of the Modern City*, 89-100.
5. Sutcliffe, "The Growth of Public Intervention in the British Urban Environment during the Nineteenth Century: A Structural Approach," *Papers on Planning and Design*, No. 24 (Toronto: Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Toronto, 1980).
6. Sutcliffe, "In Search of the Urban Variable: Britain in the Later Nineteenth Century," in *The Pursuit of Urban History*, ed. Derek Fraser and A. Sutcliffe (London: Edward Arnold, 1983).
7. Ashworth, *The Genesis of Modern British Town Planning: A Study in Economic and Social History of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1954).
8. Benevolo, *The Origins of Modern Town Planning* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1967).

Trends in History, a thematic journal published by the Instituté for Research in History and the Haworth Press, deserves a salute from urban historians for compiling five essays on the state of urban history in Europe and the United States. Sharing a conviction that urban history presents "one of the most active and innovative fields of historical research," all contributors write with clear and direct prose about the historiographic issues of the moment. As alert enthusiasts, the authors cover some of the more recent publications in their respective articles on the late medieval and early modern city, French cities in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, urban history in Great Britain in the 1970s, selected themes in American urban history (power, society, and artifact), and perspectives on the history of urban planning. The fact that one object is to present "a review of current periodical literature" leads to a number of references that might well have escaped the attention of instructors, researchers and writers.

For North American specialists, Deborah Gardner's refreshing analysis has the virtue of departing from the now well-trod paths of Bruce Stave and Theodore Hershberg. Her attention to colonial literature and to the considerable recent growth of interest in housing are just two reasons why her article should be read by all who lecture about the cities of this continent. Eugene Ladner Birch's survey of the history of urban planning presents a lucid account of several controversies about planning history that stem from questions about the degree of influence exercised by planners. With the benefit of more study, do planners still deserve the early criticisms levelled by Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs and Robert Caro? Birch's brief account is not concerned with resolving such matters, let alone staking out a position. Still, he wants it known that planning history must continue to move along some traditional historical avenues: "it would be useful, for example, to know more about the lives and work of the most influential planners and to have a better idea of how planning has been funded." In Canada, we are fortunate to have a recent stimulus to such writing in the form of the planning for a special issue of *Environment* (anticipated publication in late 1985) dedicated to "Canadian histories in environmental design, planning and urbanism."

Philip B. Uninsky and Charles A. Tamason introduce North American urbanists to the considerable volume of both the meticulous and the sweeping French studies, choosing to concentrate on areas where there have been conceptual breakthroughs: demography, economy and proletarianization, and municipal administration. At the conclusion of his report on Great Britain, Stanley Buder presents the one real note of concern in the volume. Echoing rumblings often found in American literature during the last ten years, Buder warns about the need to prevent urban history from slipping back to what it had been when urban biographers and Arthur Schlesinger Sr. had launched the field. As simply a container for a great variety of activities, urban history might

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die the death of a thousand outs. Buder recommends "emphasis on land use and density as these influenced and reflected technology, economics, and power." It is apparent from Martha C. Howell's review of recent writing about the late medieval and early modern city that here the challenges are in the nature of specific research tasks for documentation is problematic and conclusions tentative. Social science techniques and issues have made their influence felt, but traditional questions such as the origins of cities remain significant.

In summary, this slim volume (compressed by small type) provides a convenient aid for keeping abreast of the urban history craft in the North Atlantic world.

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