

**Joan Winearls, *Mapping Upper Canada 1780-1867: An Annotated Bibliography of Manuscript and Printed Maps*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991. Pp. xli, 986. \$175.00**

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why Ontario margarine looks so darn funny.

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**Joan Winearls, *Mapping Upper Canada 1780-1867: An Annotated Bibliography of Manuscript and Printed Maps*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991. Pp xli, 986. \$175.00.**

This impressive and expensive volume is one that historians of Ontario, and especially of urban Ontario, will want to have close at hand. It lists and describes some 7,000 maps, both manuscript and printed, dating from the time of "effective British occupation" down to Confederation. The originals are to be found in some 150 repositories. They include 2,900 subdivision plans in the 55 Ontario land registry offices, and the most important maps in the Survey Records Office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Neither of these important accumulations has been comprehensively listed before in print, even within the limits of Winearls' timeframe.

As Winearls notes in her lucid introduction, many maps in the past have been poorly catalogued and badly described. This volume remedies the latter problem. The author's descriptions of the individual items are extremely full and careful and, used in conjunction with the maps themselves, will open researchers' eyes to the wealth of information that maps can divulge to an observant user. Related maps are listed together as are various states, editions, and versions of the same map. This is very useful, for these maps are frequently found in different places, or are filed in separate categories even in a single repository. The volume is exceptionally well conceived and well organized, though one still needs to supplement the introduction by

reading the same author's chapter, "Sources for Early Maps of Ontario," in Gentilcore and Head's *Ontario's History in Maps* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984).

Nearly half the maps listed are of cities, towns and villages. More than 700 such urban places are listed, under the names by which they were known before 1974. An appendix listing town and subdivision names by county enables one to locate all town plot maps for a given area, including plans for undeveloped town-sites with unfamiliar names. Many towns and villages that were not brought into being by the platting of an anticipatory subdivision plan but grew up organically around a crossroads or millsite were not the subject of independent maps in this period. Many are portrayed only in insets to the series of county maps by Walling, Tremaine, and others. The village insets in these maps are all noted in the listings for the maps concerned, and they are referenced in the volume's subject index. One must therefore be careful to consult all of the several alphabetical lists in this volume.

Printed maps of cities and towns are, or should be, notorious for selective updating, inclusion of neighbourhoods that existed only on paper, and omission of subdivisions of recent date or beyond corporation limits. The listing of subdivision plans is especially valuable as they, along with registrations of title and assessment rolls (which reveal the extent of actual occupation and construction), are important but much underutilized sources for the study of boom eras such as the early 1850s. In publishing details of cartographic evidence for the speculative ventures of prominent merchants and politicians, as well as of a host of lesser figures, Winearls draws attention to the potential for such research that beckons in archives and in crowded registry offices. Similarly, urban morphology has not become the major analytical tool in

Canada that it has in Britain, and few Canadian urban histories explore in detail the physical as opposed to the economic growth of our cities. One hopes that this book will attract more scholars to the parts that make up the whole.

I do wish that the introduction had given us more information about the history of the Upper Canadian land registry system, for it is essential to recognize that many registered plans from this period were drawn up in response to evolving statutory requirements and are versions of much earlier surveys. The small flood of registered plans in the early 1850s reflects not only the urban aspirations of speculative investors but also the passage of the 1849 Survey Act. This prompted many landowners, such as the Burritts of Burritts Rapids (maps B382-4), to have new plans of much older village sites drawn up and put on file for the first time. The implementation of the abstract system of indexing under the Registry Act of 1866 again prompted the registration of some much earlier plans, and some of these fall outside Winearls' timeframe.

It is relieving to learn that Winearls was neither content merely to consult the frequently inadequate lists of plans at the local registry offices, nor to examine the mylar versions of plans currently in use. She also pored over originals that in some offices are stored in highly inaccessible places. I looked up a number of obscure items from the Ottawa-Carleton office that most employees, familiar only with the mylars, declare to be "missing", and they are all listed here. Since publication of this volume, a number of registry offices have been closed and many of these plans will have been moved to other locations. Nonetheless the listing of the registered subdivision plans is one of the great boons of this volume for the urban historian.

Users are cautioned to read carefully the section that details what is *not* included. While *Mapping Upper Canada* is itself a veritable treasure map for Ontario historians, the exclusions are fairly substantial. Anyone looking for maps of, say, Indian reservations, timber limits, engineering plans of railways, or maps still in British PRO correspondence series will find few of them here. Winearls excludes many maps at the Survey Records Office that detail areas smaller than a township, including many fascinating plans of individual farms, drawn to illustrate boundary disputes but including interesting information about farm layout and land use. Also excluded are many "minor military maps," mostly in classifications 440 and 450 at the National Archives. She has tried to include most maps of entire townships, towns, and villages, all registered subdivision plans, and maps in published books that are not found elsewhere. I was pleased to see a listing for the 1826 map of Upper Bytown (#1723), picked up in A.H.D. Ross' *Ottawa Past and Present* (1927). Following Ross, Winearls notes the original as being in a private collection, but it has long been at the Archives of Ontario, the only map in the Thomas Burrowes collection of watercolour views. Winearls of course has searched for such needles only in the most promising of non-cartographic haystacks. She also began this work in the early 1970s and does not tell us whether acquisitions during the 1980s have been included comprehensively for all repositories.

So the historian will not find everything here and will always have to examine the catalogues, lists, and indexes in the various repositories. But this essential reference work will guide the researcher to many unexpected treasures and will assist immeasurably in interpreting the maps themselves.

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Cadman, David & Geoffrey Payne, eds. *The Living City: Towards a Sustainable Future*. New York and London: Routledge, 1990. Pp. x, 246. Tables, index.

Gordon, David, ed. *Green Cities: Ecologically Sound Approaches to Urban Space*. Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1990. Pp. 299. Tables, black and white plates, maps, appendices. \$34.95 (hard); \$19.95 (soft) (U.S.).

Gottmann, Jean and Robert A. Harper, eds. *Since Megalopolis: The Urban Writings of Jean Gottmann*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 294. Black and white plates, index. \$36.00 (hard); \$14.95 (soft).

Logan, John R. and Todd Swanstrom, eds. *Beyond the City Limits: Urban Policy and Economic Restructuring in Comparative Perspective*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991. Pp. xii, 276. Index. \$39.95 (U.S.).

My first reading of the four books under review left me with an uneasy sense of what historian Allan Megill, in "AHR Forum: Fragmentation and the Future of Historiography," *American Historical Review* (95, June 1991), has called the "blindness of historians who argue only with other historians, philosophers only with other philosophers, economists only with other economists, and so on." The contributors to these edited collections of essays include political scientists, economists, urban planners, activists, urban geographers, and sociologists, but historians are noticeably absent. Most of the authors seek to affect public policy, and thus they address the future rather than the past. They are more interested in pointing out the mistakes of past urban planners rather than in asking the historical question of why now discarded plans and visions once made sense to their inventors. Yet it would be a mistake to evaluate these

books according to the criteria of conventional *historical* modes of explanation. We may lack experience in listening sensitively to the discourses of other disciplines, but in the case of these books, we have much to gain from the attempt.

These books aim to diagnose and prescribe for the resolution of contemporary problems, focusing particularly on environmental issues and economic development. The contributors to *The Living City*, *Green Cities*, and *Beyond the City Limits* cover a broad range of topics, including the politics of third-world urban development, the politics of "green" urban agendas, citizen participation in urban planning, and current economic theories about urban restructuring. *Since Megalopolis* offers a retrospective selection of essays by French urban geographer Jean Gottmann.

The essays in *Beyond the City Limits* were originally given as papers at a conference on the economic restructuring of cities at the State University of New York at Albany in 1989. Economic restructuring refers to a cluster of grand changes in the modern history of cities: the crisis in the international capitalist order which analysts date from the emergence of the OPEC cartel in 1973; the transition from cities as centres of industrial production to service economies; and the mobility of capital owing to cheaper sources of labour in developing countries. As a result of these developments, cities compete for development projects and are often forced to mould city and social welfare planning to suit the demands of investors. The authors address the question of whether cities can affect their own economic restructuring or whether they are victims of larger, transnational economic forces. Collectively the authors envision a model of economic development which abandons ruthless competition for mobile capital in favour of emphasizing