

Scotland, return as a cabin passenger and put down £500 on a farm on the front? Did a typical Canadian join the *Cariboo* gold rush (at age 40) leaving wife and children to cope as best they could? Did a typical Canadian become a town councillor and reeve? Did other members of "the lower order" subscribe to "The Montreal *Transcript*, the Toronto *Globe* and the New York *Tribune* and some smaller papers"? Thomson's life was at once too adventurous, too genteel and too comfortable to be "typical", at least of the numerical majority of immigrants. If Professor Preston is still interested in typical representative of "the lower order" in nineteenth century Canada he might begin by searching for some records of that swarm of Irish canallers for whom a young and relatively affluent James Thomson baked bread in 1845.

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MICHAEL B. KATZ. — *The People of Hamilton, Canada West, 'Family and Class in A Mid-Nineteenth Century City'*. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: Harvard University Press, 1975.

This volume, one of the Harvard Studies in Urban History, is a welcome addition to a relatively scant literature on the nineteenth century city. Because of the immensity of the task of commenting upon the social, economic and demographic processes operating in such cities, Katz has selected a single Canadian city as his laboratory. In doing so he has, of course, recognized the dual problem of dealing with a single case study and establishing its representativeness in the national system of which it forms a part or indeed in the context of nineteenth century cities as a whole. Inevitably, because of the paucity of Canadian studies, comparison is made with the British and American experience.

The dual concern is understandable and springs from a concern with normative rather than ideographic studies, with a quest for meaningful generalisation. Repeated throughout the text however, it receives a greater emphasis than is needed. Perhaps this reflects the uncertainties that an outsider such as the present reviewer detects in the discipline of history, an uneasiness with changing paradigms, a need to reconcile the general with the unique. For other social scientists this debate is over and it is time for work. Katz accomplishes this elsewhere in the text. It is demonstrated in the basic premise that the shattering of illusions about past society can best be accomplished by the use of hard data about the lives of everyday people and by statements in the aggregate. It is seen in the delightful way with which he illustrates his statements about the group by using particular individuals such as William Benson whose life is used to demonstrate the author's notions of occupational change and transiency. Here both aggregated statements, about the general and individual, about particular and unique individuals, are used with telling effect.

Katz aims both at establishing and describing precisely the basic social and family patterns for Hamilton in the period 1851 to 1861 and in a broader manner at demonstrating how these reflected the pattern of modernisation from a more traditional to an industrial society. With this second objective the focus is not upon changing technology or economic organization but rather how institutional structures and the attitudes and behaviour of "the man in the street" changed in fundamental ways. Using large quantities of data derived from a variety of sources such as the census, the assessment rolls and marriage registers and by machine

linkage of the sources to one another, the author contends that life in the commercial city can be characterised by the themes of structural rigidity with respect to inequality and by individual transiency. For example, using occupational composition as a variable to demonstrate the persistence of structural rigidity in the system, the author shows how in Hamilton the proportion of the population engaged in manufacturing remained about 27 per cent throughout the decade, the proportion engaged in commerce declined only slightly from 26.8 to 24.5 per cent, the percentage of semi-skilled and unskilled labour remained about 23% and in the professions at 4.3 per cent. The actual membership in any one occupational class could of course, as is well illustrated by the life of William Benson, change dramatically. This is not a revolutionary hypothesis in itself but one of scale that has been noted by workers in many fields. By analogy with biology one can observe that the structure of the body remains relatively constant (especially over a ten year period) while individual cells grow and decay. The comment while obvious is nonetheless worth substantiating both for this and later periods. Indeed the long term stability of the system as a whole is touched upon in the conclusions where Katz compares the situation in 1861 to that in 1961 for selected demographic variables.

These themes of structural stability and transiency and the concomitant association with age, sex, ethnicity, home ownership and a host of other variables are pursued in five chapters, entitled the People of a Canadian City, the Status of Inequality, Transiency and Social Mobility, The Entrepreneurial Class and Growing Up in the Nineteenth Century, Family, Household and Youth. A concluding chapter follows and an appendix by Ian Davey and Michael Doucet seeks to discuss the social geography of Hamilton in 1853. The latter, short, well written and with its concern for spatial structure, warms the heart of the geographer such as this reviewer but its location in this book written by another author and showing little concern with geographical variables is strange. One is indeed tempted to allow one's disciplinary bias to become more apparent in this review but to do so would be to criticize something for what was never intended by the author of the book.

The method adopted in the book is one of cross-classification of the variables into a series of tables which are then examined verbally or in some cases using simple techniques of inferential statistics such as the phi-coefficient. Yet if inferential statistics are used in some places why not in others? Is this the difference between a sample and a total population? If so we should be told explicitly. Is not Table 2.3 in the first chapter relating economic rank to ethnicity as capable of being treated in an inferential manner as Table 3.14 relating occupational rank and economic mobility at two time periods? Are not both samples? Even if the former is the case should it not be treated as such if reference be made beyond the boundaries of Hamilton? This seems inconsistent. A more disturbing feature of the analysis is the failure sufficiently to state hypotheses, to describe the methods used to accept or reject the hypotheses or to state the significance level at which the null hypothesis is rejected. Such a case occurs on page 29 when dealing with the overlapping membership in elite functions. Lastly on p. 69 the author introduces a classification of socio-economic standing on which he builds much of the subsequent analysis. However, the basis of this classification is never adequately explained to the reader who learns in a footnote to the chapter that it is discussed in what one can only presume is an unpublished paper presented at a conference. This is most unsatisfactory.

Finally a general comment upon source materials. These are discussed in very general terms and in a few short pages. Since so much of the substantive conclusions rests upon the reliability of the original and upon the process of selection of variables by which substantive ends are pursued, one might like to see this aspect receive more treatment than it does. While the specific documents for Hamilton have not been used by this reviewer, the general categories of assessment rolls,

census returns, marriage registers have been. Perhaps Hamilton is particularly fortunate but elsewhere these documents survive in part and require careful evaluation. Undoubtedly this has been done but for this reviewer its handling has been too terse for comfort. Moreover we are not told the specific location of many of the documents so that others may make use of them. One presumes that they are located either in the Public Archives of Ontario or of Canada but for areas known to this author these documents have been found, in addition to the above, in municipal offices, in museums, in the hands of individuals or of the local constabulary who have used them for target practise. Hence the location and names of specific documents may be of critical importance to later workers.

Notwithstanding these comments this book which adds greatly to our knowledge of the urban past and is written in a pleasant style, happily reconciling quantitative and qualitative approaches (a feat in itself) should be welcomed by all.

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ROBERT F. HARNEY and HAROLD TROPER. — *Immigrants, A Portrait of the Urban Experience, 1890-1930*. Toronto: Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd., 1975.

*Immigrants*, a pictorial record of the experience of foreign immigrants in Toronto from 1890 to 1930, reveals through photographs an important and neglected aspect of Toronto's history. With this book, Robert Harney and Harold Troper hope to encourage a redress in the balance of immigration studies, which they believe have emphasized western Canada at the expense of the eastern urban experience. *Immigrants* shows that in spite of the Canadian government's policy of encouraging agricultural settlers for western homesteads, Toronto became the mecca of many foreign immigrants in the early twentieth century. The authors do not include in the book immigrants from the British Isles and the United States, English-speaking and predominantly Protestant, because they were not considered foreign by the government or society of the period. For Toronto, the foreign immigrants were primarily the Jews and the Italians, supplemented by lesser numbers of Chinese, Macedonians, Syrians, Greeks, Poles, Croats, Ukrainians, and Finns.

Harney and Troper provide commentary to explain the context of the pictures and counterpoint their analysis with contemporary quotations, but the written text is distinctly subordinate to the photographs. Over 180 photographs, selected by careful research into both public archival sources and private family records, form the core and the major interest of the book. Through these pictures, much of the texture of life in Toronto's immigrant community is revealed. Small decaying frame houses, overcrowded boarding rooms, littered alleys, and busy street scenes suggest the living conditions which the newly arrived immigrants encountered. Work experiences depicted vary from sewer digging, street railway construction, and assembly lines in large garment industries, to transient peddling and ownership of small shops. In addition, the contact with the wider city community is shown through the activities of Canadian educators, social workers, religious leaders, and public health officials.

The photographs, however, are not made as useful as they might be to the serious student of Canadian history. Too often the accompanying text provides only general information on living and working conditions which, although important in itself, does not explain the specific significance of details in the pictures presented. In addition, the interpretation of the pictorial evidence relies heavily