

these efforts, however, much remains to be done in Winnipeg before urban records are generally accessible. The pressure for a suitable archives must come from historians, archivists, civic politicians and the general public, but the provincial government also has responsibilities in this area. Winnipeg is, after all, the most important urban centre in the province and should set an example for other Manitoba communities. Furthermore, it can be argued that unless the *province* takes the initiative in archives development, as it did in the area of municipal government re-organization with the establishment of Unicity in 1971, Winnipeg will continue to lack proper archives facilities. It is to be hoped that the growing interest of the provincial government in urban research, reflected in the publications of the urban affairs department, will soon be reflected in strong support for a city archives.

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

**Cities of Canada.** GEORGE A. NADER. [Toronto]: Macmillan of Canada, 1975-76. 2 v. ISBN 0 7705 1029 9 \$9.95; ISBN 0 7705 1239 9 \$9.95.

Professor Nader's analysis of the development of Canadian cities has important implications for archivists. He spreads three parts of his survey over two volumes: the highlights of geographical urban theory, their manifestations in the past and present Canadian experience, and their significance for anyone attempting to influence future urban development.

The first part, "Modern Urban Structure," indicates the two main approaches of the book. One is to view systems of cities at the national, regional and metropolitan level to see the interdependency of huge organisms in spatial and economic terms. This "external" theory is later (in part two) applied to the Canadian context in a historical summary illustrating the evolution of "the national urban system" of which we are part today. Metropolitanism is not merely the growth of even larger urban configurations, but the shaping and dominance of regional and national urban systems by premier cities figures heavily. So too does John A. Macdonald's national policy in the service of metropolitanism.

The rest of the first, theoretical part of the book looks inside the standard modern city by discussing the shortcomings of three traditional descriptive land use models, several major aspects of land use structure, and the functional and spatial structure of the crucial central city. The applications of the generalizations developed here are to be found in volume two, where fifteen Canadian metropolitan centres are described.

Finally, in part three comes the point of the survey, the futurology section, where the necessity and problems of urban planning are laid out. Where its practitioners might like to see a science, Nader finds the claims of urban planning to exactitude defied by the political requirements of urban government. No less necessary for all that, proper urban planning depends on a sound fiscal base, and metropolitan as well as national coordination. Nader assumes net benefits have accrued to mankind from urban organization; therefore, governing policy ought to control its costs, which are held to arise mainly in periods of rapid physical change, while maximizing its benefits.

This is a useful summary of the geographer's concerns with urban development, even if the book's organization causes frequent repetition of similar notions in the various parts. The place of history in the analysis is instructive. In only one place (p. 85) in the course of an extremely interesting discussion of the evolution of central city office buildings, does Nader admit the limitations of a paucity of historical data; yet Canadian urban historians are likely to be unanimous in decrying the uneven and generally limited extent of our published historical information about Canadian cities.

And here the archives of the nation have a role which can be demonstrated by attention to Nader's purposes and use of history.

He begins (p. 2) with the tantalizing statement that "urbanization is a socio-economic process in which the territorial units of human organization become more specialized and therefore more interdependent, and in which the social system becomes more complex." But, of course, of the three variables (social, economic, territorial), it is really the last which preoccupies him in an analysis of physically observable urban systems. The book does not demonstrate internal social workings of cities and only shows interest in the territorial aspects of its economic development. His purpose, by contrast, is comprehensive: to facilitate urban planning in order to maximize the social and economic benefits of urban residents. The greatest failure of urban planning to date is its inability to achieve "a clear understanding of how a city functions" and beyond that, of "the functioning of the urban system." Nader presumably seeks to overcome that failure, but ironically repeats the same serious shortcoming of which he complains.

Much of the substance of the book, particularly in volume two, is historical, for the author is conscious of the dangers of "static" models of urban development which cannot take into account "dynamic" factors. It is, however, historical information derived from secondary and statistical sources, certainly not from archival sources. The secondary sources available are themselves either limited in chronological or topical scope, or based on less than adequate primary research. Many of Nader's generalizations will undoubtedly be called into question in the aftermath of analyses based on archival research down to the level of individuals and organizations within historical cities. Nader's work fits generally propounded theories to the available historical record; the well-known role of archivists is to acquire the actual information against which can be tested the hypotheses which geographers and others bring to the real and socially influential business of urban planning. In this role archives and archivists can have a significant social impact.

Carl Betke  
Assistant Historian  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

**Reading the Rocks: The Story of the Geological Survey of Canada, 1842-1972.** MORRIS ZASLOW. Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada in association with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Information Canada, 1975. 599 p. illus. maps (part col.), ports. ISBN 07705 1303 4 \$25.00.

This large and detailed volume is an excellent example of what can be accomplished in the field of departmental history. Professor Zaslow is a thorough researcher and *Reading the Rocks* is based on a great variety of federal government records, private manuscripts and non-government published sources. The result is a carefully measured book which effectively carries the reader through the various stages of the history of the Geological Survey from Sir William Logan's non-permanent, quasi-government agency of 1842 to the prestigious, sophisticated, permanent government research institution of today.

During this journey, one common theme ties the work together: the constant struggle by members of the Survey to maintain a workable balance between the needs of science for a comprehensive study of Canada's geology and the immediate demands of the mining industry for the location of deposits of minerals for exploration. The Survey functioned largely within this context, Zaslow feels. It was charged with exploring and