

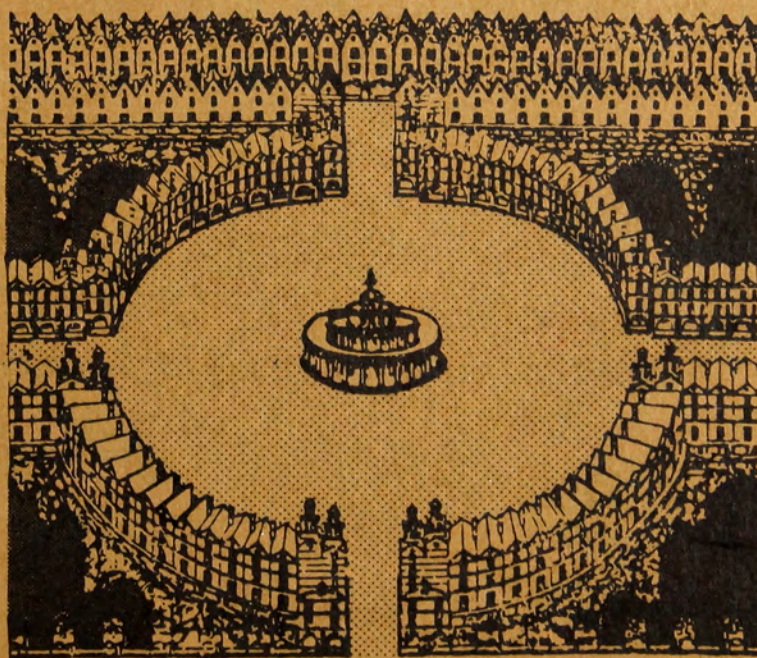
Planning
History
Bulletin

PHB

1981

Volume 3

Number 2



Planning History Group

Chairman's Note

Election for membership of the Planning History Group Executive, 1981-83, has been held; voting closed on Friday 10th July. Forty-six voting slips were returned, and the result, in order of votes cast, is as follows:

U.K.

Elected:

R.J.P. Kain
M. Cuthbert
S.M. Gaskell
M. Hebbert

Not Elected:

P. Dickens
D. Whitham

Overseas

Elected:

M.J. Bannon
Eugenie Birch
B.A. Brownell
Christiane Collins
Joan Draper
D. Hulchanski

Not Elected:

D.A. Kreuckeberg
P. Kaufman

The Group wishes to congratulate the successful candidates, and commiserate with those who were not. The fact that so many people were prepared to stand for election was a healthy sign of the vitality of the Group.

A great feature of the Planning History Group to date has been its openness and flexibility of approach. We have been very pleased to see interesting new developments in the USA, and Eugenie Birch informs me of some recent meetings full of potential for future development. The Organisation of American Historians (OAH), the Urban History Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) and the American Planning Association (APA) have established contact with a view to establishing organisational links. The Executive is glad to hear of these initiatives and looks forward with pleasure to new arrangements which will foster the development of planning history studies. The Executive takes the view that where forest fires of this kind can be lit, it can only be beneficial for our wide-ranging interests.

It is now nearly a year since our last Annual Conference, and for those who attended, the memory, I am sure, will still be fresh. Tony Sutcliffe has edited a book which draws together the major papers and this should be published next year. We shall not lose sight of the need for further International Conferences.

Local meetings will take place wherever there is demand for them. We hope to hear of these meetings if they take place. In Britain over the years a regular pattern of meetings has developed and it

has been the practice for reports of these meetings to appear in the Bulletin. It will be recalled that the Cambridge Conference in November and the Swansea Conference in March were both very fully reported, and readers will be aware of the impressive contributions that were made. Rather less convincing, however, are the somewhat small attendances which have been recorded at recent meetings. The Meetings Secretary (Tony Sutcliffe) is not at all sure that we have yet got the right approach to local meetings, and he would be glad to hear from anyone on this point. The Birmingham meeting in September already promises to have a far better attendance and I would take this opportunity of drawing this particular venture to your attention again.

The last Bulletin contained an up-to-date membership list. Our numbers continue to be fluid, as might be expected, and we are always glad to welcome new members. On the final page of this Bulletin you will find the names of those who have joined our network since the last list was prepared. There are still uncomfortable gaps in our membership, both according to academic discipline and territorial distribution. With regard to the latter, Third World countries are regrettably sparse in our Group membership, and I invite your help in suggesting names who might be approached to consider joining us. Do not feel that I should do all the approaching: please write letters of invitation yourselves!

The Editor will always be glad to hear from you. Do draw his attention to publications, conferences, research proposals, visits that you might be making to other countries, and of course if you can let your pen flow and produce short articles for the Bulletin, this would be even better.

Gordon E. Cherry
Chairman

Planning

History

Bulletin

1981 Vol. 3 No. 2

Planning History Group

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Planning History Bulletin

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OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of a founder member of the Planning History Group, Mr Blaise Gillie, on 26 May, aged 73. We shall greatly miss his enthusiasm, warmth and understanding. His Obituary in The Times of 2 June read as follows:

"He was one of the few survivors of the group of talented young men who took up planning during the wave of enthusiasm and optimism that swept through Britain in the immediate post-war years. Unlike his many colleagues who came from professional backgrounds - architects, engineers, surveyors - Gillie was an administrator; but an administrator with a difference.

"After education at Gresham's School, Holt, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, he joined the Civil Service in 1930 and went through various departments, always seeking work in the then new discipline of "Town and Country Planning".

"He had realised early on that planning in its several forms was - or should have been - an essential ingredient of government. On the basis of his early experience in this field, he was made a member of the government's post war planning team, and helped to lay the foundations for the planning legislation (the Acts of 1946, 1947 and 1948) of the "Silkin Era" of the new Ministry of Local Government and Planning, to which he was posted in 1951.

"From 1954 to 1957, he was head of the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Cardiff, a post that gave him the long-awaited opportunity of putting into practice his ideas about "planning as part of good government". He entered into this task with the enthusiasm and thoroughness for which, at that time, he was already famous among friends and colleagues. He started by learning Welsh and making him-

self an authority on Welsh economics, history and folklore, and even was elected a "White Druid".

"In 1958 he was made a CB.

"Returning to headquarters after seven years in Wales would have been an anti-climax. Gillie resigned from the Civil Service and became a consultant in town and regional planning with the intention of offering his unique experience to the poorer developing countries.

"As a consultant for the United Nations in new planning projects and in the establishment of planning authorities he visited Turkey from 1963-65, Afghanistan two years later, and more recently Nigeria. In Eire he acted from 1967-70 as project manager to the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research and from 1970-71 as Regional Planning Adviser to the Irish Industrial Development Authority. During the early 1970s he was connected with the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague and at the American University of Beirut."

Announcements

In a letter to the *Bulletin*, Jeremy Lowe and Chris Powell, from the Welsh School of Architecture, suggest a *Housing History Newsletter*. Discussing it, they point out:

"During 1981 we propose to try out the possibility of bringing together a correspondence group among people interested in the study of Housing History. If such a group can be formed, we intend to go on to compile and circulate a *Housing History Newsletter*.

We define Housing History in broad terms, as the study of the mass habitation of the poorer members of both industrial, and wage-earning (or serf) agrarian, societies. We

see this as a field recognisably distinct from the History of Houses - of individual dwellings - and from Vernacular Housing and Current Housing Studies. We do not intend this definition to be unduly restrictive or controversial; we propose no geographical limits, and will be happy to hear about work in any field related to the History of Housing."

Jeremy Lowe and Chris Powell, Welsh School of Architecture, UWIST, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF1 3NU, Wales.

Urban and planning history is a central interest of the new Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent (Institute for Contemporary History) founded by François Bédarida at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, Paris. The Institute now publishes a quarterly bulletin (annual subscription, 20 francs) including methodological articles, bibliographies, archive lists, conference and seminar reports, and scholarly news.

Subscription forms may be obtained from:

Bulletin de l'Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent,
80b rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Christiane C. Collins, on leave from her position as head librarian of the Adam J. Gimbel Library, Parsons School of Design, spent the academic year 1980/81 in Austria, under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission on a Teaching and Research Fellowship, at the invitation of the Institut für Städtebau, Umweltgestaltung und Denkmalpflege, Technische Universität Graz. She gave a lecture course and seminars on selected topics in the history of city planning and architecture, conducting the sessions in German. Her research on Camillo Sitte (1843-1903) and

his time was carried out primarily at the Sitte Archive in Vienna, where she was the first to be permitted to photograph the original drawings and plans.

On 26 March, 1981, she lectured at the School of Architecture, North East London Polytechnic, on "Camillo Sitte's Relevance Today", and gave one of four invited papers at the British Planning History Group's symposium on American planning in Swansea, Wales, on 28 March. She spoke on "Werner Hegemann's American Years", presenting aspects of her work in progress on this city planner and architectural critic.

Returning temporarily to New York, she and George Collins were among seven jurors for the entries at a Kite Festival organised by the School of Architecture, City College of New York, in Central Park, on 11 April.

On 16 April, the exhibition "Design for Urban Living: Germany in the 1920s", for which she acted as consultant and resource person during the past two years, opened at the Minnesota Museum of Art, St. Paul. This exhibition (16 April-16 May, 1981) was part of a year-long series of events on the theme "Germany in the Twenties: The Artist as Social Critic" under the direction of the Department of German of the University of Minnesota. For the exhibition catalog she wrote the essay "Concerned Planning and Design: The Urban Experiment of Germany in the 1920s", and a shorter piece for the tabloid gazette that accompanied the exhibition. At a symposium held at the Minnesota Museum of Art, 9 May, on German city planning of the 1920s, she acted as moderator for three guest speakers whom she had suggested for the event: Barbara Miller-Lane (Bryn Mawr College) on Frankfurt housing, Ronald Wiedenhoft (Colorado School of Mines) on Berlin, and Richard Pommer (Vassar College) on the Weissenhof Siedlung, Stuttgart.

Tony Sutcliffe reports that he is keeping a close eye on Public History, a recent development in the teaching of history at post-graduate level in the U.S. The idea is that trained historians will increasingly find employment outside universities 'in a wide variety of research and writing positions in private corporations, local, state and federal governments, and in communications and research organisations'. The Department of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, runs a graduate programme in Public Historical Studies. Now in its sixth year, the programme is the standard-bearer for a movement which since 1980 has been organised on a nation-wide basis, with its own journal, *The Public Historian*. The programme 'blends traditional academic work in history with seminars and other specially designed learning experiences; training in team research and writing; the use of quantitative methods; the publishing of a professional journal - *The Public Historian*; and exposure to leaders in the fields of historic preservation, research, and fund-raising'.

We in the Planning History Group have always emphasised that our work can, and should, be of considerable help to the planners of today. Some of our members (like those who have written histories of the New Towns, sometimes outside the university environment) have experience of precisely the kind of applied historical research envisaged for the products of the Santa Barbara programme. The progress of Public History in the U.S. should therefore be of great interest to postgraduates researching in planning history, and their supervisors.

Anyone wanting to know more about Public History should write, in the first instance, to:

Tony Sutcliffe, Department of Economic and Social History, Sheffield University, Sheffield S10 2TN.

Mr Richard Pepler is writing up a history of the Town and Country Planning Summer School for the School's Golden Jubilee in 1983 (1933-83). Records for the early years of the School have been destroyed, and so he is anxious to hear of personal recollections to put to material drawn from his father's files (Sir George Pepler). He would be glad to receive any general information relating to the School. Please write to him at:

Greystones, Welton by Lincoln,
LN2 3JF.

Historical Planning Records at Risk

Members of the Group will probably know by now that a Working Party on Historic Planning Records has been set up. At present it consists of Michael Simpson (Convenor; University College of Swansea), Pat Garside (North London Polytechnic), Alison Ravetz (Leeds Polytechnic) and Roger Smith (Trent Polytechnic). It is hoped to add a Scottish representative soon.

We hope eventually to produce a guide to historic planning records in Britain but we see our first task as a rescue mission. We feel that there are many planning records of vital importance to members of the Group which are 'at risk'. These fall into three groups:-

- records held by individuals, who may have no idea of their value to the historian;
- records held by voluntary bodies, who have insufficient space, concern or facilities for their invaluable documents;
- records held by local authorities, especially planning departments. It is likely that many of these never reach County Record Offices. Many are bulky or of very

large dimensions and hence awkward to store.

The members of the Working Party have identified some of these records but we are appealing to Group members in general for information on other records 'at risk'. If you know of any historic records of potential value to planning historians or those in related fields which are in danger of being lost, damaged or destroyed, we shall be very pleased to hear from you. Clearly, the business of approaching custodians of these records is likely to be a delicate one and it is suggested that members should send details of the records in confidence to the Convenor of the Working Party:

Mr Michael Simpson, Department of History, University College, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP.

The information should be as full as possible, including the title and the general nature of the records, the approximate period, the present custodian (with full address) and the specific danger to which they are exposed. We assure correspondents that we shall not reveal the sources of our information unless they authorise us to do so.

It is our hope that when we have a definite list of records 'at risk' we shall be able to advise the current custodians on their proper care, which might include their transfer to a professionally-run repository, and on making them available to scholars.

We would emphasise that our work is for the benefit of members of the Group, and we would urge members, therefore, to give us their full and prompt co-operation.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Michael Simpson, Convenor,
Working Party on Historic Planning Records.

Planning History Group Meetings

PHG Seminar, 19 September 1981

University of Birmingham

High density housing policies

List of contributors, in order of speaking:

- Hon. Professor N. Borg
University of Birmingham
- Dr A.R. Sutcliffe
University of Sheffield
- Dr Patricia Garside
Polytechnic of North London
- George Atkinson, OBE
Consultant Architect
- Alan Geeson, MRTPI
Michael Ryan, M.Soc.Sc.
Planning Department,
Borough of Milton Keynes
- William Ogden, FRTPI
- Professor Gordon E. Cherry
University of Birmingham

Full details and booking forms are mailed with this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Meetings and Conferences

The Political-Economy of Canadian-American Urban Development: An Urban History Conference

August 24-28, 1982

University of Guelph

The conference will focus on the political-economy of urban development in Canada and the United States, with particular focus on the nature of social, economic, and political power at both the theoretical and empirical levels. Those with suggestions for papers should contact the conference co-ordinator,

Gilbert A. Stelter
Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1

A Day Conference of the Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers will be held at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London, on Friday 27 November, 1981. The theme will be "Studies of the Housing Market, 1860-1930".

The speakers will be:

Peter Kemp: Housing Landlordism in the late nineteenth century.

Martin Daunton: Rents and revenue: working class housing, 1880-1914.

Jim Yelling: The compensation question in slum clearance.

Richard Dennis: Philanthropic housing in London: questions and sources for research.

Colin Pooley: The development of corporation housing in Liverpool: some preliminary observations.

The day will end with a general discussion on the problems and potential of research on nineteenth and early twentieth century housing.

All papers will be pre-circulated to allow maximum time for discussion. The conference fee is £3.50 and covers the cost of tea, coffee and the reproduction and circulation of papers. It does not include lunch, which may be taken in a variety of university and college refectories, or restaurants.

Further information and booking forms can be obtained from:

Dr R.J. Dennis
Department of Geography
University College London
26 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AP

Completed booking forms must be returned to Dr Dennis not later than 19 October, 1981.

History of Planning Methodology Workshop

The first meeting of the History of Planning Methodology Workshop, organised through the British section of the Regional Science Association, was held at the London School of Economics on 22nd May. This inaugural meeting was intended to introduce the activities of the Workshop and to provide an opportunity for participants to explain their interests. Five presentations were made, as follows:

M. Hebbert
London School of Economics

"A Bibliographical Review of the Evolution of Planning Methodology, 1909-1969"

M. Breheny
University of Reading
and
P. Batey
University of Liverpool

"The History of Planning Methodology: Some Problems of Interpretation"

A. Hooper
University of Reading

"Paradigm Development in Planning"

I. Masser
University of Sheffield

"Procedural Methodology: A Review of the Last Twenty Years"

M. Batty
University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology

"The Systems Approach to Planning: The Impact of the Manchester School"

General discussion focussed on the problems involved in different approaches to the study of

planning history; the problems of chronological or thematic presentations; the problems of divorcing methodology from the context of planning, and so on. The factors influencing the introduction and adoption of the systems approach in Britain in the sixties were also the subject of much discussion.

Overall, this was a very useful first meeting in that a range of interests and perspectives were uncovered and many ideas on the future activities of the Workshop were proposed.

Two further meetings are to be organised for the autumn. They are to be on the themes of:

"The New Planning, 1: Methodologies in the Forties"

and

"The New Planning, 2: Methodologies in the Sixties".

Anyone wishing to know more about these two meetings or about the activities of the Workshop in general, should contact:

Michael Breheny
Department of Geography
University of Reading
Whiteknights
Reading
RG6 2AB

Publications

Margaret A. Anderson, *Historical Perspectives on the Role of AONBs: Recreation or Preservation*, Occasional Paper No.3, Department of Environmental Studies and Countryside Planning, Wye College, University of London, 1981. Pp 49, £2.00. An account of the historical development of the concept of 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and the shifts in emphasis between conservation and recreation.

* * * * *

J.B. Cullingworth, *Environmental Planning, Vol. IV, Land Values, Compensation and Betterment*, HMSO, 1980. Pp 582. This is the fourth volume of the official history of environmental planning. It deals with the compensation-betterment scheme of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, and traces the history of that and subsequent schemes up to the end of the 1960s, including the 'return to market value' in 1959 and the establishment of the Land Commission in 1967.

* * * * *

David Hardman, *The History of the Holiday Fellowship, Part One, 1913-1940*, pp 96; The Holiday Fellowship Ltd., 142-144 Great North Way, London, NW4 1EG, £2.50. An account of the first group of communal holidays in the countryside pioneered by the Rev. T.A. Leonard in 1981, the founding of the Cooperative Holidays Association, and in 1913 the beginning of the Holiday Fellowship.

* * * * *

Archival Documentation Relating to the Protection of Amenity and Provision of Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Britain in the Inter-War Period, 33 reports each separately priced, total cost £74.50.

As previously reported in *FHB*, between 1978 and 1980 Mrs Philippa Bassett, Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham,

located and listed the bulk of the surviving private archives of a wide variety of organisations whose interests are relevant to research in respect of countryside planning in Britain between the wars. The study, funded by the Social Science Research Council, was jointly directed by Professor Gordon E. Cherry, CURS, Birmingham, and Dr Sadie B. Ward, Institute of Agricultural History, University of Reading.

The product of Philippa Bassett's work is now available from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies in 33 separate reports, each in respect of the organisation listed. Those included are local authority associations, learned and professional societies, and national amenity, recreation, sporting and natural history bodies, together with a small number of important local groups.

The reports now form a unique collection which will provide opportunities for further research relating to the inter-war period. The location and nature of this material until now has been largely unknown. Considerable light has been brought to bear on topics in the field of environmental planning including: the role of pressure groups among the recreation and amenity bodies, the origins of the National Park movement and the 'access' lobby, the work of the conservation movement, the amenity and countryside protection network, the development of leisure and outdoor activities and the evolution of land planning philosophy and practice.

Each report is prefaced by an introduction which contains an account of the organisation's history, extending overall to about 65,000 words. Also in the introduction is a summary of the content and potential of the archive, drawing attention, for example, to the comprehensiveness of the records, indicating the existence of any gaps and giving details of any damage. There is also an explanation of the way in which the records have been listed,

with details of their location and availability.

The listings then follow. Fully itemised handlists were not attempted, and although the detail of each list depended on the amount and relevance of material uncovered, as far as possible the archive of each organisation was listed in the same way. In most cases the records were listed according to function and were divided into such categories as financial, administrative and legal records, publications, and social and personal material.

For further information contact the Publications Officer, Joint Centre for Regional, Urban and Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham, P O Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

* * * * *

Three Studies of the Design and Development Process in New Communities:

<i>New Ash Green, Kent</i>	£1.80
<i>South Woodham Ferrers, Essex</i>	£1.65
<i>Christiania, Copenhagen</i>	£1.75

All plus 30p per copy for postage.

These three case study monographs have been prepared by Carl Bray of the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Polytechnic. Bray's intention was to analyse the objectives, design and development processes and realisation of three, contrasting, 'new village' settlements.

Each study is based on extensive interviews with those concerned. Hence the New Ash Green study documents the work of SPAN, evidence recently endorsed as important by the *Architects Journal*. The South Woodham study reports on discussions with past and present members of the Essex County Council Planning Department team involved. The Christiania study is based on discussions in Denmark with past and present members of this alternative urban village community as well as with officials of the Copenhagen city, and Danish government.

Each study is a concise and up-to-date account of a significant social and design experiment. The fully referenced, and illustrated texts share a common introduction.

The studies will be of interest to those involved in urban design, planning and architecture, as well as to geographers and social historians.

For further information contact The Secretary for Publications, Department of Town Planning, Oxford Polytechnic, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.

* * * * *

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, has launched a special series of occasional papers on Land Policies. The first of the series is David Hulchanski's *The Origins of Urban Land Use Planning in Alberta, 1900-1945*, published as no. 119 of the Centre's long-running collection of research papers. Intended as one part of a bigger, province-by-province survey of Canadian planning by David Hulchanski, it treads, at an interesting, provincial level, some of the ground surveyed for Canada as a whole by Michael Simpson at a recent PHG British seminar (see *PHG*, Vol.3, No.1, pp 3-5.). Fully documented, it includes a comprehensive bibliography. It is obtainable, together with the Centre's other publications, from:

Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

* * * * *

Woodrow Borah, Jorge Hardoy and Gilbert A. Stelter (eds), *Urbanization in the Americas. The Background in Comparative Perspective*. A Special Issue of *Urban History Review*.

Order Services, Publishing Division, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8.

This collection of papers from the Urban History Symposium of the

the Congress of Americanists held at Vancouver, British Columbia in August, 1979, provides a multi-disciplinary approach to urban development in Latin America, the United States, and Canada. The authors, distinguished scholars from around the world, address themselves to questions of economic growth and regional development, demographic and social change, and the process of city-building.

* * * * *

Ira M. Robinson, *Canadian Urban Growth Trends. Implications for a National Settlement Policy*. The University of British Columbia Press.

In an unexpected reversal in urban growth patterns in Canada during the last decade, the population of medium-sized and rural centres has rapidly increased at the expense of the 'mega-cities'. In this analysis by a leading authority on urbanisation, the reasons for this reversal are explored and the problems besetting areas undergoing rapid, slow, or zero growth are identified.

This is a valuable study with both national and international implications. The urban trends and problems it describes are not only apparent in Canada but also in most of the countries of Western Europe, the United States and Japan.

* * * * *

Alan F.J. Artibise and Gilbert A. Stelter, *Canada's Urban Past. A Bibliography to 1980 and Guide to Canadian Urban Studies*. The University of British Columbia Press.

This major reference work containing more than 7,000 entries brings together for the first time virtually all of the material that exists in the field of Canadian urban studies - up to 1980. It includes material from a broad range of the social sciences - history, economics, planning, political science, geography, architecture, sociology, and public administration.

* * * * *

Richard O. Baumbach, Jr., and William E. Borah, *The Second Battle of New Orleans. A History of the Vieux Carré Riverfront-Expressway Controversy*. The University of Alabama Press.

This is an in-depth case history of the Vieux Carré riverfront expressway controversy - a battle between downtown businessmen who believed a riverfront expressway would provide better automobile access to the center city and, therefore, was indispensable to the vitality of the central business district, and environmentalists who believed the proposed elevated freeway would irreparably harm the quaint and distinctive character of the Vieux Carré and, thereby, threaten the authenticity and attractiveness of a distinctive and important urban historic district.

Book Reviews

Pioneers in British Planning, Ed. Gordon E. Cherry, The Architectural Press, London, 1981, £8.95.

The history of town and country (British) planning and its pioneers is in part about attempts to intervene in what was seen as the natural order of things. In part it is about attempts to assert various aesthetic notions in relation to town and country, notions which require regulation and control of market forces, especially the market in land. Throughout a century of economic and urban growth the planning movement challenged the supremacy of utilitarian values, and yet was profoundly influenced by them. It challenged the workings of the market system, and yet attempted in practice to adapt its utopian and visionary concepts to that system.

Now in the face of economic decline and the crisis of confidence in our ability to come to grips with the inner city's problems, planning is in disarray. It has no utopian and

visionary concepts which command support on any scale. There is no consensus as to what should be done. The professional arm of public planning plays a low-key managerial and technical role as the servant of the executive. Government seeks to strengthen the natural order of things by intervening as little as possible. The wheel has come full circle.

Sir Colin Buchanan, one of the pioneers and President of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, pointed out recently that the Council was founded in 1926 to push for control of laissez-faire attitudes to land-use and that the danger is now that we are moving back towards laissez-faire and the mistakes of the past will have to be learnt all over again.

Perhaps this is the reason for our contemporary pre-occupation with the founding fathers of social science or the pioneers of British planning. The issues and conflicts are as live and germane as ever. The underlying debate is about the nature of our society and how it should be shaped, if at all. If history is not bunk, can an understanding of certain times and movements teach us anything about how to live better lives? Do we ransack the past for models that will provide the templates for the future?

If such questions are not answered or directly addressed in this latest book from Gordon Cherry and his collaborators, it remains a timely, relevant and enjoyable offering. This 225 page volume consists of eight biographical sketches, each by a specialist in his or her 'character' including one by the editor, who also provides an extended introduction. There are essays on Thomas Adams, Patrick Geddes, Raymond Unwin, Patrick Abercrombie, George Pepper, Thomas Sharp, Frederick Osborn and Colin Buchanan. The editor with disarming frankness makes it clear that the choice of subjects has been "informed by

pragmatic considerations but not based on quantitative judgements, either absolute or relative."

The introductory essay touches on some of the difficulties in presenting planning history through the work of its famous men. Is it correct to assert that "when a discipline or profession can show interest in its history, it is a demonstration of a growing institutional maturity"? Can the social historian "get the record straight", "destroy myths" AND "do homage to famous men"? These questions deserve to be asked because they illustrate the dangers that can arise in pragmatic selection of characters from the planning pantheon.

If the history of town planning, as Cherry asserts, tends to be viewed as the history of what planners have done, is this a sufficient reason to focus on the contributions of particular individuals and personalities? Does such an approach produce biography rather than history? Perhaps it depends on how it is done.

Whilst recognising the value of a more 'scientific' history and explanation in terms of a political-economy of the city, competing ideologies and clashes of interest, Cherry argues that the role of the individual in society in both word and deed is undoubtedly important, if not decisive, in a non-deterministic world. In his own words "we are selecting particular people to see both how the course of planning history has been affected by their work, and how a set of influences has acted on them". He sees biographical studies as correctives, men make their own history.

The introduction and individual sketches make stimulating reading. Some of the essays break new ground, others refer to previously published work. They do vary considerably in approach and focus. They are in this sense disparate, irrespective of their individual quality. Personal preferences

count for much in biographical sketches. Helen Meller's excellent piece on Geddes will not surprise those who know her previous published work. By way of contrast Michael Simpson gives us a new account of Thomas Adams, probably the least known of the pioneers, though widely accepted as a leader of his profession in Britain, Canada and the United States. Michael Hebbert provides a splendidly rounded and critical appreciation of FJO which provokes a series of questions about the relationship between planning activity and political action. Of special importance is Kathy Stansfield's well-delineated portrait of the little understood Thomas Sharp whose later years were attended by sense of failure and bitterness.

The sketches raise many issues and critical questions. Is it possible to leave Ebenezer Howard out? Why include a contemporary living planner? Should there have been a concluding essay that attempted to evaluate the contribution of the pioneers in the light of today's realities? One could go on. Nevertheless, this is a useful collection which does not purport to be a definitive evaluation. It represents a considerable achievement that the contributors have published their respective essays between one set of covers. The result remains an exceedingly interesting and readable book which will be of value to many students of planning who want to know more about their antecedents.

Edgar A. Rose

A.R. Sutcliffe, *Towards the Planned City: Germany, Britain, the United States and France, 1780-1914*. Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1981.

This title has now been published and will be reviewed in the next issue of *Planning History Bulletin*.

Notes and Articles

MAKESHIFT LANDSCAPES

Dennis Hardy and Colin Ward

In *Planning History Bulletin* Vol.2, No.1, 1980, a note was included on the authors' joint research, 'Development of Plotlands in South-East England', a two-year Social Science Research Council Project. This article is written to indicate some of the locational aspects of the research.

"£1 FREEHOLD LAND FOR THE PEOPLE!

For Houses, Bungalows, Rustic Cottages, Poultry Farms, or Gardening. Pretty Scenery. 20ft. by 200 ft. £10 per plot. Possession on payment of £1, balance by 18 half-yearly instalments."

(From an advert in *Dalton's Weekly House and Apartment Advertiser*, April 19th, 1913.)

Most of the 'plotlands' - tracts of scattered and makeshift development - were developed in the first half of the twentieth century, some before 1914 but the majority in the inter-war period. Though many have survived since then, their continuing formation came to an abrupt end with the coming of effective planning legislation in 1947. With localised exceptions they never really constituted a large proportion of early twentieth-century development. Yet they were quite widely dispersed and attracted a degree of public concern that far exceeded what one might have expected in terms of their limited acreage. They figured prominently in the debate, throughout the 1930s and early 1940s surrounding the emergence of new planning legislation. Few parts of the country escaped, at the least, isolated examples of shacks and rough conversions - though larger concentrations of plotland development were more restricted.

So where were they located?⁽¹⁾ Undoubtedly there was a great att-

reaction in being close to an urban centre, especially if proximity could be combined with a special landscape feature such as a lake, some hills, a river or woodland. In the days before Green Belt restrictions there was little to check the proliferation of make-shift huts and shacks in prime sites for a day or weekend break. As the largest centre of population, London and the South East generated the greatest concentrations of plotland development.

The banks of the Thames and Lea were always popular for Londoners, in spite of perennial flooding and waterlogged conditions. Little chalets were built on vacant sites that others had spurned on account of their marginal setting. No less popular were the drier slopes of the North Downs, with clusters of huts wherever opportunities arose along the entire length of the chalky ridge. Many of these clusters were tucked away in the woodland that characterises the area, unlike the conspicuous presence of week-enders in the Chilterns to the north-west of London. Writing in the late 1930s, S.B. Mais deplored the fact that "the whole side of the Chiltern escarpment that leads down to Aston Rowant is now honeycombed with hideous shacks thrown haphazard like splodges of mud against a hill-side once covered with trees. The hut-dwellers both get the view and spoil it".⁽²⁾

City-dwellers elsewhere found their own distinctive retreats. Mancunians escaped to the Pennine fringes, to places like Marple and Mottram. Elsewhere river valleys were a source of attraction. Huts took their place at various points along the River Severn, within reach of the industrial towns of the West Midlands. Complete with examples of bus body conversions as many as 200 survive in the Bridgnorth area, with further clusters in north Worcestershire. Dating from the 1920s, a smaller concentration can be found on the River Dee, some ten miles upstream

from Chester. Serving a wider catchment, the River Wye also proved to be a popular choice - especially what others regarded as "those unsightly booths that ring the Wye bank at Tintern".⁽³⁾

Sometimes Arcadia took the form of a lakeland setting, albeit perhaps a stretch of water resulting from subsidence, like Winsford Lower Flash in Cheshire. Pickmore is another Cheshire example, while further south in North Staffordshire timber and asbestos retreats lined the western shore of Rudyard Reservoir. In contrast, others sought relief from urban life in the shade and security of a nearby woodland. East Midlands made for Charnwood Forest; with more localised examples elsewhere, like Hardwick Wood and Sutton Spring Wood near Chesterfield, or the Middlesbrough venue of Holmhouse Wood near Aislaby.

When it came to the coast, though, distance was rarely an obstacle; sites beyond reach for a weekend visit were no less attractive as seasonal retreats. Right round the coast, as Professor Steers (who surveyed its entire length) observed - "there are many instances of these hideous settlements".⁽⁴⁾

Sometimes these 'hideous settlements' amounted to little more than a small group of huts, though these were seen to be "often as disfiguring as a large mass".⁽⁵⁾ The example of a cluster of make-shift structures on a remote stretch of Lancashire coastline near Cockermouth Abbey was a case in point. Other examples included the string of huts, mixed with older fishermen's homes, along the Dungeness peninsula in Kent, and a variety of sites in south-west England.

In the wake of the Steers survey, regional civil servants took a closer look at the South West.⁽⁶⁾ They confirmed that its greater distance from major population centres had not saved it from a widespread incidence of holiday huts and motley encampments.

From Severn Beach on the north coast, through Redcliffe Bay, Croyde and Hayle Towan; and then along the south coast to include Whitsand Bay, Exmouth and Beer, sizeable clusters were noted.

It was the larger colonies along the south and east coast, though, which attracted greater attention at the time. Aesthetes deplored them, but Londoners loved the self-made resorts along the south coast. Shoreham Beach, Peacehaven and Camber Sands were sizeable settlements in their own right that all grew rapidly from early years of the twentieth century. Obsolete rolling stock, London trams and minibuses faced seawards, alongside more conventional wood, brick, and asbestos bungalows.

Likewise the open aspect of the east coast eased the way for numerous examples of individual opportunism - enormously popular for cheap and healthy holidays, but consistently deplored for their impact on the scenery. Professor Steers found much of which to complain on the east coast. "Amongst the worst is Flamborough Head where a whole town of hutments has completely ruined the scenery of that fine chalk headland ... Miles of the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts are disfigured by long lines of jerry-built wooden erections, and parts of Essex are notorious for it".⁽⁷⁾ With Jaywick Sands and Canvey Island, not to mention the smaller groupings around its estuaries, Essex was indeed 'notorious for it'. This notoriety, however, had a totally different meaning for the East Londoners who came to experience Arcadia than it did for the coastline surveyors and officials of the day.

As well as coastal settlements there are also interesting examples of plotlands designed for permanent occupation. These include schemes where farms were sold speculatively in plots of an acre or more for smallholdings,

as at Cranmore on the Isle of Wight or St. Leonards in Hampshire. In cases like this the unrealistic expectations of speculators led to a mixed landscape of vacant plots, rough grazing, the odd workshop here and there, storage yards, and boarding kennels, interspersed with an occasional agricultural smallholding for which the original scheme was intended.

The largest instance of what soon emerged to become a permanent settlement is that of Laindon-Pitsea in South Essex. Scattered apparently at random in the heavy Essex clay, self-built cottages on plots of varying size coalesced to form what was described by officials as a vast rural slum.⁽⁸⁾

But for those who lived there, in spite of conditions which evoked this description, the little plots offered a refuge from the slums of London; to the plotlanders from the metropolis, enjoying fresh air and a little land, there could be no such thing as a 'rural slum'.

In the north-east of England permanent plotlands might mean, yet again, something different - in this case associated with coal-mining and the practice of assigning colliery houses for miners and their families. A miner who was sacked could also be expected to be evicted from the company's housing. Stories are told of how families then moved into the 'crees', cabins or huts which they had built in allotment gardens which they rented for 2s 6d a year from the local authority. In one area in the 1930s, 32 families were living like this on the allotments in Horden, while others were reduced to living in caves along the beach between Easington Colliery and Blackhall. One observer recalls an instance where a single family had been evicted three times in two days - where a miner was sacked from one pit, was taken on at another belonging to the same company, sacked again when this was discovered, and sacked from a third when his

dismissal from the other two became known. His unfortunate family shunted its belongings on a handcart from one village to another, ending in the allotment gardens. Boys who lost their jobs at the mines would be obliged to leave their parental colliery-owned home, and move into a hut on the allotments, returning at weekends for a bath. One family at Horden Colliery, resigned to living on the allotments, bought with their savings a hut from the mail order firm of J. Thorn and contrived a kitchen and other amenities.⁽⁹⁾

The story of permanent plotlands is certainly not always associated with hardship. Quite commonly, modest ventures designed for weekends and holidays in the 1920s and 1930s have evolved over the years into expensive and sought-after properties. With services now laid on, their choice sites overlooking the sea or commanding a fine countryside view have become highly marketable assets - far removed from the simplicity of their original form. In fact, it is probable that the trend from temporary to permanent occupation accounts for the most striking changes in the plotland landscape since the years of its inception.

Relatively few of the original makeshift structures remain in the present landscape. Perhaps surprisingly, in spite of all the rhetoric and the advent of a comprehensive planning system, their disappearance has only in a limited number of cases been the result of a deliberate clearance policy. In some cases, time has taken its toll; flimsy properties have decayed, or plot-owners have disappeared without trace. More commonly, though, the process has been one of market evolution - 'traded-up' over the years to replace one landscape with another. It has become a landscape of 'nouveau' house-styles and outward signs of wealth, consciously rejecting its humble and even illegitimate past. Yet with its irregular layouts and conspicuous

locations, not to mention the persistence of an odd shack, such areas never entirely throw off their makeshift ancestry.

Notes

1. In tracing the extent of plotlands, the assistance of County Planning Officers is gratefully acknowledged. Evidence of the distribution of plotlands has also been gleaned from a wide variety of sources, referenced below and in relation to particular case studies which will constitute a major part of the research report.
2. S.B. Mais, 'The Plain Man Looks at England', p.213, in Clough Williams Ellis (ed.), *Britain and the Beast*, Dent, 1938.
3. *ibid*, p.219.
4. J.A. Steers, 'Coastal Preservation and Planning', p.11, *Geographical Journal*, No.104, 1944.
5. *ibid*, p.11.
6. From file in Public Records Office, Ref. HLG/92/81.
7. Steers, *op cit.*, p.11.
8. The rationale for designating the land for a new town was frequently couched in these terms; in, for instance, 'Basildon's Special Problems', an article in *Town and Country Planning*, (October, 1953), Brigadier W.G.D. Knapton said that the task confronting the local authorities 'almost amounted to a rural slum clearance scheme'.
9. Cited in Colin Ward, 'The Early Squatters', p.109, in *Squatting: The Real Story*, Bay Leaf Books, 1981.

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