

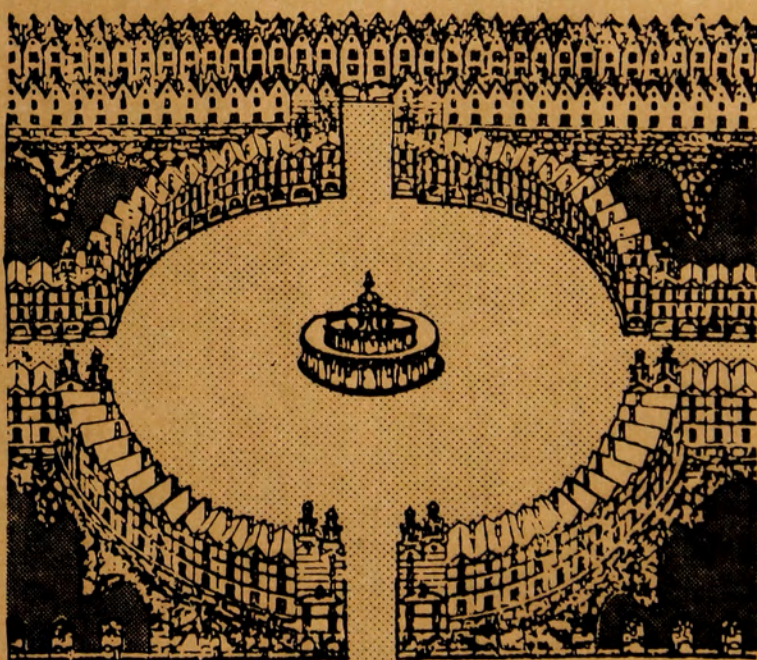
**Planning
History
Bulletin**

PHB

1981

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Planning History Group

Chairman's Note

1981 has seen no diminution in the number of planning history publications now flowing from so many pens. The 1,400 titles listed in Anthony Sutcliffe's annotated bibliography (*The History of Urban and Regional Planning*, Mansell, 1981) offers an international benchmark of endeavours, but the appendix of additional entries largely covering the last two or three years shows the near impossibility now of ever keeping such a compendium inclusive or up to date. The Planning History Group will be indebted to the editor of the *Bulletin* for bringing to our attention new titles either as notes or lengthier reviews. The Group will have noted developments in the *Bulletin* towards this end.

The steady literature flow reflects the growing field of planning history from various disciplinary perspectives. If this were just a matter of a contribution to academic scholarship it might be regarded (albeit unfairly) as rather self-indulgent, and, with no great obvious consequences to be foreseen, dismissed as a passing whim. But there is an important additional dimension to our collective research and writing: it is that we can observe grave deficiencies in forms of planning education where history is absent or poorly developed. Too many practitioners of planning in its various aspects are simply not aware of the past and its significance for understanding the present. In Britain at least we can note the quite extraordinary rise of planning as a State activity this century as a response to a range of economic, social, political and institutional forces; it developed because there was a demand for it and it proceeded to take certain forms, shaped by broadly cultural determinants. Many things about it could have been different; the unfolding of 20th century planning was not pre-ordained. The way the planner and his institutions react today to the problems they have to face has a historical context. Problems have origins; solutions have consequences. Planning education, unless firmly rooted in contemporary historical knowledge and understanding, is unlikely to produce practitioners of great perception.

This is the last *Bulletin* prepared by Dr Michael Naslas. He is expecting to take up a new appointment shortly and does not feel able to continue with the editorship. I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record

the Group's appreciation for his work over the past years in getting the *Bulletin* off the ground in its present form. This has been a tremendous achievement.

I am happy to welcome Dr John Sheail as our new Editor. Author of *Nature in Trust: the history of nature conservation in Britain* (Blackie, 1976) and *Rural Conservation in Inter War Britain* (Clarendon Press, 1981), he is a historical geographer serving as a Principal Scientific Officer, Monks Wood Experimental Station, the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon. He looks forward to hearing from members of PHG with a view to having a steady flow of copy.

Executive Committee Elections, 1982-84

The annual election system, which commenced in 1981 on the basis of a postal ballot, satisfactorily produced an Executive, half the membership of which will serve for a period of two years. Our Constitution determined that half the Executive retire annually (half UK members, half non-UK) though the neatness of this arrangement was immediately complicated by the fact that Officers of the Executive are elected (by the Executive) for three years. Hence we are now somewhat out of phase, but the spirit of the annual turnover is being maintained.

Listed below are the names of those members of the Executive due to retire in 1982; they may of course offer themselves for re-election. The submission of new names for the 1982-84 Executive is now invited. If there are more than a required number there will be an election, and slips for a postal ballot will be included in the April 1982 *Bulletin*. The August 1982 *Bulletin* will announce the result of the election and the new Executive will assume its duties.

Will those PHG members wishing to offer themselves for election, or re-election to the Executive, 1982-84, please indicate this in writing to me not later than 1 March 1982. There are no requirements for proposers or seconders, simply a statement that you are willing to serve, if elected. Up to six UK members and seven non-UK members are required to fill the vacancies.

The following Executive members are due to retire in 1982 (but may offer themselves for re-election):

U.K.

Mr P.A. Booth, Dept of Town and Regional Planning,
University of Sheffield

Professor G.E. Cherry, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies,
University of Birmingham

Mr A.D. King, Dept of Sociology/Building Technology, Brunel
University

Dr. M. Naslas, new appointment to be announced
Dr Helen Meller, Dept of Economic and Social History,
University of Nottingham
Dr A.R. Sutcliffe, Dept of Economic and Social History,
University of Sheffield

non-U.K.

Professor P. Marcuse, Division of Urban Planning, Columbia
University, New York, USA

Professor M. Rose, Dept of Social Sciences, Michigan
Technological University, Michigan, USA

Miss Lorette Russenberger, Wisconsin, USA

Professor J. Salazar, Architectural School of San Sebastian,
Bilbao, Spain

Dr I.C. Taylor, Dept of Social Sciences, Athabasca University,
Alberta, Canada

Dr S. Watanabe, Building Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan

Professor W.H. Wilson, Dept of History, North Texas State
University, Texas, USA

I extend all good seasonal greetings to our far-flung Group. You will see (page 22) the names of new members and institutions, and we welcome them to the fold. No doubt 1982 will have much in store for us!

Gordon E. Cherry

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Planning History Group

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Treasurer's Note

I am pleased to say we have been able to hold subscriptions at £4.00 for 1982. This means that for many of you from overseas the subscription is now actually lower than last year! Perhaps that will be an incentive for you to seek to expand membership.

Methods of payment are the same as last year and are spelled out on the form enclosed with this *Bulletin*. I hope as many of you as can will choose to pay by standing order. But however you pay, please pay promptly.

You may be pleased to know that the British Inland Revenue have confirmed our status as a learned society, and income tax relief may be claimed on subscriptions from 6th April 1980.

Philip Booth
Treasurer

Planning History Group Meetings

Tony Sutcliffe is pleased to announce that arrangements are being finalised for a meeting of the Group in Dublin on 24-25 September 1982, as part of our bi-annual series. The organiser is Dr Michael Bannon of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University College Dublin, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Papers will include:

Mary Daly, 'Dublin housing conditions and policy up to 1921'

Michael Gough, 'Urban conditions and the genesis of planning in Cork'

Michael Bannon, 'Geddes and Dublin planning'

Several further papers are being negotiated. A full programme and booking form will be circulated with the April 1982 PHB.

Historians of planning are holding a luncheon at the meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Philadelphia at the Franklin Plaza Hotel, noon, Friday, 2nd April, 1982. The luncheon is sponsored by the Planning History Group. John L. Hancock, University of Washington, will preside, and Blaine A. Brownell, University of Alabama at Birmingham, will present an address on "Planning History and Planning Policy". There will be a short meeting afterwards for organizational purposes. For additional information contact Mark H. Rose, University Program in STS, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan 49931, 906-487-2115; or William H. Wilson, Department of History, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas, 817-788-2034.

The Origin and Development of High Density Housing Policies in the UK, 1945-1970

The meeting of the Planning History Group, held on 18 September at Birmingham University, consisted of five papers and short but revealing excerpts from two vintage films of the 1940s. The theme of the meeting was the origins and development of high density housing policies in the UK since World War II. Collectively, the papers presented evidence of extensive historical antecedents for the post war phase of high density development, providing a much needed perspec-

tive for the short lived period of high rise which constitutes only a small fraction of modern building.

What were the factors which led eventually to the adoption of high density solutions for the slum clearance programmes of the 1930s and subsequently to the era of high rise in the fifties and sixties? Dr Sutcliffe's paper, and the contribution from George Atkinson on technological aspects, indicated some of the more general factors, while the papers by Patricia Garside on housing policies of the LCC, and by Michael Ryan and Alan Geeson on Birmingham, traced the interweaving of these factors within the more specific context of decision making by two large authorities. With comments from the audience, including those by William Ogden who presented George Atkinson's paper, an intricate picture emerged.

Dr Sutcliffe emphasised the cyclical character of British urban development with certain "modal types" dominating mass housing at different periods. The back to back house before 1870, and the bye-law house 1870-1914, were responses to growing demand for working class housing in cities, and both were economical in construction and use of land. After World War I, private investment in low-cost housing for rent diminished, to be replaced in part by council estates on the outskirts of towns. This type of development mainly benefitted the skilled worker; the lower paid continued to live in high density back to back housing in the inner areas, which in towns like Birmingham now constituted a serious slum problem.

From the latter part of the nineteenth century, regulations governing slum clearance required that a certain proportion of the accommodation which had been demolished should be replaced on the same site. As a result,

building by Peabody and later the LCC at Boundary Street and other sites was inevitably at high densities. Walk up flats at Boundary Street rose to five storeys but Queen Anne Mansions, built in 1873 as luxury accommodation for the middle classes, was as high as thirteen storeys. Numerous blocks of "mansion" flats for the middle classes were built during the latter half of the nineteenth century in London during the building boom of the eighties and some of these contained the earliest examples of lifts. Although this latter invention was a prerequisite for high building, luxury blocks of flats, which enjoyed another boom in London during the 1930s, were limited for the most part to eight storeys until regulations concerning building heights were changed in 1939. Though a small part of the total housing stock, medium rise flats were a well established building form before World War II. It is interesting to note that, while the technology for higher building already existed and was being exploited for offices in cities like Chicago and New York, building heights were restricted in Britain, for reasons connected with fire risk. One wonders, however, whether there were deeper reasons, rooted in British culture, which render what Dr Sutcliffe called the "vertical image" less acceptable here.

Some outstanding examples of flatted developments for workers in Europe, such as the early Karl Marx Hof in Vienna (1923) and designs by Walter Gropius in Germany influenced thinking in Britain when, after the Greenwood Act of 1930, the attention of the public sector was again directed to slum clearance. For example, Birmingham councillors undertook a study tour on the continent in the early thirties, and subsequently recommended that a large flatted estate should be built to replace slum property in the city centre. Quarry Hill in Leeds was a direct

outcome of continental influence, both in design, layout and the system of construction which was used.

To some extent a wider public grew accustomed to the "vertical image" through the examples of non-residential development in the thirties, and exposure through the cinema to scenes of American cities. The most potent influence of new designs from the continent was, however, transmitted via the architectural profession. A small group, Modern Architectural Research (MARs), founded in 1931, was the spearhead of the Modern Movement in Britain, exercising a formative influence over a new generation of young architects, trained in the late thirties and the forties, who subsequently found employment in the architectural departments of some of the major local authorities. In the inter war years, it was often the borough engineer or surveyor who was responsible for design of public sector housing and in both the City of Birmingham and the London County Council the design of flatted blocks, to use Michael Ryan's words, was ponderously formal and institutional.

Herbert Manzoni, who was favourably impressed by the design of flats by Tecton and other protagonists of the Modern Movement in Britain, became responsible for Birmingham's housing in 1935 and the way was open for innovation in the design of flats in that city. A broad parallel may be drawn with the LCC when, in 1950, responsibility for house design was transferred from the Valuer's Department to a newly created Architect's Department. The latter's dramatic new approach to the design of the Alton estate at Roehampton was instrumental in winning acceptance from local residents of a large council estate in a hitherto exclusive

area. The career opportunities which public sector housing has offered architects in the post-war period brought an unprecedented rate of innovation in dwelling design, not all of it successful in social terms. Garside suggests that their own professional interests encouraged designers and planners to accept higher densities as a practical response to shortage of land, rather than consider a more radical redistribution of land resources.

On the more technical side of building, the Building Research Station's study in the thirties of daylight in buildings in relation to density and storey height gave rise to the "floor space index", a tool for planners which was to have a marked effect on the form of post war office development and subsequently on the spacing and arrangement of blocks of varying height on housing estates. As examples of high rise flats accumulated after World War II, analysis of design and costs pointed to the need for cheaper and more efficient methods of construction and there followed further research into the use of tower cranes, ventilation of internal bathrooms, single stack plumbing and the development of site casting of large concrete panels. By 1958 central government was sufficiently convinced that high rise offered a solution to land shortage in the larger cities to attach a special subsidy to this form of development. In 1964 the National Building Agency was established to advise the industry on industrialised methods of building. The objective of the NBA was to promote efficiency rather than high rise as such, but nevertheless the establishment of this group appeared to add further official backing to the trend towards high building.

Meanwhile, evidence against high rise was accumulating. Stone's

work at BRS showed that overall savings in land which were achieved by building upward were fairly marginal; moreover, management and maintenance costs associated with high rise, including care of public spaces around buildings was considerably higher than those incurred on low rise estates. It was the introduction of mandatory cost yardsticks in 1967 which effectively halted high rise development in the public sector, to which the collapse of Ronan Point added a dramatic postscript in the following year.

One must agree with Patricia Garside that competition for land was of overriding importance in decisions concerning the location and consequently the density of public sector development. In London, the problem of land resources was exacerbated by a two tier system of local government. In the early inter war period, the LCC acquired large tracts of land outside the county, as for example at Becontree and Edgware which were developed as "cottage" estates. Apparently the private sector could more readily obtain land closer to London, and housebuilding expanded at a remarkable rate there, but the "invasion" of more distant areas by the LCC met with strong resistance by the authorities concerned. As a result, well before the drive on slum clearance in the thirties, the LCC was forced to cultivate those London Boroughs who were least hostile to the idea of public sector building in their midst by another authority. With the supply of suitable land thus limited, flatted development was an obvious solution, with continental examples as a convenient justification, rather than a direct inspiration. After World War II the LCC continued to build mainly in the more amenable (usually Labour controlled) boroughs and the shortage of housing land was

further underlined in public debate by a strong lobby against encroachment on productive agricultural land, the introduction of green belts and a birth rate which, contrary to all expectations, continued to rise until the mid-sixties. With higher densities already well established for inner London development, the further step of high rise seemed, at least to its protagonists, inevitable.

Similar problems over land occurred in Birmingham but, lacking the unwieldy scale of London, a severe shortage appeared at a later date. During the inter war period, various boundary extensions were obtained to accommodate low density council estates on the periphery. Land shortage only emerged at the end of the thirties, when plans for clearance and redevelopment of central areas revealed that some proportion of the residents would need to be rehoused elsewhere. After World War II, with an estimated need for 69,000 new dwellings resulting from redevelopment alone, and surrounding counties firmly resisting further 'invasion' by council estates, higher densities were adopted for all housing sites, and during the high rise era tall blocks appeared even on the boundaries of the town. An additional factor governing, one suspects, decisions in many towns was that tall blocks helped to increase the annual number of completions at a time when councillors, whether Labour or Conservative, saw political mileage in the rate of annual output which could be achieved.

As with most successful meetings, the papers prompt many further questions. How and by whom were decisions finally taken in the move towards higher densities, and to what extent were the possible implications, technical, social and economic, evaluated during the course of decision making? Did a general consensus emerge or were certain person-

alities with a clear vision, like Manzoni, able to determine policies while operating within a complicated bureaucratic framework? How were the protagonists of low densities, who were still active in the post war era finally overcome? Were flatted estates on the continent really more successful than their British counterparts, and if so, were the reasons connected with design, management or cultural differences? Why do we know so little about the type of management adopted for large blocks of flats in the private sector in this country, and why, though often inferior in design to those in the public sector, are these flats apparently acceptable to their occupants?

The vintage films were a timely reminder that what are perceived as vital issues, colouring the decisions of one generation, may have lost their significance when the results of these decisions are appraised by the next generation. It is evident that high density development, and subsequently high rise, were pragmatic responses to land shortage, and that this shortage itself was rarely seen as the product of institutional controls which could presumably be changed. But it must be remembered that the size of council waiting lists in the fifties, the extent of slum property, much of which still bore the scars of war damage, and the vision, as yet untarnished, of a new Jerusalem under the welfare state were all compelling reasons for immediate action on a scale hitherto unprecedented in the public sector. In an atmosphere of emergency decisions are bound to contain an element of pragmatism. This does not of itself account for the more innovative step of high rise, which originated from a new stream of architectural thinking and a developing technology. It is perhaps unfortunate that this innovation occurred at a time when high completion rates were a primary

target of central and local government. Although some research evidence concerning high costs, management problems and difficulties experienced by young families in high flats appeared at a relatively early stage, it was unheeded in the drive to increase output. Systematic appraisal of the physical, social and economic aspects of a new building form requires a complicated series of research projects followed by an additional stage to integrate the results of these separate investigations. Perhaps one of the lessons to be derived from the high rise phase in Britain is the need for a more cautious approach to radical innovation to allow time for appraisal before its widespread adoption.

Even in the eighties the popular view of the high rise phase is one of unmitigated disaster whereas the more thorough research studies show that, for certain types of households and under certain conditions, high rise blocks offer satisfactory homes, often with the advantage of easy access to other facilities. High density estates in the post war era also involved innovations in layout, including experiments with Radburn type arrangements for low rise developments at higher densities, and a general improvement in the standard of landscaping. Some of these innovations were to have a considerable impact on the private sector.

The interest provided by the papers dealing with high density housing policies suggests that at least one further meeting might be devoted to other aspects of post war policies. This further meeting might consider low density development (where comparisons between the public and private sectors might more readily be made), overspill

and new town development, all of which were pursued concurrently with development at higher densities, about which we are now better informed.

Vere Hole
Building Research Establishment,
Watford

Meetings and Conferences

Urban Morphology: Research and Practice in Geography and Urban Design

5-6 July, 1982

University of Birmingham

This meeting of the Urban Geography Study Group of the Institute of British Geographers aims to provide a forum for urban historians, urban designers and urban geographers interested in the historical development and management of the urban landscape.

Further information is available from T.R. Slater, Department of Geography, University of Birmingham, P O Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

History of Planning Methodology Workshop

Two further Workshop sessions are planned for January and March, 1982, probably at the London School of Economics. The themes will be "The New Planning Process, 1: The 1940s" and "The New Planning Process, 2: The 1960s".

Further details are available from Michael Breheny, Department of Geography, University of Reading, Reading RG6 2AB.

The Political Economy of Canadian-American Urban Development

An Urban History Conference

24-28 August, 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 one of the area co-chairpersons listed below, or the Conference Co-ordinator, Gilbert A. Stelter, Department of History, University of Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, from whom further information about the conference as a whole can be obtained.

Area Co-chairpersons

Economic Growth: systems and their evaluation; industrial/corporatization; role of the State/government; entrepreneurship and urban growth.

Larry McCann, Department of Geography, Mount Allison University, and Blaine Brownell, Centre for Urban Affairs, University of Alabama.

Social Structure and Action: workplace democracy; neighbourhood and other community groups (including ethnic); home and housing; health, education and welfare provision; local social planning.

James Lemon, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, and John Ingham, Department of History, University of Toronto.

Form and Spatial Organization: internal transportation; housing; land development; morphological change; architecture; frontier and resource towns.

John Weaver, Department of Hist-

ory, McMaster University, and Michael Conzen, Department of Geography, University of Chicago.

Government and Politics: structure and relationship to other levels of government; who governs?; reform movements; services (public and private).

Alan Artibise, Department of History, University of Victoria, and Michael McCarthy, Humanities Division, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Pennsylvania.

Although this note will appear too late to be of immediate use, members will be interested to know that the Institut Francais d'Architecture is organising an international colloquium on the theme 'Architecture and Social Policy, 1900-1940'. To be held in Paris on 3-5 December 1981, the colloquium will include contributions from Roger-Henri Guerrand, Donatella Calabi, Giorgio Ciucci, Francesco Dal Co, Marco de Michelis, Georges Teyssot, Lion Murard, Patrick Zylbermann, Hartmut Frank, and many others. The event is intended to reinvigorate the debate on the politico-social significance of the Modern Movement, mainly by broadening the frame of reference to include sociological and social anthropological contributions, and to take due account of the municipal and planning dimensions of housing policy. The main emphasis will be on Western Europe, and in this regard it is worth noting that a British contribution is conspicuous by its absence. However, the enterprise reflects the vitality of the developing Venice-Paris-Berlin axis in the social history of architecture.

The official languages of the colloquium will be French and English. Further details may be obtained from: Institut Francais

d'Architecture, 6 rue de Tournon, 75006 Paris (tel. 633-9036). It is hoped to secure a report on the meeting for PHB.

Publications

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, 1981, pp 436, \$42.00.

This major reference work containing more than 7,000 entries brings together for the first time virtually all 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.

The Bibliography includes general works on sources and methodology as well as growth and economic development, population, urban environment, and municipal government. For each province there is a separate section on general works and divisions for the major cities - the oldest and largest of which are divided into historical time periods.

The Guide is a comprehensive listing and critique of sources available for the teaching and study of Canada's urban past and present. Detailed information is given on a wide variety of journals, archives, and organisations, and readers are directed to publications and agencies that can supply data on many subjects.

This volume not only identifies the state of current research but also discusses the weaknesses and strengths of current approaches to urban history. It will

serve to locate areas of insufficient research and, as a result, facilitate a more comprehensive approach to the study of Canadian urban development.

Ira M. Robinson, *Canadian Urban Growth Trends. Implications for a National Settlement Policy*. Human Settlement Issue Series, Vol.5. The University of British Columbia Press, 1981, pp 179, \$15.95.

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.

In addressing these problems Robinson advocates the adoption of a settlements policy at the federal level. While defining the difficulties involved in developing a federal policy, he examines urban demographic trends, predicts future settlement patterns, and describes the relationship between spatial distribution of population and energy efficiency.

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.

The United Nations Habitat Conference focused on this issue in its *Declarations* by stressing the need for each country to develop an integrated national policy governing human settlements and the environment. The purpose of this study is to encourage debate

among all those responsible for or concerned with urban development regarding the urgent need for such a policy in 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*. 1981. Available from Order Services, Publishing Division, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8. \$11.95.

This collection of papers from the Urban History Symposium of the Congress of Americanists held at Vancouver, British Columbia, in August, 1979, provides a multidisciplinary 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.

Book Reviews

Anthony R. Sutcliffe (ed) *British Town Planning: The Formative Years*. 1981. Leicester University Press, £15.00.

A cynic might be forgiven for detecting a connection between the growing interest in planning history and the current disaffection with the process and profession by public and politician. As Tony Sutcliffe observes in his introduction, planners are now arraigned for shortcomings in urban life far beyond even the most comprehensive definition of their sphere of activity. The study of history fulfils a cultural need, and an examination of the complex genealogy of planning may well promote a greater understanding of its role and re-

lationship with market forces and the political process. Over the first four decades of the century planning evolved as a mechanism for controlling the use and development of land, the location of economic activity and the exploitation and distribution of resources. It was on the basis of such a comprehensive vision that planning achieved its pinnacle of popular acceptance in the 1940s, defined in the *Barlow Report* and enacted by the 1945 Attlee government.

Such swift advance was virtually unthinkable in the formative years, 1880-1920, selected for analysis by Sutcliffe, although the analytical frame of reference had been provided by Geddes. The elevated position of planning in the post-1945 period provided the stimulus for one of the first major initiatives in planning historiography - Ashworth's *The Genesis of Modern British Town Planning* in which the activity was viewed as a logical culmination of public intervention initiated from the 1830s through national concerns, notably public health. Walter Creese provided an alternative view in *The Search for Environment* (1966) which united analysis of utopian idealism culminating in Howard's Garden City, with the emergence of the model housing settlements. Creese presented the planner, in this case Raymond Unwin, as a general synthesiser and a social artist. Sutcliffe discusses the individual contributions to the current collection in terms of these two approaches. Each originated as a thesis presented between 1972-5, itself a significant factor for planning history, which has developed as a more co-ordinated and collective activity in the intervening period, not least through the Planning History Group. Sutcliffe has perceptively chosen studies which have by their thoroughness long merited wider distribution, and which fit together to form a reasonably broad picture of the formative period, although there are some unfortunate

omissions which will be noted below. There are also occasional traces of the compression resulting from adapting the material to its new format: those familiar with the originals may regret the elimination of Hawtree's analytical study of professional ideology or Day's excellent detailed account of Wythenshawe. Whilst the latter lies outside the chosen period, it represented a logical updating of garden city planning and layout principles and a transition towards the post-1945 first generation new towns. Regrettable too is the paucity of illustrations, given which one has serious doubts as to whether Harrison's inclusion of three plans of Burnage was really justified. By contrast Day has chosen judiciously from the rich material available to the Parker and Unwin enthusiast, though the lack of the classic block diagrams from *Nothing Gained by Overcrowding* (1912) is perhaps surprising in view of its seminal significance.

In the introduction Sutcliffe notes the dangers of the biographical approach to planning history, the over-emphasis of the individual at the expense of the urban or political context. Three of his contributors attempt to avoid the overt biography, and even Day's paper on Parker and Unwin originated in an analysis of the evolution of their technical role, though happily his well researched account of their formative years is included. It is a tenable view that the definition of planning itself, its adoption as a statutory function of government, and above all the foundation of its professional institute in 1914, was *prima facie* the achievement of a handful of individual leaders. Adams, Horsfall, Geddes, Parker and Unwin, and to a lesser extent Howard, Nettlefold, Mawson and Abercrombie stalk through these pages, often, it is true, seen obliquely, but with their achievement as individuals undiminished in the process. Each generation has need for hero-figures

with whom the ideology of common causes can be identified, and planning was the beneficiary of the breadth of vision and commitment of those mentioned above. The present volume does not present such a striking contrast with Gordon Cherry's recently published *Pioneers in British Planning* as might at first be supposed.

Turning to the individual papers, Gaskell focuses on "the suburb salubrious", the most characteristic feature of planning in the early years of the century, and that codified by the 1909 Housing and Town Planning Act. By 1900 the suburban ideal had filtered down to the more prosperous levels of the working class, and through the workings of the bye-laws even speculative housing was beginning to attain a more open pattern of development. The extension of five per cent philanthropy to co-partnership schemes, the growth of building societies, and the striking examples of Bournville and Port Sunlight were fused into the new model suburbs. Unwin's appointment as consultant architect to the CoPartnership Tenants in 1905 represented a logical extension of his work at New Earswick. As Gaskell notes the co-partnership schemes were widespread, as indicated by Culpin in *The Garden City Movement up to Date* (1914), but such projects were inevitably restricted to the artisans, for tenants were required to invest in the society responsible for development. Gaskell describes a number of suburbs in Lancashire, bringing a degree of overlap with Harrison. Given the relative popularity of the model, and its appeal to a wide political spectrum, it is perhaps surprising that the co-partnership principle was so totally eclipsed by the state/local authority partnership in 1919. Gaskell's northern perspective has precluded his examination of this point: a partial answer seems to lie in a confidential and highly critical report on the activities of CoPartnership Tenants, preserved

in the Ministry of Reconstruction files at the Public Record Office. Another weakness of Gaskell's account lies in his treatment of statutory planning. The permissive emphasis of the legislation inevitably resulted in the preparation of schemes being related to local initiative and enthusiasm. Planning proposals in the north were related to precise and limited aspects of suburban planning on garden city lines, in contrast to the broad brush approach adopted by Nettlefold in Birmingham. The ambitious Ruislip Northwood UDC scheme merits only a single mention in the whole book: even Day was possibly unaware of Unwin's extensive involvement as consultant to the major landowners, King's College, Cambridge, and his direct approach to Burns, who overruled Adams' reluctance to include provisions for aesthetic control. The schemes included by Gaskell are discussed purely in terms of local activity, and the crucial role of the Local Government Board in Public Inquiries is ignored. The reports of the Board's Inspectors - Adams, succeeded by Pepler and Unwin, make fascinating and essential reading to complete the picture and are fortunately preserved in the Public Record Office.

Hawtree takes a broader perspective and approaches the emergence of town planning through a discussion of the developing and overlapping ideals of the reformers, the outlook of the major land-based professions, and brief biographies covering the core of individuals who shaped town planning and the Institute. The importance of the 1909 Act as a catalyst is well brought out: architects, municipal engineers and surveyors had all carried out planning-related activities and laid claims as the co-ordinators of the newly defined process. The

architects could point to a heritage of urban design including Wren, the Woods of Bath and Nash, and they now convened a town-planning committee, and embarked upon the organisation of an International Conference, held at the Royal Academy in 1910. Unwin, although not a member of the RIBA, was a key figure, and unlike most architects had broad experience of the type of planning encouraged by the Act. Engineers were quick to detect a threat to their role as the local authority jack-of-all-trades, which they were eager to extend to include planning as part of their *omnium gatherum* of skills, and were the first body to organise town-planning examinations. Surveyors maintained a more detached stance, secure in their position as advisers to the major urban and rural landowners. From his discussion of the professional bodies, Hawtree turns to Adams, Geddes, Unwin and Mawson who were each well equipped to promote inter-professional co-operation. Of these it was Adams (who had not completed his examinations for the Surveyors' Institution) who conceived the idea of an Institute for town planning (interestingly not town-planners) as a forum for the members of other bodies who were practicing the new discipline. Hawtree makes the telling point that as individuals they were unknown to each other in 1900; a decade later acknowledged leaders of particular aspects of planning which in its broadest form embraced their varied skills.

Harrison returns to a precise geographic context - pre-1914 Manchester. His presentation is the most precise of the four, with a laudable attempt to analyse key factors such as rental and class structure in suburban and co-partnership housing. The environmental dimension of Manchester's reform tradition was

encapsulated by the widespread foundation of Healthy Homes societies in the late 19th century; educational and sociological aspects were represented by the Ancoats Brotherhood and Manchester University Settlement, whilst the Northern Artworkers Guild, founded in 1896 by Walter Crane, matched its national counterpart in stressing the relevance of good design from the individual object to the community level. Much more than Gaskell, Harrison presents Manchester as a rounded microcosm of trends in the national scene. Within this context Horsfall emerges as a dynamic and pervasive influence, presenting his proposals for local government reform, the incorporation of suburban land and its development by town-expansion plans following 'The Example of Germany' in 1895, a decade before his national recognition. His work was complemented by the sociological approach of Marr, who had assisted Geddes at the Outlook Tower, before appointment as warden of Manchester University Settlement in 1901. Marr's study of housing conditions in Manchester ranks alongside Booth's and Rowntree's pioneer studies. Elected to the City Council, Marr pioneered an ambitious programme of housing reconditioning, following his mentor's principles of "conservative surgery", paving the way for the new construction undertaken under the leadership of Jackson and Simon, which in the 1920s culminated in Wythenshawe. Harrison includes the Manchester Corporation's Blackley Estate, hitherto little known, which involved development of a small portion of a 245 acre tract acquired in 1901, housing a population of 600 by 1913. The design of the houses by Henry Price, the first city architect, represented a transition from the narrow fronted bye-law terrace type to the wide fronted, shorter garden city groups. The notable

feature of Blackley was the width of the roads, involving considerable cost, a feature which Unwin strove to eliminate through his empirical work of the early 1900s. *Nothing Gained by Overcrowding*, his general theory of housing layout, interestingly received one of its first presentations in January 1912 in a Manchester University Warburton lecture. He and Parker were both Council Members of the Northern Artworkers Guild, and in 1903 were influential in the inclusion of their "Cottages Near a Town" project at the Guild Exhibition, whilst Edgar Wood, that most progressive of Mancunian Arts and Crafts architects, was involved with the Fairfield Tenants estate from 1913-22. Altogether Harrison's presentation confirms the richness and diversity of an approach based upon the study of a key urban centre.

Day's analysis of the contribution of Parker and Unwin to the evolution of site planning theory and practice benefits from his rounded approach. He confirms the impossibility of separating Parker and Unwin from each other, so complete and complementary were their skills in the period under review. Neither can their work be separated from their lives, particularly their own formative years which coincided so closely with the emergence of British socialism, notably Morris' Socialist League and the Fabian Society, and the Arts and Crafts movement. Their emphasis on the fundamentals of design in relation to function, materials and aesthetics soon led them to define a continuum which extended from the individual object to the community, a point first perceived by Creese. The lineage of New Earswick, Letchworth and Hampstead is soundly investigated by Day - although developed by an extension of the reform model each provided a prototype for more general application through planning. The early Earswick housing illustrated by Day formed the basis of a kit of

parts, readily applicable to individual sites, and reaching the most consistent level of achievement in Unwin's 70 acre 'artisans quarter' at Hampstead. Unwin, perhaps more than any of the pioneers, represented a pivotal figure between nineteenth century reform and the twentieth century strategy of public intervention. His appointment to the Local Government Board, wartime work for the Ministry of Munitions, and his membership of the Tudor Walters Committee (1917-18) personifies this. Rowntree had originally suggested that Unwin be appointed Chairman of the Committee, and the Report bore the detailed imprint of his techniques and philosophy. Day's account ends with a brief evaluation of the wartime communities - Gretna has strong claims to be the first State-developed new town - and their international influence, notably upon the US Emergency Fleet Corporation, through the propaganda initiative of F.L. Ackerman, who had attended the first Garden City Conference at Bournville in 1901. Indeed, Day is the only contributor to give consideration of the housing-dominated British brand of planning, a weakness in the overall structure which Sutcliffe could have made good with material drawn from his paper "Urban Planning in Europe before 1919: International Aspects of a prophetic movement", given at the Planning History Group meeting at Cambridge in November 1980.

Taken as a whole the collection does not fully cover its subject. The renaissance of civic design is sketchily covered, and virtually nothing is included on Aston Webb, a seminal figure whose activities ranged from remodelling Buckingham Palace and the Mall in the City Beautiful tradition through leadership, with Unwin, of the London Society survey and wartime 'development plan', a pioneer attempt to set the metropolitan region in

its overall physical context, to his editorship of *London of the Future* (1921) which contained perceptive papers on the planning of Greater London. Apart from Hawtree's section on the foundation of the Liverpool University Department of Civic Design, there is little on planning education in the formative years. The evolution of a literature of town planning gets short shrift - even Unwin's *Town Planning in Practice* is not fully discussed. No doubt Sutcliffe was guided by material available for certain aspects in this exciting period still need detailed investigation. We are left with an incomplete study, but nevertheless one which encapsulates much of the diversity of the personalities and activities of the formative years. The care with which the individual papers are presented will provide an enduring basis for further research into this subject area: as Sutcliffe concludes, "If British planning history, at the very least, can remain an area of keen debate, it can scarcely fail to evolve." This volume will contribute both to the debate and evolution.

Mervyn Miller

Notes and Articles

British members of the Planning History Group will be interested to note that the Committee on Modern Public Records: Selection and Access, appointed by the Lord Chancellor in 1978 under the chairmanship of Sir Duncan Wilson, has now reported (Cmd 8204), March 1981).

The Wilson Committee consider that the present system (established by the Grigg Report of 1954) of two-stage review and selection is as good as can be reasonably devised. In this system, the first selection is made by the department holding the record about five years after its creation and the second by an Inspecting

Officer of the Public Records Office about 25 years after, prior to its transfer to the PRO. The Wilson Committee recommends the greatest vigilance and efficiency in this process.

Gordon E. Cherry

History of Planning Methodology Workshop

Michael Breheny reports that subject to confirmation, the Social Science Research Council in Britain has agreed to fund the activities of the Workshop during 1982. This is to be used to help administration and travelling expenses for four/five Workshop sessions for British members during the year, and pay some of the travelling expenses for one small international Workshop.

Breheny also reports that consideration is being given to the establishment of a H.P.M. archive at the University of Reading. He announces the award of a grant from the Social Science Research Council to help set up the archive. This will pay for a part-time clerical assistant, who will gather and record the material, and for certain administrative costs. The award is for the calendar year 1982.

Sir Graham Vincent: An Appreciation

The 1940s were a turning point in statutory planning, when the role of both central and local government in land-use planning was transformed. Clearly, the war had a profound, catalytic effect on attitudes, and politicians responded to the unprecedented demand for more centralised forms of planning. In a remarkable burst of energy, legislation was promoted, ministries restructured, and fresh prescriptions for the future written. Whilst the leading politicians took the credit,

'their lines were frequently written by skilled administrators and professionals whose obscurity is testament to their acceptance of their role'. In the words of Professor Cullingworth, the achievements of those years owed much to 'a relatively small group of visionaries in the civil service' (Cullingworth, 1975).

One of these shadowy figures was (Harold) Graham Vincent, who died at the age of 89 on 5 November 1981. His brief obituary in *The Times* recounts how he took a First in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge and how, after military service, he entered the Treasury, where he became Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary in 1924. He acted as Private Secretary to successive Prime Ministers between 1928 and 1936. From the biographies of Stanley Baldwin, it is clear that his gifts were much appreciated by the incumbents of that office (*The Times*, 7.11.81). Vincent's considerable involvement in planning began in 1940, when Winston Churchill appointed Lord Reith as Minister of Works and Buildings, primarily in order to deploy his outstanding managerial talents in repairing blitz damage and constructing munitions and other public works. These terms of reference were too narrow for Reith and, after some considerable inter-departmental wrangling, Sir John Anderson secured him the personal responsibility for planning the physical reconstruction of post-war Britain (PRO, CAB 67/9). Vincent accepted an invitation from Reith to take charge of this aspect of the minister's duties. Reith later recorded in his autobiography that 'no one could have shown greater assiduity and devotion ... the credit for what was accomplished was in large measure Vincent's' (Reith, 1949).

Vincent's aim was to set up a central information service on

physical planning, taking as his model that for statistics and defence as an outpost of the Cabinet Office. In the years immediately before the war, he had been Principal Assistant Secretary to the Committee on Imperial Defence. The idea was to collate and interpret data on past and present trends in land use, and to help predict the direction and repercussions of future changes. It was not in itself a new idea. Vincent must have heard much about it on Political and Economic Planning, and particularly from those whose counsel he was to depend on so heavily during the war. It was, however, Vincent who turned the concept into a reality.

Vincent quickly gathered together a small group of specialists as temporary civil servants, under the Professor of Town Planning at Liverpool, William Holford. It was a brilliant team, and its influence was incalculable (Cherry, 1981). A consultative panel of 20 experts was created to provide information and ideas on specific issues (PRO, HLG 86). Members were drawn from local government, university departments and professional bodies. Liaison was established with such private ventures as the Nuffield College Social Reconstruction Survey. Somewhat later, the Chief Town Planning Officer, George Pepler, joined Reith's ministry.

Despite the impressive array of talent, Vincent's scope for initiative was at first severely circumscribed. The most obvious course was to investigate the wider ramifications of the report of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Industry and Industrial Population (the Barlow Report) of 1940 (Cmd 6153). The location of industry was, however, a matter for the Board of Trade, and the promotion of housing and regulation of building

development fell within the purview of the Ministry of Health. For Vincent, the only course was to identify those major issues which were not the primary concern of other ministers. Two were identified. One embraced the stabilisation of land values, the concepts of compensation payments and the levy of betterment charges, and the acquisition of land for public use. Although the resolution of these problems would be fundamental to any planned redistribution of industrial and residential development, no other minister was prepared to tackle such a thorny subject in the thick of war - least of all the Minister of Health who had formal responsibility for statutory planning. The other issue was the impact of industrial and housing development on rural land use. To investigate these two issues, Vincent arranged for the appointment of an Expert Committee under Mr Justice Uthwatt to cover the former subject (Cmd 6386), and a Committee under Lord Justice Scott to cover the latter (Cmd 6378).

The appointment of these committees signified Vincent's achievement in winning the respect of other ministries. Not many months previously, the Minister of Agriculture, R.S. Hudson, had written to Churchill, accusing Reith of setting up a Ministry of Cranks. He wrote, 'My fear is that while we are busily engaged in trying to win the war, these cranks will be concocting all sorts of schemes, and when the war is over and we have the job of putting a sane agricultural policy into operation we shall be faced with a whole series of theoretical plans and vested interests which will make our task quite impossible' (PRO, CAB 67/8). Through correspondence and meetings with individual officers, Vincent persuaded the Ministry that it was in their own interests to assist in discovering what industries might

be appropriately located in the countryside so that everyone would be better equipped to respond to the drift of population to the towns and the disturbance of agriculture generally after the war (PRO, HLG 80,1). In response to criticisms from Arthur Greenwood, the Minister without Portfolio, who had a general responsibility for post-war reconstruction, Vincent insisted that nothing was being done to usurp the prerogative of others. The Scott Committee would not make any recommendations on the decentralisation of industry; it would report instead on how land use would be affected if such a policy were adopted (PRO, CAB 118/79).

The key to Vincent's success in steering his Minister's way through the thickets of inter-departmental jealousies was encapsulated by a reference of Mrs Jaquetta Hawkes of the Reconstruction Secretariat to the national parks issue. By May 1942, Greenwood's Committee on Reconstruction Problems had become bogged down on the question of how a national parks authority could be reconciled with the role of local authorities in the planning process. Having got in touch with Vincent, Mrs Hawkes reported that 'while others talk he has been planning action - he is arranging to send suitable experts into the field to gather information about individual park areas and their special problems on the spot' (PRO, CAB 117/123).

Rather than waiting for some grandiose scheme to emerge, Vincent preferred the more realistic, gradualist approach. Having learned that John Dower, a leading advocate of national parks, had been invalided out of the army, Vincent secured his appointment to carry out a factual enquiry into 'the practical needs in certain potential (park) areas'. By December 1942, it

was possible to broaden his terms of reference to include 'a report on the general issues' raised by the concept of national parks (Cherry, 1975; Sheail, 1975). In order to gather data relevant to coastal planning, a coastal physiographer, J.A. Steers, was appointed as 'adviser to the Ministry on scientific matters connected with the preservation of the coastline' (Sheail, 1976). As Vincent told Pepler in June 1942, these would be the first instalments of a rural amenity survey, which would 'lead up to proposals which will ensure the adequate planning of all amenity areas in the country' (PRO, HLG 92,1).

Vincent subscribed to the view that a central planning authority should be created to collect survey data and collate government policies insofar as they related to land use. It would prepare a central plan of national requirements, and recommend improvements to legislation and the actual administration of planning. This was not, however, enough for Reith. He wanted to intervene in order to ensure that planning authorities were conforming with the national plan. Vincent believed this could only be achieved, particularly in wartime, by working through the government departments which held the relevant powers and duties. Again, this was not enough for Reith, who wanted to be his own chief planner, despite his lack of executive powers. An inexperienced speaker in debate, he strove to display activity and achievement where there was in reality none. With increasing stridency, Reith advocated the transference of all (physical) planning responsibilities to his own Ministry.

Such a transfer of statutory powers was eventually approved by the Cabinet in February 1942, with the creation of a new Ministry of Works and Planning.

Lord Portal replaced Reith as minister. A year later, the planning sector of that ministry was again moved - this time to a new Ministry of Town and Country Planning under W.S. Morrison. Throughout the structural changes, Vincent remained a Principal Assistant Secretary, continuing to promote research and information services. He became increasingly disenchanted with the trend towards an executive central planning authority, which he later described as 'pitiful'. There was increasing antipathy with the Permanent Secretary, a former High Commissioner for New Zealand, and with the Deputy Secretary, a businessman serving as a temporary civil servant. Both had been appointed by Reith. Vincent 'escaped' to Washington in 1944 to look after the very important interests of the Ministry of Production, where his administrative experience and personality must have contributed not a little to Anglo-American co-operation.

It would be facile to dismiss the initiatives taken in planning during the 1940s as merely the outcome of a popular shift toward collectivism. As Professor Cullingworth has commented, 'the more that political issues can be made into technical issues, the greater is the chance of achieving political success' (Cullingworth, 1975). For this reason, the interpretative role and personal calibre of individual civil servants and their advisers can have a considerable bearing on how far success is achieved. Unfortunately, many of the key figures in war-time planning slipped into comparative obscurity, and those exciting years consequently lost much of their sharpness (Cherry, 1981). One such figure was H.G. Vincent. Having acted as British Secretary of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry on the problems of European Jewry and Palestine (Cmd 6808), he served three years in the Civil Aviation Ministry. He retired from the post of Sec-

retary of Government Hospitality in 1956. A contemporary in the war-time ministries described him as charming, modest, helpful and very sincere - qualities that must have been invaluable in building up so talented a team of individuals in Reith's new ministry, and in developing mutual respect and liaison with government departments, the planning profession and pressure groups. Vincent created a credible base, from which the concepts of post-war planning could be launched.

John Sheail
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology

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- In July 1980 the Senate of the University of Liverpool agreed in principle "that, as the acquisition of important archives is a useful way of promoting research activity in provincial universities and of attracting good academic staff and graduate students, the University should be prepared to acquire the archives of national bodies for which no existing repository

provides a natural home, which are at risk and which have a relevance to research within the University; and that, in particular, initiatives be taken in those areas already identified as important to research in the University:

- (a) records relating to children and records of charitable bodies, complementary to the Barnardo archive;
- (b) records of bodies in the field of town planning, complementary to the collection of papers already deposited in the University or ultimately intended to be deposited, i.e. the Holford, Reilly, Forshaw and Abercrombie papers."

This archives acquisition policy was agreed following the deliberations of a Senate Working Party on Archives which was chaired by Professor E.P. Hennock of the Department of Modern History.

The University Archives already holds the papers of the late Lord Holford (inter alia Lever Professor of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool, 1936-47), of Professor Sir Charles Reilly (Roscoe Professor of Architecture at Liverpool 1904-33), and of another one of Professor Reilly's distinguished students Mr J.H. Forshaw (inter alia Chief Architect and Housing Consultant to the Ministries of Housing and Local Government and Health 1946-60). The University Archives hopes to receive the papers of Professor Sir Patrick Abercrombie (inter alia Lever Professor of Civic Design at Liverpool 1915-35) from Professor G.B. Dix, the present Lever Professor of Civic Design, when he has completed his biography of Sir Patrick. Those wishing to consult the papers in the University Archives' custody are asked to make a prior appointment before making a visit; it

should be noted that by reason of their nature and date, access to certain of the papers will be closed for some years or otherwise restricted.

Readers who feel that they might be able to assist the University in the implementation of its archive acquisition policy, perhaps through their knowledge of archives of national bodies in the planning field which are at risk, are asked to contact the University Archives, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX (tel. 051-709-6022 Ext. 2315 or 3048).

In this context, we are pleased to reproduce, with the kind permission of the University Archivist at Liverpool, a note on the papers of Sir Charles H. Reilly (*The University of Liverpool Recorder*, No.81, October 1979). The article was written by Adrian R. Allan, Assistant Archivist, and Sheila M. Turner, a member of the University Archives' STEP project staff.

The Papers of Sir Charles Reilly

The papers of the late Emeritus Professor Sir Charles H. Reilly (Roscoe Professor of Architecture 1904-33) have very generously been deposited with the University Archives by his son, the Lord Reilly. Whilst the papers mainly relate to the period after Sir Charles (who received his knighthood in 1944) retired from his Chair and from Liverpool, they include three of his early letter books (1904-11), and a volume containing press reviews, and letters received from his friends, concerning his 'semi-architectural' autobiography, *Scaffolding in the Sky* (1938).

To some extent the papers now deposited complement papers of Sir Charles Reilly already held by the University: notably nine of his Letter Books (1909-16, in the University Archives), which illuminate his work both as head of the School of Architecture and as a practising architect (in

Liverpool - the University's Students' Union, 1910-13, the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, Wavertree 1911, etc. - and elsewhere) and the plans he drew up for the Anglican Cathedral Competition in 1902 and for various University buildings (the latter plans held by the Chief Engineer). In addition, amongst the records of the School of Architecture in the University Archives are a series of albums of photographs of the studio and other work of Reilly's students, and volumes of press cuttings chronicling the work of Reilly and his students.

Sir Charles Reilly's autobiography has long been acknowledged as one of the major sources for portraying the feel of the University in the first three decades of this century. Inaccurate in parts, and 'gossipy', as Sir Charles himself admitted it to be, it stands out as a brilliant pen portrait of the University and those personalities who played a major role in its early development. The comments of his reviewers and friends on *Scaffolding in the Sky* are themselves perhaps worthy of quotation in part. Clough Williams-Ellis, in his *Sunday Times* review, commented that 'you will find that most of his old students still carry with them, on top of their remarkable technical proficiency and flair, an abiding freshness of mind, a social conscience, and a philosophical outlook that are the honourable stigmata of "Professor Reilly's Young Men"'. The *Journal of the R.I.B.A.* devoted two whole pages to its review, commenting that 'perhaps it would be safe to say that no living professor and no living architect is better known to more people than Professor Reilly, and the enormous success of his school, due entirely to his consistent energy and progressive methods, has resulted through the agency of innumerable

successful students in the adornment of every town of importance in this country, and indeed throughout the British Empire, with examples of modern architecture which will remain landmarks of a great movement that has come to stay'.

One of the large number of letters Professor Reilly received in response to his autobiography was from Mr T. Alwyn Lloyd, a Cardiff architect, who wrote in 1939. Liverpool was Mr Lloyd's native city, and he states that during his period at the School (of Architecture and Applied Art), 1898-1900 ... when it was a very small affair under F.M. Simpson, and being still at Liverpool at the time, I well remember your arrival in 1904, and how within a very few years you made such a big difference, not only in the numbers, but in the influence of the School and in the attitude taken to it by the City'. He recollected 'our horrible quarters in the old days at the top of the Victoria Building, and those awful sheds over the tunnel in which we did "applied design". Then there was the refectory, which had previously been the mortuary of the Infirmary, where I made friendships with architectural and other students which have lasted until now'.

Of his former colleagues at the University, Oliver Elton (King Alfred Professor of English Literature, 1900-25) disagreed with Sir Charles' assessment of Sir Alfred Dale, the last Principal and first Vice-Chancellor, whose 'natural kindness' he had commended. Elton felt this was not good enough; Dale was 'warm-hearted; he took his honours modestly; he was the friend and confident of hundreds of students; and his departure was much regretted'. Miss Dorothy Chapman, Principal of Westfield College, University of London, 1931-39, wrote as a former Warden of University Hall, Liverpool (1911-

31), and disagreed with Professor Reilly's comments on student accommodation. 'You mention with distaste "hostels with shared rooms" as all the University did in providing residence for its students,' she wrote. 'But our beautiful University Hall made single rooms its rule, and many of your women students enjoyed them fully and inhabited them charmingly, making a charming contribution to the community. And though I say it, I hold that the devotion of Wardens and resident Lecturers there to the general interests of students was one of the most civilizing elements in the University!' But the majority of his correspondents echoed the sentiments of Professor (later Sir) Robert E. Kelly, Professor of Surgery 1922-39, who thanked Sir Charles for the pleasure his book had given him, adding 'distance does lend enchantment - or perhaps it is that age always puts on rose tinted specs'.

The three letter books (1904-11) which Lord Reilly deposited comprise copies of Professor Reilly's handwritten letters on a wide range of subjects, both to do with the University, with the City of Liverpool, with architectural education and with his own practice. Here we read of the plans he submitted (but which were not chosen) for a Students' Union in Ashton Street and for an extension to the Victoria Building in Liverpool, and for a County Hall for the LCC, of his work in Port Sunlight, London (including his St Barnabas Mission Church, Dalston, the building he wished to be remembered by, if any) and elsewhere; also of his campaign to save the buildings of the Blue Coat School, Liverpool. In both the style of the prose and in the handwriting, one detects the great enthusiasm, vision and energy which he brought to the causes in which he believed. But the vast majority of the papers which Lord Reilly had deposited comprise cuttings which

Sir Charles had abstracted by a Press Cuttings Bureau from professional journals, the national and local press chronicling his work from his 'retirement' in 1933 right up to several days before his death in 1948, aged 73 years, and related correspondence. Of Reilly's ideas for town improvement, the 'Reilly greens', as they were popularly known, may perhaps emerge as one of the more enduring and influential of his concepts. It is in these post-1933 papers that his visions of communities planned around 'village greens', and with immediate access to a community centre and other amenities required by community life such as clinics, schools, etc. are expounded, and their realisation chronicled, particularly in the aftermath of the Second World War and in the climate which produced the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. Articles such as 'My Ideal Town', written in 1945, set out his ideas of communities with all the necessary amenities for a satisfying cultural and communal as well as domestic life provided within them.

The principles of community planning, of small houses grouped around village greens, were incorporated in the scheme (detailed in their *Outline Plan for Birkenhead*, published in 1947) which Sir Charles Reilly and one of his former students, Mr N.J. Aslan, proposed for the Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead in response to Birkenhead Corporation's commission to produce an outline plan for Birkenhead. However, this scheme, 'the Hexagon Plan' - the planning of housing together with communal facilities as a series of hexagonal courts with a garden and front door to each residence and a large open space for common use - suffered the fate of being severely criticised by Conservative councillors, and supported by Labour councillors, and was finally rejected. However, the ideas embodied in this plan were not laid to rest, Bilston

(in Staffordshire) and Dudley (in Worcestershire) in particular showing an interest. Acquiring special powers under a Local Act of 1947, Dudley Corporation vigorously pursued a policy of providing cultural and communal amenities in the older parts of the borough. Already, in 1946, Sir Charles Reilly had been invited to prepare an outline scheme for the development of Dudley's Old Park Farm site of approximately 90 acres 'in accordance with the Village Green principle of layout', Mr Derek Bridgwater (another of Sir Charles' former students) being later nominated to carry out the detailed work in connection with this development scheme. The scheme provided for two-, three- and four-bedroomed houses and flats and incorporated, as basic essentials, a community centre or 'Club house' and nursery school, and the incorporation of district heating for the individual houses. The Council at the same time in 1947 agreed to invite a former colleague of Sir Charles, Professor Simey (late Lord Simey; Charles Booth Professor of Social Science 1939-69, Lecturer, later Senior Lecturer, 1931-39), of the University of Liverpool, to advise on the social problems which it was felt would inevitably arise in an estate developed on a community basis. It was unfortunate that Sir Charles Reilly did not live to see work commence on the new housing estate at Dudley on modified 'Reilly green' lines in 1950, a year after which the University Press of Liverpool published the Social Science Department's study of Dudley, *Social aspects of a town development plan*.

The latest papers in date relating to Sir Charles Reilly which Lord Reilly has deposited are the obituary tributes and articles which appeared not only in the professional journals but also in the national and local press, reaching perhaps as wide

an audience as his own reported speeches and comments, books and articles, published Letters to the Editor, and news of his activities had reached in his lifetime. Writing as a former student, later a colleague and friend of Sir Charles, Professor W.G. (later Lord) Holford (Senior Lecturer in Architecture 1933-36, Lever Professor of Civic Design 1936-47) opined that 'his finest monument may not be his own works of architecture but those of his many students and disciples ... Professor Reilly's school was not only at Liverpool, but wherever architectural students happened to be, and his are now distributed about the world' (as indeed the press cuttings Sir Charles collected bear witness).

A number of the planning and other concepts which Sir Charles Reilly advocated have more recently found favour both in official circles and amongst the general public, albeit their genesis and descent is perhaps known only to a few. As regards Liverpool, he had wanted the city to remain populated both with houses and commercially, disagreeing with the creation of suburbs so far out in the country; at one time, most of the University's professors had lived in an established community around the University, but the creation of suburbs led to moving away, much to his annoyance. He put forward suggestions for assisting slum areas in Liverpool, advocating redecoration and the closing off of streets from the main roads to make them safer and more pleasant. Advocating low-level housing in the suburbs around 'village greens', he was against the erection of large blocks of flats except in cities where space determined this type of housing. But it is not only for his advocacy of such concepts that Sir Charles Reilly deserves to be remembered - there is, above all, the major role he

played in architectural education, and in particular, the establishment of the Liverpool School of Architecture as a School with a reputation and influence which reached far beyond these shores. It is to be hoped that the deposit of Sir Charles Reilly's papers with the University Archives, together with the other primary and secondary sources that are already available in Liverpool and an examination of the buildings he and his students erected, will encourage research and the publication of several studies whereby his true significance may be revealed.

The papers of Sir Charles Reilly together with the list of the same, may be consulted in the University Archives, University of Liverpool, Arts Reading Room, Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 3BX (tel. 051-709 6022, ext. 3048) during normal office hours by prior appointment.

New Members

U.K. Members

Mr M.G. Horsey, Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, 53 Melville Street, Edinburgh.

Mr M.T. Pountney, Building Research Station, Garston, Hertfordshire WD2 7JR.

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