

In spite of these critical comments, one can recognize the effort the authors have made in the preparation of these volumes. In order to offer the reader and more particularly the user of a map folio an adequate cross-section of historical cartography, it is necessary to connect archival experience with a keen sense of historical and geographical developments. The authors have accomplished this in the fine selection of the plates. Subsequent folios should further contribute towards improving the attitude towards maps as historical evidence by building upon the foundations laid by such publications as *Ottawa in Maps* and *Winnipeg in Maps*.

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La Ville de Québec, 1800-1850: un Inventaire de Cartes et Plans.
EDWARD H. DAHL, HELENE ESPESET, MARC LAFRANCE and
THIERY RUDELL. Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, 1975. Pp.
413. illus. (Mercury Series. History Division Paper No. 13) \$5.00

For several reasons, this is one of the best publications in the National Museum of Man's Mercury Series and as a published inventory is worthy of the attention of archivists and manuscript librarians.

Although one might quibble over the quality of some reproductions (for example, Map Nos. 77, 208, 288, 289) or question the lack of illustrations of individual properties (for example, No. 65, "Sketch of Mr. Smith's property"), this inventory contains the qualities demanded of archival publications, but too often lacking. There is a brief, helpful historical introduction, a thorough inventory that should satisfy the demands of most researchers, and will refer them to major related collections. And, whether for a casual inquiry or a detailed study, the index and cross-reference system, along with the chronological arrangement, make the information readily accessible. It is also worth noting that this is a cooperative effort, produced jointly by users and custodians. Perhaps this accounts for some of its strengths.

The well documented Introduction gives an historical overview of the commercial, military, administrative, political, religious and cultural trends of the period 1800 to 1850 in Québec City; population growth and physical expansion are also treated. And, to assist in setting the context for what is to follow, a few well chosen plates, plans, and views are included. In forty pages, the authors have provided enough of the critical background to satisfy both the curious and the scholarly.

The main body of the work, the "analytical cartobibliography of the 315 maps of Québec City . . . held by the Public Archives of Canada", is

outstanding for its depth and the care with which the information is presented. Each entry is organized chronologically and numbered individually. The titles are typed in bold-face, the name and occupation of the cartographer is given, if known, and the specific archival reference numbers, specific date, and any special stamps or markings appearing on the maps or plans are also given. This information, along with the provenance, the scale, the type (for example, Coloured Ms.) the dimensions in centimetres, the description and special remarks, round out each entry. Interspersed are the reproduced maps and plans for approximately one in five entries. Appended to the main body of the work is "a list of 400 maps of the same period located in various archival repositories in Québec", which although not complete, does indicate other main sources of similar materials in Québec repositories.

After reading this volume, one suspects it will serve not only as a model or standard for archivists, but will be an excellent reference for urban historians, geographers, cartographers and many others.

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Urban Reader. Vol. [1]—Mar. 1973—Vancouver: Social Planning Dept., City of Vancouver. Free.

Vancouver: Turn of the Century (Vol. 2, no. 6; July/Aug. 1974)

Vancouver: The Great War Decade (Vol. 3, no. 2; Feb./Mar. 1975)

Vancouver: The Twenties and Thirties (Vol. 3, no. 6; July/Aug. 1975)

Vancouver: The Forties and Fifties (Vol. 4, no. 1; Jan./Feb. 1976)

The *Urban Reader* is "a review of urban news and opinion" published eight times a year by the Social Planning Department of the City of Vancouver. These four issues were published as part of a special series tracing the City's history.

The designer has employed an unoriginal yet nonetheless effective formula in which historical photographs and other illustrative materials are juxtaposed with extracts from contemporary newspapers, pamphlets, reports and the works of the redoubtable Major J.S. Matthews. This format, while not appropriate to any but a superficial historical treatment, amply serves the purpose at hand. The textual extracts have been well chosen, with an eye to the telling comparison of past and present day conditions and concerns. The photographs, provided by the City of Vancouver Archives and the Vancouver Public Library's Historical Photos Collection, reveal the scope and importance of available photographic sources on Vancouver. Here is an attempt, all too infrequently made, to provide a broad popular exposure of archival materials. All the indications are that the Canadian public today is