

Editorial note

The purpose of the *Yearbook* is to provide a research tool and forum of discussion for urban historians. Every year an effort is made to maintain and extend its international coverage, with the help of the overseas correspondents and contacts made at conferences abroad. The policy of having a number of short articles, covering several countries, is an aspect of this. Invited articles this year include the surveys of urban history in Germany and India, articles highlighting the work of geographers, a comment on recent architectural history, other review articles and Professor Kaelble's comparative analysis of social mobility. The editor is most grateful to contributors for responding so readily. However, he would appeal, once again, for more submitted articles. The editorial board would especially welcome wide-ranging bibliographical surveys, comparative studies, discussions of major themes in urban history, or of methodological issues and approaches, or of the use of historical sources. Intending contributors should contact the general editor at the School of Education, 21 University Road, Leicester.

International conferences, as the reports in this issue show, are now an established feature of the urban history scene. There can be little doubt, however, that for British urban historians the outstanding event of 1980 was the International colloquium held at Leicester as the H. J. Dyos Memorial Conference on The Pursuit of Urban History. This was intended by Jim Dyos as a working conference, restricted in numbers with participants drawn from several historical disciplines and each of them expected to contribute in some way. When Derek Fraser took over the task of organizing the conference on behalf of the Steering Committee, he found that the only record of proposed contributors was a list of names on the now famous doyley left over from a lunch-time planning session. But this was enough, apart from a few later additions. It says a lot for the respect and affection which Jim Dyos had inspired that so many distinguished scholars from overseas accepted invitations. How much these and the home participants achieved in opening up new lines to pursue, and the progress made since the first international conference in Britain in 1966, will be open to assessment more fully later when the volume of the conference to be edited by Anthony Sutcliffe and Derek Fraser is eventually published by Edward Arnold. Certainly, the representatives of British urban history seemed to leave in buoyant mood, feeling that the idea of urban history, despite some early knocks, had been strengthened in the end. If this was the case, the volume should help to carry urban history through what are bound probably to be some troubled years ahead, given the vulnerability of relatively new historical fields to the economic pressures now affecting universities.

Indeed, the problem of financing some of the *Yearbook's* activities has already arisen in respect of the Register of Research. The expense of collecting items and compiling the Register can no longer be met, as in previous years, from 'unofficial' sources, and the list has been temporarily withdrawn from this year's number. The editorial board are looking for some financial backing for the Register in the hope of making it available again in a full form perhaps on a bi-annual or tri-annual basis – since we have noticed that the entries do not change a great deal from year to year. Those who have previously sent details for inclusion either on their own behalf or that of higher degree students are urged to keep on doing so, mailing the information to Joyce Ellis at the University of Loughborough. In the meantime, the *Yearbook* will provide some notice of new research and continue publishing reviews and the bibliography as before.

This *Yearbook* is an independent publication of the Leicester University Press and responsibility for it lies with the Board of the Press. But there is, fortunately, an overlap of membership between the editorial board and the Steering Committee for British urban history as reconstituted and elected at the annual conference in 1980. For the record, A. Sutcliffe (Sheffield) was re-elected chairman,

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whilst other members elected were: D. Cannadine (Cambridge), P. Clark (Leicester), M. J. Daunton (London), Joyce Ellis (Loughborough), D. Fraser (Bradford), J. R. Kellett (Glasgow), P. Laxton (Liverpool), D. A. Reeder (Leicester). The first meeting of the Committee in 1980 discussed mainly the format and subjects for annual conferences.