

historical perspective. Nostalgia replaces an historical causal relationship and questioning. For a fuller understanding of Wisconsin, one also should read *Wisconsin Death Trip* by Michael Lesy, who gives direction, theme, and cause to an area and era in photographic media. Both works are to be commended in their use of the photograph to preserve a state's natural features and her people. Their weaknesses should not prevent others from modeling the extensive use of photographs in interpreting history. These works should offer subject guidance to the photographer, should instill in the archivist the desire to collect, preserve, and publicize, and should cause the historian to use photographs in interpreting, not embellishing, their works.

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Chicago, 1930-70: Building, Planning, and Urban Technology.

By Carl W. Condit. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1974. Pp. xvi, 351. Illustrations, notes, tables, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

Originally this work was to have been the concluding part of a single volume on Chicago's urban development since 1910. Convinced that such a work would be unmanageable in size and prohibitive in cost, the Depression, that "turning point for the American City—from expansion, confidence, and civic resurgence to economic and cultural decline" (p. xv), was chosen as the dividing line. While the author doubted that the continuity of the text would be "adversely" (p. xv) affected, in fact, it is. Daniel C. Burnham's famous plan of Chicago, 1909, serves throughout this volume as the author's reference point, yet nowhere is even the barest sketch of that seminal proposal provided. A short introductory chapter giving background on this and other matters would easily have remedied a grave defect.

As it is, the first chapter on the planning of the Century of Progress Exposition establishes the theme for all that follows. The Exposition of 1933, a "rainbow city stretched along the blue and shining lake," was architecturally innovative in its inexpensive and rapid construction, use of materials, lighting, and bold use of color. Withal such a financial success that it was repeated in 1934, the Exposition was a

mordant contrast to the "real city, the beaten, hungry impotent Chicago behind it" (p. 7).

In just this way the triumphs of architecture which rose in the core city, fashioned largely by the Chicago based firms of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; Perkins and Will; Harry Weese and Associates; and the great Mies van der Rohe firms, invariably come at the cost of the larger interests of the city. It was as if a family lavished its attention on the appointments of the visitor's parlor and let the rest of the house fall down. Let the Hancock Center serve as an example: a marvel of the architect's art, this "braced vertical tubular cantilever"—or "optimum column-diagonal truss tube" (p. 107)—is an ecological disaster; its site a mistake, its size grossly out of scale, its form inharmonious with its neighbors. The beneficiary of "unprincipled zoning" (p. 112) through which the city council granted privileges whenever the investors saw an opportunity to expand profits, its real significance emerged with the competition in corporate advertising it announced and the monstrous Sears Tower it evoked.

If the core city received beautiful, if often hostile, triumphs, the rest of Chicago got huge urban renewal projects with ugly buildings of inhuman proportions, which, without exception, meant a net loss of poor and middle income housing units. The consequences of the Richard Daley years can be read in the census figures. City population has dropped in the last two censuses to a point below that of 1930. Why? Locally, according to Professor Condit, it was the alert philistinism shared by the mayor and avaricious business interests. On the national scene, urban blight and depopulation is due to the military establishment, "aided by its industrial allies, the political directorate of the federal government, and Congress . . ." (p. 280). The solution? It is clear that the author intends the starkest pessimism, for only "a radical program of physical and moral reconstruction initiated by the people" (p. 281) will do. This old "change of heart" platform is the weakest and least convincing of the reformer's nostrums. Instructive here is the experience of Vinton W. Bacon, a sanitary engineer called in by Daley in 1963 to clear up the job selling, bribery, kickbacks, altering of Civil Service examination scores, and leasing deals extant in the Sanitary District. So successful was Bacon that he attracted the testi-

monial of a dynamite bomb in 1966, which he survived, only to be illegally dismissed by the trustees in a secret meeting in January, 1970.

This work is emphatically not a mere liberal jeremiad, however. It is a sober and sometimes technical discussion of land use, schools and universities, highways, railroads, water and waterways, and airports, as well as architecture. Condit, a professor of history, urban affairs, and art history at Northwestern University, has included over one hundred necessary photographs and appended twenty-one pages of tables. Alas, the new Comprehensive Plan of Chicago, 1966, is "eyewash" (p. 277). No one says that now about Burnham's effort.

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