

Amsterdam/Leiden 13 oktober 1975

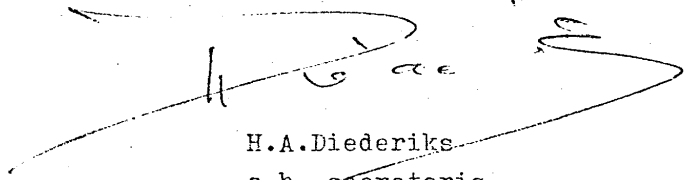
Aan de deelnemers van de werkgroep 'stedengeschiedenis'
en andere belangstellenden,

Hierbij nodig ik U uit voor de vierde bijeenkomst van de werkgroep te houden op donderdag 13 november te 19.30 uur in zaal 8A-3 Hoofgebouw Vrije Universiteit, de Boelelaan, Amsterdam.

Prof. H.J.Dyos (Universiteit van Leicester, U.K.) zal een uiteenzetting geven over 'some questions for historians'; om de discussie enigszins te leiden heeft prof. Dyos een viertal deelonderwerpen genoemd en een literatuurlijst opgesteld. De vier punten (at/md) en de lijst zend ik U hierbij.

Enkele personen hebben toegezegd een aantal gedachten over één of meer deelonderwerpen als discussiebijdragen - die vóór de vergadering rondgestuurd zullen worden - te formuleren. Wanneer U suggesties voor de discussie heeft verzoek ik U in contact te treden met de voorzitter van de werkgroep, prof. W.J. Wieringa, of met ondergetekende.

In de verwachting velen van U op 13 november a.s. te kunnen begroeten verblijft met vriendelijke groet



H.A. Diederiks
a.h. secretaris

Postbus 32,
Amsterdam, 020-244059

- (1) Concept and definition. What is urban history and how does it relate to the social sciences and humanities? What constitute its highest priorities?
- (2) The "new" urban history. How far do quantitative techniques take us? What are its implications for the organisation and conduct of research?
- (3) Changes in the physical and/or social structure of cities. What are the variables that need to be measured and explained? How far can they be treated independently of each other?
- (4) The distinctiveness of urban institutions. How can they be distinguished? Is the urban process definable in universal terms?



Professor of Urban History:
H. J. DYOS, B.Sc.(Econ.), Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC HISTORY

University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH
Telephone 0533-50000

8 September 1975

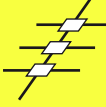
Dear Herman:

I have now put together three select bibliographies that indicate the general scope and character of the two lectures and the seminar we have in view for my visit to the Netherlands in November, and it would be simplest perhaps if I merely listed the books (and, in the case of the seminar, the periodical articles also) that it would be profitable for anyone attending to consult. I do not flatter myself that my audiences will have the time or interest to follow up more than a very few of my suggestions, but it may be helpful to list a dozen or more volumes in case a more selective list happened to include only titles that were not easily available in the Netherlands.

(1) THE ENGLISH APPROACH TO THE URBAN PAST. (You suggested that this might be more general than the other topics and I have kept the list fairly open to a wide range of interests. I shall in fact mention other works in the course of my lecture but would provide a typed bibliography to everyone present.)

- Ashworth, W, The Genesis of Modern British Town Planning (1954)
 Barker, TC & Harris JR, A Merseyside Town in the Industrial Revolution (1954)
 CW Chalklin, The Provincial Towns of Georgian England (1974)
 Clark, P & Slack, P, Crisis and Order in English Towns, 1500-1700 (1972)
 Cobb, R, Paris and its Provinces, 1792-1802 (1975)
 Crosby, T, The Necessary Monument (1970)
 Dyos, HJ (ed), The Study of Urban History (1968)
 George, MD, London Life in the XVIIIth Century (1925)
 Gill, C & Briggs, A, History of Birmingham 2 vols (1952)
 Highway, C (ed), The Erosion of History (1972)
 Hennock, EP, Fit and Proper Persons. Ideal and Reality in Nineteenth-Century Urban Government (1973)
 Heren, L, Growing up Poor in London (1973)
 Hill, Sir F, Medieval Lincoln (1948); Tudor and Stuart Lincoln (1956);
Georgian Lincoln (1966); Victorian Lincoln (1974)
 Hobhouse, H, Lost London. A Century of Demolition and Decay (1971)
 Kellett, JR, The Impact of Railways on Victorian Cities (1969)
 McLeod, H, Class and Religion in the Late Victorian City (1974)
 Martin, GH & McIntyre, S (eds), A Bibliography of British and Irish Municipal History, Vol I: General Works (1972)
 Raban, J, Soft City (1974)
 Sutcliffe, A, The Autumn of Central Paris (1970)
 Taylor, N, The Village in the City (1973)

continued...



- 2 -

Williams, R, The Country and the City (1973)
Wilson, RG, Gentlemen Merchants: the merchant community in Leeds, 1700-1820 (1972)
Youngson, AJ, The Making of Classical Edinburgh, 1750-1840 (1966)

(2) THE IMAGE AND THE REALITY OF LONDON. (This would be fairly profusely illustrated by slides, for which I would need a Kodak "Carousel" projector with zoom lens and a large white wall to project them on to. This, too, could be kept generally open to the wider interests of students of economic and social history; or, if you felt this to be preferable, could be reconstructed into something bearing the title "The Exploration of Victorian London", in which I would include some reference to research priorities, but I am inclined to think these things had better be grouped under (3). The list could be extended almost indefinitely, especially in the direction of contemporary printed sources. Advise me if you want more of a list.

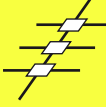
Suggested background reading for lectures on urban history.

(1) The Image and the Reality of Victorian London

Barker, F & Jackson, P, London: 2000 Years of a City and its People (1974)
Betjeman, Sir J, Victorian and Edwardian London from Old Photographs (1969)
Briggs, A, Victorian Cities (1963)
Coleman, BI, The Idea of the City in Nineteenth-Century Britain (1973)
Davidoff, L, The Best Circles. Society, Etiquette and the Season (1973)
Dyos, HJ, Victorian Suburb (1961)
Dyos, HJ, (ed), Collins' Illustrated Atlas of London [1854] (1973)
Dyos, HJ & Wolff, M (eds), The Victorian City: Images and Realities, 2 vols (1973)
Fried, A & Elman, R (eds), Charles Booth's London (1971)
Gartner, LP, The Jewish Immigrant in England 1870-1914 (1960)
Glass, R and others, London: Aspects of Change (1964)
Hudson, D, Mumby, Man of Two Worlds (1972)
Keating, PJ, The Working Classes in Victorian Fiction (1971)
[Masterman, CFG (ed)], The Heart of the Empire (1902)
Metcalf, P, Victorian London (1972)
Olsen, DJ, Town Planning in London in the 18th and 19th Centuries (1965)
Richards, JM, The Castles on the Ground
Sheppard, FHW, London, 1808-1870: The Infernal Wen (1971)
Stedman Jones, G, Outcast London (1971)
Thompson, FML, Hamstead: Building a Borough, 1650-1964 (1974)
Welsh, A, The City of Dickens (1971)
Wohl, AS (ed), The Bitter Cry of Outcast London by Andrew Mearns [1883] (1970)

(3) SOME QUESTIONS FOR URBAN HISTORIANS. (I had visualised this simply as an open-ended discussion along fairly broad lines so as to allow more detailed talk on particular issues wherever they came up. I had thought that I would begin by offering a brief, analytical survey of work being undertaken in the UK, perhaps supplemented by more specific reference to two or three particular research efforts, and then conduct a discussion under three or four broad headings, each of which I would introduce in turn. I indicate these below.

continued....



I suspect that it would be more fruitful, not less, if we avoided highly detailed expositions of problems peculiar to particular places because I rather think we would then simply produce a verbal catalogue. However, you must guide me more closely in the light of the rather loose structure I propose. The main thrust of the discussion should be towards clarifying the questions urban historians are putting to their source material--the agenda and strategy for research in this field. Does this fit your requirements?)

- (a) Scope and definition. What is urban history and how does it relate to the social sciences and humanities? What constitute its highest priorities?
- (b) The "new" urban history. How far do quantitative techniques take us? What are its implications for the organisation and conduct of research?
- (c) Changes in the physical and/or social structure of cities. What are the variables that need to be measured and explained? How far can they be treated independently of each other?
- (d) The distinctiveness of urban institutions. How can they be distinguished? Is the urban process definable in universal terms?

²
Barry, B.J.L., The Human Consequences of Urbanisation (1973)

Briggs, A, 'The Study of Cities', Confluence, vii no.2 (1958), 107-14,
'Historians and the Study of Cities', George Judah Cohen Memorial Lecture
(1960), 3-24, 'The Study of Cities', Australian Journal of Adult
Education, II (1962), 15-20

Choay, Françoise, 'L'histoire et la méthode en urbanisme', Annales, 25th year
no. 4 (July-August 1970), 1143-55

Checkland, SG, 'Toward a Definition of Urban History', The Study of Urban
History, ed HJ Dyos (1968), 343-61;

Davis, 'The American Historian vs. the City', Social Studies LVI (1965), 91-6
127-35

Diamond, W, 'On the Dangers of an Urban Interpretation of History', in
Historiography and Urbanization, ed. Eric F. Goldman (1941)

Dyos, HJ, 'Agenda for Urban Historians', in The Study of Urban History, 1-16

Dyos, HJ, Urbanity and Suburbanity (1973)

Everitt, A (ed), Perspectives in English Urban History (1973)

Foster, J, Class Struggle and the Industrial Revolution (1974)

Glynn, S, 'Approaches to Urban History: the Case for Caution', Australian
Economic History Review, X no 2 (1970) 218-25

Handlin, O, 'The Modern City as a Field of Historical Study' in The Historian
and the City, ed. Oscar Handlin and John Burchard (1963)

Harvey, D, Social Justice and the City (1973)

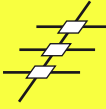
Hauser, PM & Schnore, LF (eds), The Study of Urbanization (1965) esp. part I

Hobsbawm, EJ, 'From Social History to the History of Society', Daedalus, c no I
(Winter 1971), 20-45;

Hoover, DW, 'The Diverging Paths of American Urban History', American Quarterly,
XX (Summer 1968), 296-317

Jutikkala, E, 'The Borderland: Urban History and Urban Sociology',
Scandinavian Economic History Review, iv (1958), 191-5

Lampard, EE, 'American Historians and the Study of Urbanization', American
Historical Review, LXVII no. 1 (October 1961), 49-61; Urbanization and



- 4 -

- Social Change: on Broadening the Scope and Relevance of Urban History' in The Historian and the City, 225-47, and 'The Dimensions of Urban History: a Footnote to the "Urban Crisis"', Pacific Historical Review, XXXIX no 3 (August 1970), 261-78
- Lubove, R, 'The Urbanization Process; an Approach to Historical Research', Journal of the American Institute of Planners, XXXIII (January 1967), 33-9; Social Sciences Research Council, Reviews of Current Research, no 9: Research in Economic and Social History (1971), 47-54 [on "Urban History"]
- Mohl, RA & Richardson, JF, The Urban Experience (1973)
- Robson, BT, Urban Growth. An Approach (1973)
- Schnore, LF, The New Urban History. Quantitative Explorations by American Historians (1975)
- Thernstrom, S, 'Reflections on the New Urban History', Daedalus, c no. 2 (Spring 1971), 359-75, and (with Richard Sennett), Nineteenth-Century Cities: Essays in the New Urban History (1969), including 'Afterword' by Norman Birnbaum
- Thorns, DE, Suburbia (1972)
- Tisdale, H, 'The Process of Urbanization', Social Forces, XX (1941-2), 311-16
- Warner, SB, Jr., 'If all the World were Philadelphia: a Scaffolding for Urban History, 1774-1930', American Historical Review, LXXIV (1968), 26-43; The Urban Wilderness (1972)
- Wohl, RR, 'Urbanism, Urbanity, and the Historian', University of Kansas City Review, XXII (Autumn 1955), 53-61.
- Wrigley, EA (ed), Nineteenth-Century Society. Essays in the Use of Quantitative Explorations by American Historians (1975)
- See also the issues of Economic Development and Cultural Change, III (1954-5); Daedalus, XCIX no. 4 (Fall 1968); and Journal of Contemporary History, IV no.3 (1969), which were devoted to various themes in the historical and cultural significance of the city. The nineteenth-century phase of modern urban development can be followed up in a wide variety of ways through The Victorian City: Images and Realities, 2 vols (1973), edited by H.J.Dyos and Michael Wolff.

I am sorry it's taken me much longer than I had expected to squeeze out this list. Believe me, I have had a very exhausting time since we met last Easter, and will be very hard pressed right through to Christmas, I'm afraid. But please do let me know if there is any more information you need. I'll be back in a week's time.

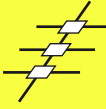
Warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. Smith (Rw)

Secretary
[Written by Professor Dyos but
signed in his absence]

Dr Herman Diederiks,
Herengracht 32,
Amsterdam,
The Netherlands.



Symposium "Urban history", 13th of Nov. 1975 at Amsterdam

Th. van Rijs. Some remarks about Urban history

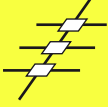
The first question raised is: "What is urban history". The question is easy to answer indeed if we have in mind the definition Van der Woude gave of rural history ~~xxxxxx~~. Because you have not, I'll give it here: "The concept "rural history" denotes the total social and economic history of the countryside". I could easily agree, at the condition nevertheless that "social" includes cultural and political. The definition of urban history then should be: all social and economic history that is not about the countryside (nor about the seaside I could add). Or: the total ~~xxxxxx~~ social and economic history of towns.

I know there are difficulties in defining the concept of town, - a kind of difficulties that ^{does} not seem to exist when we are speaking about non-towns, i.e. the countryside. I don't think ~~xx~~ the debate about the definition of the concept ^{of} town is very fruitful. We know full well what is meant ~~about it~~ and we are not disturbed by the knowledge that there are marginal cases --non-towns with townish aspects, towns with rural aspects-- , because such things happen with the delimitation of many concepts, which nevertheles ^{are} clear enough.

Let it be enough to know that the concept of town presupposes in any case a big density of population on a limited surface, a ^u differentiation of functions and roles within it to a higher degree than on the countryside, and the existence ^{of special functions} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of the whole ^{body} collective that is called town as against the outer world (country-side and other towns, as far as there are relations).

Because of those characteristics, but more especially because of the last mentioned one, the study of Urban History has a sense. I should, by the way, not ~~xx~~ dare to pretend that the rich tradition of writing city-histor^yes, existing in Holland since the end of the 16th century at least and never lost^y since, could have been senseless. But apart from that, ~~for~~ from the few characteristics I gave a program for Urban History can follow:

1. A study should be made, in each case-study^y which pretends to be a full-fledged city-history for a certain period, of the metabolism of the town-in-case with the outer world. ~~xx~~ Metabolism as to the flow of goods in and out, of the flow of people in and out, ~~xxx~~ of the flow of capital in and out, ~~xxx~~ of the flow of ideas in and out, ^{and of the flow of political pressures in and out.} The special functions of the town in question as a ^{body} ~~collective~~, will arise from that study.



2. A study should be made of what happens with the goods, the people, the capital, ^{and the pressures} ~~and the ideas~~ ^(as long as they are there) ~~inside the town studied~~, the differentiation in internal functions will arise from this study. Amongst other things this implies that the scholar determines the social structure, the structure of occupations and the economic structure; ^{he should study} ~~furthermore~~ ^{and physical} demographic phenomena, and cultural developments. Of course this should be done in relation to the findings arising from the study of the points mentioned sub 1, v.v.

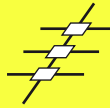
3. A study should be made of the consequences of the existence of many people on a little surface; here, the physical aspects of the town --in relation with the things mentioned earlier-- must be studied.

Urban History, as an ideal determined like I did here, is of course ~~xxxxxx~~ "integral history", all/aspects of human life being studied as far as regards the town and its population. It borrows heavily from all other social sciences, from the humanities, from medical science and perhaps from a handful of other sciences and arts. But it does so while having its own sphere of interest and organises ~~xxxx~~ elements of other arts and sciences in its own way, for its own ~~own~~ purposes. If by doing so the results of any study of Urban History might be interesting in turn for other sciences and arts, so much the nicer for them. But that is not the purpose, as it is not the purpose of history in general.

I should not know what the "highest priorities" of Urban History are. I am inclined to say: the highest ~~priority~~ priority is to make as many good case studies as possible, as much as possible along the lines sketched ^{above} before, in order to make comparative exercises more fruitful than they are until now. For that ^{purpose} ~~(purpose)~~, contacts ^{later} between scholars --nationally and internationally-- in order to unify their ~~the~~ concepts, tools and categories might be of high priority.

What about quantitative techniques? In this field, I think, Urban History ~~xxxxxx~~ does not differ from other fields of historical study. Their application is absolutely necessary and it will bring us very far as to most of the sub-subjects mentioned above. But quantitative exercises never constitute a purpose for ~~itself~~ ^{themselves (should)}. We ^{make} quantitative crosscuts and series always in relation with their usefulness for determining the things mentioned in the three points I noted before. As to ~~the~~ ~~xxx~~ organisation and conduct of research: it means more money to set in motion computers and to utilise personnel to note and code.

As to the other questions asked, I really think I answered them for my part already, ^{at least implicitly}.



Notulen bijeenkomst "Stedengeschiedenis" dd 13/11/'75

aanwezig: P.C.Jansen, C.L.Verkerk, O.D. van den Muijzenberg,
L. de Blois, H.Reitsma, W.J.Wieringa, G.A.Hoekveld,
H.A.Diederiks, L.Noordegraaf, G.A.Heijnis, J.M.M. de
Meere, P.H.J. van der Laan.

Gast: prof. Dyos

Centraal thema van deze bijeenkomst was: een inleiding van prof. Dyos over de betekenis van 'urban history'. In zijn helder betoog, dat hij voor deze gelegenheid afstemde op het vermeende kennisniveau van de aanwezenden, werd een evaluatie gegeven van de stand van zaken. De relatie met andere historische, economische, sociologische en sociaal-geografische specialismen kwam aan bod. Er bestaan vele benaderingswijzen van urban history, zo werd betoogd; toch weet urban history zich van locale, municipale, sociale en economische geschiedenis te onderscheiden. Hierbij kwamen vele methodologische probleemgebieden ter sprake: (operationeel) definiëring, begripsvorming, indicering, afhankelijke/onafhankelijke variabelen e.d. Van primair belang is echter vanuit welk paradigma het verschijnsel 'stad' bestudeerd kan worden. Dyos kiest voor het ruimtelijk aspect: het analyseren van veranderingen die zich binnen het ecologische 'framework' voordoen (indicatoren kunnen dan vele zijn, zoals 'bevolking', 'omgeving', 'instituten' enz.). Het probleem voor de 'urban historian' is de zgn "battle of space": waarom ontstaat een stad op een bepaalde plaats en bij wijze van spreken, niet 200 meter verderop. Het economisch principe is niet de eerste gedachte die bij Dyos opkomt; veeleer tracht hij, in navolging van F.Engels, het 'organizing principle' te achterhalen. Daarnaast hecht hij veel waarde aan studies die zich bezighouden met de effecten van één verandering/vernieuwing in de stedelijke constellatie, bv. de invloed van de spoorwegen.

Al met al bleek dat Dyos van mening was dat er niet één benaderingswijze van urban history bestaat, maar dat het een 'multivariate' bezigheid is; vele specialismen kunnen zich ermee bezighouden.

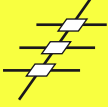
discussie

vr.: urban history is een deel van sociale geschiedenis; mensen komen de stad binnen en gaan er weer uit. Wat moeten we dan onder 'urban' verstaan?



-2-

- antw.: we moeten naar een 'history of society'.
- vr.: waaruit bestaat het specialisme van de 'urban historian'?
- antw.: moeilijk te zeggen; economen, geografen. Belangrijk is het onderscheid stad/platteland; welke verschuivingen er binnen de stad plaats hebben, bv. welke invloed heeft de 'pub' op het sociale leven. Verder de psychologische aspecten: waarom huizen met tuintjes. Dyos geeft te kennen dat hij zich op dit ogenblik bezighoudt met een studie naar de 'suburbs'.
- vr.: welk specialisme is het meest geschikt?
- antw.: onmogelijk te zeggen. Dyos studeerde economie. In Engeland zijn vele amateurs die goede urban history schrijven, bv. Sir Frances Hill. Het probleem bepaalt het vereiste specialisme.
- vr.: 'teamwork' is dat geen oplossing?
- antw.: komt neer op feodale arbeidsverhoudingen: lord & peasant; "urban history is a social occupation, no co-operative one".
- vr.: wat is nu in feite urbanisatie; en "self evident facts"; wanneer kunnen we van 'stad' spreken of van 'urbanisatie'?
- antw.: operationeel definiëren.
- vr.: geen problemen over de uitersten, maar hoe zit het met het gebied ertussen? Bevolkingsdichtheid is bv. voor bepaalde steden in Azië geen goed criterium; hoe definieer je 'suburbs'?
- antw.: het verschijnsel 'suburb' is té subtiel om zo maar in een definitie te vangen.
- vr.: is intuïtie noodzakelijk c.q. onvermijdelijk?
- antw.: spreek liever over 'judgement' dan over intuïtie; is belangrijk. Clapham is een goed voorbeeld van een intuïtief werkend economisch historicus uit de twintiger jaren, die het achteraf vaak juist had.
- vr.: is het 'verkeersaspect' een essentiële zaak voor de stad?
- antw.: transportkosten bepaalden vaak de locatie van de steden. In latere periodes wordt het verkeersaspect belangrijker dan in de 17e en 18e eeuw; verkeer is echter een afgeleide factor. Belangrijker is de vraag: waarom komen firma's bijeen in de stad om een voorbeeld te noemen. Voorzaken die bestaan uit de transportmogelijkheden, de communicatie, juridische bescherming e.d.
- vr.: notie van "resolution levels" is van belang wanneer je bv. over verkeer e.d. spreekt.
- antw.: accoord.



-3-

vr.: hoe staat het met de psychologische factoren die in de stad een rol kunnen spelen? Kun je van 'symbolen'spreken?

antw.: i.p.v. 'symbolen' kun je beter over stedelijke instituties spreken. Er bestaan enige 'perceptie'-studies over steden, maar het blijft een erg gevaarlijke benaderingswijze.

vr.: welke mogelijkheden biedt kwantificering?

antw.: Dyos verklaart ook een 'love-affair' met de computer gehad te hebben, maar signaleert de beperkingen. Het aspect van 'verklaren' blijft, ondanks computer-hulp.

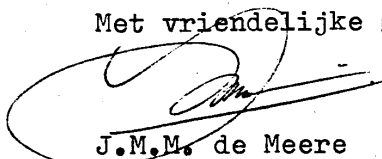
vr.: als u een bepaalde stad gaat onderzoeken, waar kijkt u dan het eerst na?

antw.: eerst komt het ruimtelijk aspect, de "physical thing" en de demografische factoren, daarna pas het economische. Het blijft echter een kwestie van operationeel definiëren.

eerstvolgende bijeenkomst

Deze zal plaatshebben op donderdag 25 maart 1976. In principe heb ik drs. J.Hoekstra, medewerker op de afdeling sociale geschiedenis van de universiteit van Groningen bereid gevonden een lezing te houden over zijn onderzoek naar de veranderingen in de sociale structuur van het kwartier Winschoten in de 19de eeuw.

Met vriendelijke groet,



J.M.M. de Meere
16/11/'75