

Editorial note

The purpose of the *Yearbook* is to provide a research tool and a forum of discussion for urban historians. The editors are particularly concerned to encourage the submission of articles. They would welcome contributions on methodological problems, wide-ranging bibliographical surveys, and discussions of major themes in urban history. Intending contributors should contact the general editor at the School of Education, University of Leicester, 21 University Road, Leicester.

The editors are indebted to Sydney Checkland, Lynn Lees and Daniel Roche, all of whom responded to invitations for articles. These and other articles in this issue emphasize the integrative function of urban history. They bring out relationships with the history of public policy, the study of social development, and the history of disease. The geographical range of these discussions takes in England, France, the U.S.A. and Japan. The issue also contains notes on the materials of urban history and a reflection on the main theme of last year concerning the fortunes of early modern towns.

There have been several changes in editorial responsibilities for this issue. Derek Fraser is now Reviews Editor, assisted by Peter Clark for the period before 1800. Of the two new members of the Board, David Cannadine had responsibility for the review of periodical articles and Martin Daunton for the reports on conferences. Joyce Ellis updated the register of research, and Diana Dixon and Anthony Sutcliffe compiled the bibliography as before.