

Other volumes in the series are listed below:

THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERIES

Editors: Richard Munton and Judith Rees

1. *Water Planning in Britain*, Dennis Parker and Edmund C. Penning-Rowsell.
2. *The Countryside: Planning and Change*, Mark Blacksell and Andrew Gilg.
3. *Countryside Conservation*, Bryn Green.
4. *Coal in Britain: an Uncertain Future*, Gerald Manners.
5. *National Parks: Conservation or Cosmetics*, Ann and Malcolm MacEwen.

C.R. BRYANT, L.H. RUSSWURM and A.G. McLELLAN, *The City's Countryside*.
Longman Group, 1982, 249 pp.

The subtitle of this book is 'Land and its Management in the Rural-Urban Fringe' which does not quite do justice to the authors' intentions of "... investigating the stresses and adaptations of various human endeavors in the city's countryside, and on evaluating the collective response to the many land use issues that have arisen". The emphasis is on Western countries — the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Canada.

It is a competent study and will be of some use to geography students. However, despite the construction of a generalised organisational framework for the study of the various countries — based on a regional city and on the divisions of the city into economic, natural and social environments — the problems of comparing frequently dissimilar structures remain. Although the issues of land use in areas surrounding individual cities may appear to be similar, the context created by varying degrees of land availability, political and cultural attitudes, administrative differences *et al.* frequently renders comparisons invalid except at an extreme degree of abstraction. This is an all-too-common flaw in cross-country studies which try to deal with varied and sometimes inconsistent data.

One of the most useful sections of the book — a section which avoids the temptation of pushing disparate data into one theoretical base — involves a group of short case studies describing management structures evolved to enable a unified administration of the so-called city's countryside. The examples are drawn from US and Canadian practice and their place in the book is fully justified by the authors' interest in collective responses to pressures on these frequently fragile pieces of land.

A point of interest to those who despair of the existence — except on paper — of integrated disciplinary approaches: the authors are described as having "... a long-standing interest in urban systems ...", "... in agricultural and rural development ..."; and as "... a geomorphologist by training with a particular interest in land rehabilitation". All three occupy professorial posts in the same Department of Geography.

ALISTER MATHIESON and GEOFFREY WALL, *Tourism: Economic, Physical and Social Impacts*.

Longman Group Ltd., 1982, 208 pp.

The two authors of this book — one a professional working in New Zealand and the other an academic at a Canadian university — have produced a lucid and balanced discussion of the impact of tourists on the recipient country or destination area. The main chapters cover the framework or context in which tourist activity takes place, the economic, physical and social impacts of tourism and a final chapter of conclusions and observations on the objectives of tourist planning. Throughout the book the authors draw on, and fully acknowledge a variety of studies and attitudes put forward by other authors. In this sense the volume is a useful, annotated summary of the published

literature — albeit with an understandable emphasis on English language studies (particularly Canada, the USA, and Britain). However, by bringing to readers' attention the limitations in many published works on tourism and by pointing out areas where further research is required, the authors move well beyond the confines of a literature search.

The key chapters are those on economic, physical, and social impacts. The authors' conclusions in each case are similar: that optimism concerning the favourable influence on tourism must be tempered with a much closer look at the possible negative impacts on the destination area. The over-estimation of tourist benefits is, of course, greatest when the economic impacts are under consideration and these are the impacts which have received most attention. As the authors state (p. 184): "The adverse effects of tourism have attracted attention only recently and this is reflected in the paucity of studies of environmental and social impacts. Much of the responsibility for this neglect can be attributed to the role of promoting agencies. Tourism has been encouraged for its economic benefits with little consideration for the effects on host communities or the environments on which they are situated".

This is not a radical comment but it is one among many useful observations put forward in this carefully considered book.

Others worth restating, in this volume and in this review, include the fragmentation of research due to the number of disciplines involved; the dominance of national studies as opposed to sorely needed local investigations; and the difficulties incurred in attempting to define impacts particularly associated with tourism and those attributable to other processes.

Overall, it is interesting to note that the authors conclude: "From the evidence which has been presented it is clear that the economic impacts of tourism are largely beneficial, the social impacts are mainly undesirable, and the environmental impacts are mixed".

CAROLINE O.N. MOSER (Editor), *Evaluating Community Participation in Urban Development Projects*.

Proceedings of a Workshop held at the DPU, 14 January 1983, DPU Working Paper No. 14, Development Planning Unit, Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University College London, n.d., 67 pp.

This slim publication supposedly records the proceedings of a one day workshop held in London. It is actually a record of six interesting papers (edited so as to present six interesting articles to the reader) and thankfully omits recording congratulations from the floor; long-winded, after-lunch questions; and arcane disagreements between esoteric participants. Other editors of conference papers, seminar proceedings and workshop reports please take note.

The purpose of the workshop was "... to provide the opportunity to share experiences, attitudes and approaches to a number of important issues concerning the design, execution and evaluation of community participation" with specific reference to housing, infrastructure and urban development. Each participant was asked to cover a set list of issues — for example, the most important constraints on community participation, the general lessons to be learned, the criteria for measuring success or failure. The case studies covered experiences of the World Bank, the ILO, Government experience, consultants, and comparative research.

The most carefully explained case study is by Carole Rakodi and entitled 'The World Bank Experience: Mass Community Participation in the Lusaka Squatter Upgrading Project'. The organisation of the paper is logical and explicit. The author manages to write about goals and objectives without trailing off into abstract impenetrabilities, and looks objectively at the project as a whole. This is a most interesting paper, not only because of the style but also because it manages some pertinent comments about evaluation of participation (which was the subject of the workshop). In addition to the