

PROBLEMS, METHODOLOGY, AND SOURCES

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Authors of business histories are very much aware of problems concerning interpretation; some authors are experimenting with different methods or approaches; what any author can do in business history is limited by the availability of sources. The program committee selected papers on each of these subjects

Dr. Sigsworth presents a stimulating appraisal of some of the recent research in British history for the period 1870-1914. Answers to the problems he discusses will benefit the student of Canadian and American as well as British history. Our history on this side of the Atlantic is more easily understood when we are shown the problems of the business history of Britain.

One approach or technique that can be used by business historians is the "Management Audit" method of appraising the management performance of various companies. Mr. Marquis' paper is a lucid introduction to this technique. The benefits of using such a checklist to be more precise in interpreting a company's history and to detect development of management are obvious. Also, an accumulation of company appraisals would be useful for synthesists and generalists.

In the third paper of this group Professor Eckles reminds us how thankful we should be for the progress that has been made in various forms of microfilming. He suggests that changes are still needed to obtain the maximum benefit