

EDITORIAL NOTE

The importance of population studies in contemporary scholarship with particular emphasis on attempts to understand the many aspects of urbanism is evident from the volume of scholarly writing concerned with the topic in all social science disciplines. The present issue of the *Journal* is an effort to provide a dimension of the fairly recent past—the century preceding the First World War—to an understanding of contemporary urbanism through a series of case studies. This issue is essentially the idea of Professor Richard Morse who drew from his long interest in the process of urbanization to solicit the articles that follow from among the recent research of a rapidly growing body of scholars in Latin America, North America, and Europe, who are concerned with urban and demographic history. The introductory essay by Morse sets the framework for the specific case studies that follow. The two review essays that conclude this issue are concerned with recent publications on urbanization in Latin America without restriction to time or discipline, although their primary concern with the immediate present and perhaps even the future accurately reflects the principal concerns of the majority of scholars in the field as well as those who publish the results of such scholarship.

Our thanks to Richard Morse.

—*John P. Harrison*
Editor