

## ABSTRACT

The colonial city typology arose out of the recognition of the fact that theories put forward to explain urban development in industrial and even pre-industrial societies did not take into account those cities which were created by the interaction of two civilisations. According to this concept, the classical Third World colonial cities developed after 1800 in tropical Africa and Asia as intermediaries between the metropolitan power and the colony. There was a trading economy and so their fortunes rose and fell in direct response to those of the primary export. The urban society showed a three-fold division into a ruling elite, an intervening group comprising either a mixed element of white and native or aliens from a country other than the metropole, and finally, the natives. These communities were segregated residentially and occupationally, and because of the plurality of cultures, the ruling elite, numerically weak, had to resort to the use of force to maintain their position. Such societies developed in areas with a settled native population but where the native population had been eliminated, "replica cities" were produced by the colonists. In the Caribbean, however, the place of the eliminated natives was taken by introduced slaves. This study is an attempt to show how a town of a slave society, which developed to meet the needs of Europeans

fit into this model.

Material for the study was obtained chiefly from the records of the Kingston Vestry, and in particular, from the Tax Rolls and Vestry Minutes. The Tax Rolls supplied the names and addresses of taxpayers (and often non-taxpayers), the possessions on which they were taxed, indicated the direction and manner of urban growth and so, together with the Vestry Minutes, gave a clear indication of the fluctuating fortunes of the town over the period. From the Rolls, it was also possible to isolate, with varying degrees of success, the different ethnic groups. In fact, it is true to say that the Tax Rolls of Kingston, dating from 1745 to 1843, are the most important single source of material for the study of the town during that century and deserve a special study of their own.

From the study, it emerges that the colonists did, indeed plant a "replica city", in that they reproduced an urban form which was in vogue in their homeland. But it was a similarity of form, not function and the imported residential square for a long time remained eccentric to the pattern of settlement. For true to the pattern of colonial cities, the hub of urban life was the wharf and warehousing complex, the waterfront which was the link between the plantations and the market. Like the classical colonial cities which developed in Africa and Asia, Kingston's prosperity rested on trade. The hierarchical structure of the urban

society, the necessity for force also characterized the urban slave society. However, residential segregation was not encouraged as this would have been too dangerous to the ruling class. Thus, Kingston was colonial town with a local flavour acquired from the institution of slavery. Yet, the theories of the classical ecologists put forward for the cities of the developed world, were not totally irrelevant to this hybrid situation.