

Thrush, *Native Seattle*, pp. 79-125

This week in lecture, we're discussing the different urban experiences people had in nineteenth century cities because of their gender, their age, their class, or their race. What are some examples from Thrush's account that show how these different categories impact an individual's life and opportunity in the city during this period?

What was Seattle's hinterland and what were the different elements of the relationship between city and countryside during this period?

What was the message and meaning of the "Chief-of-all-Woman" pole erected in Pioneer Square in 1899?

Take a close look at the photograph described on page 122 and reproduced in the collection of photographs found between 42-43. What details does Thrush emphasize? What other details do you see? What other questions does it raise for you?

What were some of the major engineering projects of early twentieth century Seattle, and why were they undertaken? What does this tell us about the priorities and vision of the leaders of American cities like Seattle during this period?

Thrush writes: "The first decades of the twentieth century did not spell the end of Indian Seattle by any means, but they were the end of *indigenous* Seattle" (p. 98). What does he mean by this statement, and why was this transition important?

Have you found any traces of Indian Seattle in your South Lake Union block? Are there any ways in which it is representative or reflective of Seattle's relationship with its Native past and present that Thrush describes in this book?

Gilfoyle, *A Pickpocket's Tale*, pp. 81-125

Appo's autobiography – passages from which appear throughout the book – was written towards the end of his life, after he had become "reformed" and no longer was an active criminal. Why did he write this story? To whom is he writing it? How are his later experiences shaping the way he characterizes the major events of his earlier life?

How were the "opium joints" and "dives" of New York City challenging accepted social mores of the nineteenth century? Who were their main customers? How did public authorities and reformers respond to these urban places? What function do they play in George Appo's life?

What does this book tell us about the lives of working-class women in the city? How are their opportunities more limited? How are new opportunities opened up? Do you think it would be better to be a poor young woman or a poor young man in this environment?

How does George Appo's criminal career reflect a changing financial system? What new kinds of financial institutions are emerging in nineteenth century New York?

George Appo is spending much of his adulthood in the emerging American courts and prison system. What does his experience tell us about how criminal justice is practiced in this period, and how does it differ from what is experienced today?

How did the institutions on Blackwell's Island compare to Sing Sing prison? What does this tell us about the middle-class and elite conception of criminal rehabilitation and the possibilities for reforming the urban poor?

Consider the lives of Tom Lee and Billy McGlory. What are some similar aspects of their life stories, and what are some differences? What advantages or disadvantages do their status as members of a particular ethnic group give them?