

Post-walk interview.....Simon

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All right...in the center of the picture the Herald Traveler bldg with a sign saying Herald Traveler. ...very nice and turned a bit a way from me, not broadside front on, but just a little bit away. White bldg, very business like, certainly not attract. or unattractive. That's in the center.

Below that, well on the left side and right side, bottom corners of the pictures to the herald traveler buildings on both sides...and inside these parallel lines of cars. About 2/3 of the way from the beginning where we were standing (visual distance, not actual distance) were the tops of the heads of people in the parade, followed up above by the trees, the Park and the common.

Further bare trees because this is fall. People milling around, standing on the stoop of the church. No neon signs on the buildings... 75% refined facades of the buildings. As I say, well-paid secretarial shopping district. Total picture certainly not attractive to me at the start. Nice, but no interest. Certainly not a picture I'd like to hang in my living room, or hang out the front window to look at every morning. ...business like, necessary, central, functional...that initial long view.

Want me to start with the short views as we began to walk up? The book shows carts of books sticking out front, varied facades of the buildings. Now faces of the stores behind which you can see other, probably living, dwelling buildings poking up in back ...of an entirely different material.

Yst the faces of the buildings are put so very well so it doesn't look like a smear job. All kinds of stores, dresses, suits, antiques, Mealer Safe, more stores as we walk along.

The church, lot of churches, big churches in Boston. Parking meters, didn't offend me one bit, nor did the cars in the street. Very little traffic of course, because of the parade today.

All this almost takes us up to the first corner we made left. Corner of West (Boyle) on to (Arlington.)

Again the church there. and I reiterated my statement about the church as a brownstone building. Hadn't notice anything much on the right at that moment...Mostly looking left at the common caught my eye. I like the common.

The common does not seem to be a carved out piece....Central park seems carved out of New York...the common somehow doesn't. It seems like a busy man customarily takes fifteen minutes a day rest... doesn't force himself to sit down but enjoys his little respite. Whereas Central park seems like the man who makes himself sit still even while he's twiddling his fingers to get on with the business of the day.

And the Statue there of of Whitney-Lidney or whoever it is...andel Phillips. green statue reminded me of the sea somehow...green colored. green moss that you drag out of the sea...probably the oxidizing action of the copper. and the stone monument which surrounds the thing.

Then I kinda directed my attention to the left across the heads of the people watching the parade, and the parade itself...bright uniforms, shakers, instruments, and

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Zero Newbury St. That caught my eye. Never saw a zero number on a street.

Shoe building...shoes, big ones, small ones, bright ones, green ones, all women's.

Then, up that street aways. I don't remember much about that street because we walked over it once instead of twice. Again parking meters, and the wide street, and the rather nul impression upon me.

And the John Hancock building poking phallicly up sooner or later.

Church steeple on the other side. Nice..got nothing against it. Rather think there isn't too much to talk about in the whole damn area. Talk about architecture, particular points like that, but the total impression leaves very little lasting in my mind.

It's cool, conservative, doesn't bustle so much as most other parts of this city or other cities. Houses poke their way right along there....dwelling houses right along the way...that's kind of unusual.

[(after Newbury St?) walking through the Alley? Nice alley, good alley clean alley. The backs of buildings. kind of like seeing people with their pants down.....

(what buildings) The courthouse sticking up in the background. I remember lots of stores...the antique store...BoachHowells of Calif., the shoe store right there....I remember someone peddling church literature.

A couple of women in slacks unloading something from an art buildings. And the personal book shop and another book shop forgotten its name. All kinds of small items, light items. Nobody selling tools and dies. Nobody selling phonographs, radios, no wholesale, didn't even see a stationary shop.

Couple of gift shops. It's a gift shop dress shop district. A district where a woman can take care of most of her needs within a single block. It's a woman's block, very definitely. Not a men's block.

(people) characterless. uninteresting to me. People who dress pretty good, eat pretty good, go to a show once a month. Certainly several cuts above the lower class, even a cut above the average middle class maybe. afraid that's the meanest cut of all. People who do better than get along. People who are educated a little bit, think a little bit. People who go to see the red box about as often as they go to the symphony. Maybe a little more often. People who wear camels hair coats, like the college girls. People who have a little trouble controlling their urge for colors..like to splurge on colors but don't think its right somehow. People who send their kids, maybe.....

The cutters, and pressers working in the garment shop there. Interesting business with the new York garment industry many years ago. People here are doing all right. People working by choice probably.

(sidewalks) they were wide sidewalks in most places...along Newbury very wide..I mean along Boylston..Newb not quite so wide. Arlington of brick. A couple of buildings juttet out there. stoops.

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(Signs)

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Men working...remember that sign. Street signs
signs in the store windows..signs of fall.

(areas) pretty integrated. (and the alleys) part of it.. very integrated.
One of the most integrated blocks I've seen.

(Any character) Yeah. It's a woman's block? for women, by women. Men take
the profits from them once and a while, I guess. But the men who work there
are men who cater to women. I'm not terribly impressed with the block. There's
no strength. You could rip every one of the doors out and the city wouldn't
miss that one bit.

(order) ~~Unrepresentative~~ Not really order. From store to store there's no
thread that leads anywhere in particular. They're held together by a common
thread, but there's no progression from place to place. One side of the
block very similar to another. Except that Newbury had a few more dwellings
than Arlington. Also English-speaking Union and things like that.

Boylston sticks more in memory because we walked over it a total of three times,
so almost everything I say will be in ref to Boylston.

(conception of Boston) It fits...but you could throw it out and Boston wouldn't
miss it. It certainly isn't out of place. Nothing is out of place in Boston.
Not representative at all.

Boston is Cambridge, Southie, and the Docks, and the Charles and the sailboats,
and the real stores downtown and the station, couples of artists around here and
there, and the cafes and signs on the trees on the common, and Father Deasey...
Not this block.