



'The general principle will now be clear; and be seen as applicable in any city. It may be experimented with in anyone's study, even begun upon the shelves of a bookcase.'

Cities in Evolution, p. 116

'The general principle is the synoptic one, to utilize all points of view, ... an *Encyclopaedia Civica* of the future.'

Cities in Evolution, p. 114

Geddes bought the Outlook Tower, with its rooftop views of Edinburgh, as the home to his Cities Exhibition and Edinburgh Civic Exhibition. For Geddes, the synoptic view is a form of what we would call the multi-disciplinary. It is not the same as the generalist view, of which he was also an advocate. The synoptic view involves the integration of knowledge from many specialisms into a single approach to planning. The Outlook Tower was organised with the same logic as the Civic Exhibition, beginning at the top with plans of Edinburgh. As the visitor descended, each floor housed content with a more expansive geographical radius. For an expansive thinker like Geddes, who – let us imagine – was always battling with a tendency to diffusion, it is not surprising that the concentration of knowledge in a single point and its integration into a synoptic view, should be the preoccupation of his life.