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## Summaries

### **Henry Mayhew; Ethnographic explorer of London's 19th century underworld**

by Frank Bovenkerk en Lodewijk Brunt

As the 'Metropolitan Correspondent' of one of England's leading 19th century newspapers, Henry Mayhew painted a fascinating picture of the plight of the poor in London. Among social historians his resulting 4-volume *London Labour and the London Poor* has been rediscovered some 15 years ago as an interesting document of the past. There is more to his work than mere history: from the point of view of modern social science, his endeavors to understand the poor men's world through the eyes of members of the 'dangerous classes' themselves, make him a brilliant pionier in urban ethnography. Both methodologically and theoretically Mayhew's work has not lost its actuality.

### **The impact of democratisation on study-styles**

by T. Los

The question forming the base of this research is how the student movements of the sixties influenced today's study styles. The research included participant observation and open interviews similar to the methods used by Howard Becker, for instance for his book 'Making the Grade'. The study found that several mainstreams of studying are practised:

- (1) Academical-, literary- or 'books' perspective.
- (2) Political-, reformer- or 'stencil' perspective.
- (3) Scholastic- or 'program' perspective.

The scholastic perspective, that is to say the desire for black and white guidelines, rules and regulations and a clear cut study program, dominates the atmosphere in which teaching and research takes place. The political orientation, once the backbone of the student-movement, does not form a counterforce to this general trend, as one would have expected. Almost to the contrary: students base their politics on superficial behaviour and wishes of the main student body. In this way they are holding back a potential more innovative method of study, influenced by a growing number of elder students.