

The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
March 1992 Number 7



(l. to r.) Larry Gerckens, Anthony R. Sutcliffe, Mary Corbin Sies, Gordon E. Cherry, and Chris Silver in Richmond. CREDIT: Gilbert Stelter.

RICHMOND CONFERENCE

Over the past several years, the successful beginnings of the Urban History Association have been paralleled by the career of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History. The SACRPH originated in 1986 with city planning school faculty and practitioners who were tired of seeing the history of the planning profession given the polite brushoff in academic curricula and professional conferences. The driving force was Larry Gerckens, an enormously energetic organizer who has recently retired from the planning department at Ohio State University. Publicizing itself largely through academic and professional networks in urban planning, the SACRPH drew 30 and then 50 participants to its first two conferences in Columbus, 100 to Cincinnati in 1989, and approximately 250 to the Fourth National Conference on American Planning History in Richmond Virginia, 7-10 November, 1991.

As readers of this newsletter know, the Urban History Association co-sponsored the Richmond conference. The meeting was simultaneously the Fifth International Conference of the British-based Planning History Group. The carefully balanced plenary sessions included talks by Gordon Cherry representing the PHG, Eugenie Ladner Birch representing the SACRPH, and Zane Miller representing the UHA. The program included thirty-eight participants from outside the U.S.—with ten from the U.K., six from Japan, five from Canada, four from The Netherlands, and three from Greece.

More importantly, both the U.S. and non U.S. participants spanned the same range of disciplines. Those who presented papers can be sorted according to employment and academic department. The breakout somewhat under counts the representation of historians, since a number of academics teach in planning or American studies programs but identify intellectually with history. Nevertheless, the impression is clear that planning history belongs to the design professions as much as to history. It also belongs in substantial measure to planning practitioners as well as academics.

	U.S.	Non-U.S.	Total
Architecture/ Art			
History/ Landscape/			
Engineering	28	10	38
History	29	7	36
Planning	23	7	30
Social Science/Law	4	6	10
American Studies/			
Literature	4	—	4
Practitioners	25	2	27

Although a single conference cannot present the full range of a field, this and previous SACRPH meetings suggest that the core of planning history is an interest in describing and understanding conscious and comprehensive efforts to shape the built environment. Or, to paraphrase Genie Birch's definition, it deals with planning ideas, with the careers of theorists and practitioners, and with the dynamics of urban development. If any ghosts drifted through the corridors of the convention hotel, they were those of Frederick Law Olmsted and Ebenezer Howard, the Washington and Jefferson of the Anglo-American planning tradition. Fully a quarter of the program was given over to garden cities, planned satellite communities, and suburbs (twelve complete sessions out of fifty-six, plus several other individual papers). The second ranking topic was colonial town planning. Trailing behind were other standard topics of urban development such as transportation, urban renewal, economic policy, and housing.

The strength of planning history is its depth. As a subfield of intellectual history, the literature of planning history traces the origins, modification, and application of key planning and design concepts and related public policies. Most planning history is traditional in its reliance on archival sources. Important Anglo-American planners, it turns out, have liked to write and talk about their schemes for shaping and reshaping cities. They have also left behind a substantial graphic record that attracts historians of architecture and landscape. The typical scholarly paper includes a solidly documented description of a planning proposal or policy initiative; an analysis of the explicit (continued on following page)

RICHMOND (continued from page 1)

origins of the underlying ideas within a professional discourse; and an investigation of the implementation of the proposal or policy. In reviewing planning history papers and articles from this and earlier conferences, I have been struck by the thoroughness with which many planning historians explore the archival record. In the process, they not only examine the careers of big thinkers and doers from Daniel Burnham to Edmund Bacon but also uncover the roles of less prominent builders and bureaucrats.

The mainstream of planning history is oriented not only to biography but also to case studies of circumscribed communities. Whether Palos Verdes, Port Sunlight of Spanish frontier presidios, such planned settlements can be studied as if they were relatively independent of the generic forces of urbanization. It is possible to trace with some precision how the ideas of the designers were translated into street plans and buildings, an enterprise which unites historians of planning, architecture, and landscape. The planning historian gravitates toward these cases because they represent high points of planning thought and practice. The mainstream *urban* historian is likely to find these same cases of more limited interest precisely because they are special rather than generic.

Urban historians who are not familiar with planning history as currently practiced may be disappointed with its very traditional methodologies and tightness of focus. Quantitative analysis of the built environment and of planning practice is largely undeveloped. There are few traces of the cultural and linguistic turns that have so strongly affected many historical fields. The history of the "unplanned" portions of the urban environment—the generic neighborhoods and commercial districts of the horsecar and trolley eras—has remained the realm of urban historians, social historians, and historical geographers. There is considerable overlap of interest in the history of policy arenas such as housing, transportation, and economic development. However, it has often been historians like Arnold Hirsch or political scientists like Clarence Stone who have tried to show the links between planning institutions and policies and the larger processes of racial and class politics.

The Richmond conference suggests that planning history is successfully constructing a usable past that helps to give identity to the city planning profession. Because of its relatively narrow focus, however, planning history has yet to become a useful tool for planning practice. In particular, its interest in the internal issues of professional thought and practice needs to be supplemented with more attention to the varied contexts within which planning problems arise.

As it has developed in close conjunction with architectural and landscape history, planning history is a distinct field cognate to urban history, not a province within a larger urban historical realm. Joseph Arnold recently pointed out in the *Journal of Urban History* (November 1990) that urban historians have shown little interest in tracing the history of urban architecture and design. As the two fields continue to interact in the next scheduled SACRPH conference in Chicago (1993) and in other forums, urban historians can learn in depth about the changing theory and practice of self-conscious community making. Planning historians, in turn, may want to think more fully about the interactions among professionals and their publics as expressed in social change, cultural choice, and political conflict.

Carl Abbott
Portland State University



Archie Motley and his wife, Valerie Gerrad Browne, archivist at Loyola University, in front of a self-portrait by his father. CREDIT: Linda Schwartz, Chicago Historical Society

ARCHIE MOTLEY KEEPS THE FLAME BURNING

[reprinted from *Chicago Tribune*, November 22, 1991]

By Jay Pridmore

EDITOR'S NOTE: Archie Motley, curator of manuscripts and archives at the Chicago Historical Society, is deservedly renowned far and wide among urban historians. He is often acknowledged by authors for providing essential guidance as they prepared dissertations, articles, and books on aspects of Chicago's history.

Archibald Motley's reputation leaped forward recently with an exhibition of his paintings currently at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue. Motley, who died in 1981 at the age of 89, is a major figure in African-American art. His name may someday grow larger still, but reputations take time—which is fine with Archie Motley, the artist's son who owns many of the paintings in the exhibition. The younger Motley, curator of archives and manuscripts at the society, has himself made his career by being patient with history.

For many who know Archie Motley—regarded by many as the dean of historical archivists in Chicago—news of his famous father comes as a surprise. For one, Archie looks more like his late mother, a German-American whose face shows up at least twice in the exhibition, "The Art of Archibald Motley, Jr.," which remains open through March 17.

It also is surprising because Archie Motley was distinguished in his own field well before his father was recognized widely by art scholars. In a career that has spanned nearly four decades, Archie has built one of the nation's most impressive archives of local history. He has acquired the papers of luminaries such as Senators Paul Douglas and Charles Percy, and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. Archie has rescued rooms of documents from incinerators that take over when people do spring cleaning.

Both Motleys have focused on unique views of life in Chicago, so it is tempting to look for the likely similarities between father and son. The differences are more obvious differences, of course. The painter had a rollercoaster career, which soared in 1928 when he had a one-man show in New York. He was later reduced to painting shower curtains for a Chicago company.

Archie has had a seemingly stable tenure with the historical society. While the father created pictures, the son collects papers and documents created by others. Still, Archie has carved a role for himself as compelling, sometimes as emotional, as his father's. Both have exhibited a quiet passion for recording histories that might have been lost without them.

Complexity was transmitted from father to son. Archie's childhood "was not like growing up in the house of Sidney Poitier," he says. Mostly, the family lived in lower-middle-class areas where black people were tolerated but a rarity. Archie often was stung by racial remarks uttered in his presence; those who did not know him had no reason to view him as black.

Motley found his way to the historical society in 1955, before getting either his bachelor's or master's degrees, which came later. "I didn't want a job where race would be a problem," he says. The historical society was distinctly elitist at that time, but harsh racism did not often penetrate the dignified institution.

Fortunately for Motley, he got this job at a time when the society was increasing its acquisition of the papers of important Chicagoans. The young archivist sought out and collected letters, handbills, newsletters and photos that turned up in drawers and told stories that might otherwise be lost.

Since then Motley has built an archive that covers government, sports, Chicago's ethnic groups and the full range of Chicago history. But it's fair to say that he has taken a particular interest in African-Americans. Over the years, he has collected the papers of people like Earl Dickerson, president of black-owned Supreme Life Insurance Company of America. He got the papers of Claude A. Barnett, of the Associated Negro Press, the Chicago-based press service for black newspapers from the '20s until the '60s.

"The real trick of being an archivist is getting papers that people don't already know very much about," he says. The fact that black history is being saved and recorded, and recognized as central to Chicago history, is due in no small part to Motley.

Motley belies the image of the sleepy librarian. He energetically seeks out the personal effects of people whose lives made a difference. He's currently working on getting papers of Jack L. Cooper, one of the first black disc jockeys in Chicago. Other recent acquisitions include the past files of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

Motley jokes that the reason he got into archival work was because "he wanted to be left alone and have a reasonably peaceful life." He says that his father was like that too. "What he conveyed to me was that he was happy to be doing what he was doing," says Motley. "He would have liked fame, but he didn't need it." It is as if history can take care of what the present does not.

Faith in history, of course, describes Archie Motley quite well. It's not to be mistaken for passivity. Instead it demonstrates that memorable careers are touched by optimism, persistence and, of course, patience.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Highlighting our activities during 1991 was the Association's co-sponsorship of the biennial conference of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History in Richmond, VA. This fruitful collaboration will be continued at a conference scheduled for 1993 in Chicago.

The Association has reached an agreement with Sage Publications that enables its members to obtain a 20 percent discount on their individual subscriptions to the *Journal of Urban History*, whether they are beginning or renewing.

We also have embarked on an ambitious membership development campaign, spearheaded by Leonard Wallock and Clifton Hood, to attract graduate student members into our ranks.

President-elect Samuel P. Hays presided over our third annual dinner at The Chicago Historical Society that brought together nearly 105 persons for a memorable evening. Notable were Zane L. Miller's thoughtful presidential address (soon to be published in the *Journal of Urban History*) and the presentation of the Association's second round of annual awards for scholarly distinctions (listed elsewhere in newsletter). Our outgoing president received a certificate of appreciation marking his term at our helm. Ellsworth Brown and Susan Page Tillett conducted expertly guided tours of the exhibition galleries. A special thank you to Russell Lewis who handled our local arrangements with aplomb.

Howard Gillette of The George Washington University graciously has agreed to chair this year's local arrangements, when the A.H.A. conducts its next meeting in Washington, D.C.

Michael H. Ebner
Lake Forest College

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

The Association conducted its third annual business meeting, chaired by Zane L. Miller, at 4:45 PM on December 28th at the Hilton Hotel and Towers in Chicago. Fifty-two members attended.

What follows, in abbreviated form, is a report on the proceedings: (1) reports from Zane L. Miller, Ann Durkin Keating (newsletter), Judith Spraul-Schmidt (membership), and Michael H. Ebner (affairs of the association); (2) Gail Radford, chair of committee on nominations, reported the election of the committee's slate of officers and directors; (3) renewal of support for National Council for History Education and National Council for the Promotion of History, each of which will receive \$250; (4) approval of proposal offered by Leonard Wallock for a membership initiative to attract graduate students to join the association; (5) approval of proposal from Mary Corbin Sies to co-sponsor the 1993 conference of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, scheduled for Chicago; and (6) approval of resolution offered by Sam Bass Warner, Jr. to use recycled paper, wherever possible, in the conduct of the association's business. As the meeting stood adjourned at 5:29 PM, Zane Miller handed the gavel to Samuel P. Hays.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1991

The Association ended 1991 with 403 members, an increase of 24 percent over the previous twelve months. Our renewal rate from 1990 was nearly 95 percent! The roster of life members grew to 16 with the additions of Samuel P. Hays, Zane L. Miller, and Henry Louis Taylor, Jr. Another 25 members have taken advantage of the six-year membership. We have 33 graduate students members as well as 3 undergraduates. Twenty-three members list addresses as outside of the United States.

As 1992 began we received memberships from 37 persons who had not previously been associated with the Association.

Anyone with questions about their status, or with names and addresses to be contacted for membership, should write to me at 2830 Urwiler Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45221 USA.

Judith Spraul-Schmidt
Membership Secretary

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 13th annual Illinois History Symposium, December 4-5, 1992, seeks proposals on aspects of the state's history, culture, politics, geography, archeology, and related fields. The committee will look most favorably on proposals that deal with the larger region of the Mississippi Valley and its relationship to Illinois. Deadline for submissions is April 10. For more information: Noreen O'Brien-Davis, Office of Research and Education, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 500 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL 62701 or 217-785-7952.

RACE AND AMERICAN CITIES

Kenneth L. Kusmer, Temple University, is the editor of a nine-volume compilation of outstanding scholarly articles entitled "Black Communities and Race Relations in American Cities, 1712-1990." Each volume contains key articles analyzing significant interracial urban violence of the time (e.g., Colonial and Early National Period, From Reconstruction to the Great Migration, Ghetto Crisis of the 1960s, Theory and History). Volumes available individual or as series. For more information: Garland Publishing, 1000A Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514 or 1-800-627-6273.

F.L.O. IN BUFFALO

A collection of essays edited by Francis R. Kowsky entitled *The Best Planned City: The Olmsted Legacy in Buffalo* has been issued in a well-illustrated volume published by the Burchfield Art Center, S.U.N.Y. College at Buffalo. It accompanied an exhibition entitled "Designs for Buffalo's Parks and Parkways, 1868-1898." Contributors include Charles Beveridge and David Schuyler. Single copies cost \$7.50 and can be ordered (pre-paid only) from Burchfield Art Center, SUNY College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222-1095.

LEWIS MUMFORD FILMS

By arrangement with the National Film Board of Canada, the six classic films prepared in 1963 by Lewis Mumford are now available for purchase in VHS format. The titles are: *The City in History*, *Cars or People*, *The City and Its Region*, *The Center of the City*, *The City as Man's Home*, and *The City and*

the Future. Purchase price for series is \$295. For further information: Center City Films, 325 W. Willetta, Phoenix, AZ 85003 or phone 602-258-5261.

JOURNALS FOR URBAN HISTORIANS

This is the fourth installment in an ongoing series about periodicals of interest to urban historians. Send further suggestions to: Professor Michael H. Ebner, Dept. of History, Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA (FAX 708-234-6487).

Planning Perspectives, An International Journal of Planning, History, and the Environment is in its seventh year of publication. It is co-edited in England by Gordon E. Cherry (University of Birmingham) and Anthony R. Sutcliffe (University of Leicester). Among its sub-editors are Robert B. Fairbanks and Peter Marcuse; North American members of its international editorial board include Michael H. Ebner, David R. Goldfield, Peter Hall, Donald A. Krueckenberg, John W. Reys, and John C. Weaver. It reflects the interests of those concerned with the planning of the environment. Expanded to four issues annually as of 1992, it seeks to provide explanations for the origins and consequences of planning methods, ideas and activities from historical perspectives, and contributes to the understanding of complex factors which influence planning. With an international approach, comparative historical perspectives are analyzed, and the development and transfer of planning practice can be traced from the past through the present and into the future. Recent articles of interest to urban historians include: Carl Abbott, "Urban Design in Portland, Oregon as Policy and Process: 1960-89;" Robert A. Burnham, "The Divided Metropolis: Subdivision Control and the Demise of Comprehensive Metropolitan Planning in Hamilton County, Ohio, 1929-1953;" P.A. Memon, "Shaking off a Colonial Legacy? Town and Country Planning in New Zealand, 1870s to 1980s;" and William Richardson, "Hannes Meyer and the General Plan for the Reconstruction of Moscow, 1931-35." For editorial information contact: Gordon E. Cherry, School of Geography, The Univ. of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, U.K.; for subscription information in US/Canada contact Journals Promotion Dept., E. & F. N. Spon, 29 W. 35th Street, NYC, NY 10001-2291 (FAX 1-212-563-2269, or elsewhere in world contact Journals Promotion Dept., E. & F.N. Spon, 2-6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN, UK (FAX 414 071 5528).

URBAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowships are available for Ph.D. in Urban Studies program at the University of New Orleans. Fields of specialization include urban development, social and cultural change and environmental policy and management. These fields are to be developed within one of the three program tracks: urban and regional planning, urban affairs and urban history. Fellowships include waiver of tuition and fees, and a stipend of \$12,000 per academic year. Each fellowship is renewable annually for up to four years. Applicants should possess a master's degree in a relevant field from an accredited university, and a superior academic record. For more information: Professor Alma Young, Coordinator of Ph.D. Studies, College of Urban and Public Affairs, University of New Orleans, Lakefront, New Orleans, LA 70148.

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. Contributors to this issue include: Mark Cortiula, University of Guelph (Canada); Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); Ronald Dale Karr, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, (U.S. articles); and Daniel Mattern, University of North Carolina (European)

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Canada

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PRIZES IN URBAN HISTORY

1. Best doctoral dissertation in urban history, without geographic restriction, completed during 1991 (\$350)

2. Best book, North American urban history, published during 1991 (edited volumes ineligible). (\$500)

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To obtain instructions about the 1992 round of competitions, please write to: Professor Charles W. Brockwell, Jr., Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292 (Fax 502-588-0770). Deadline for submissions is **June 15, 1992**. Do not submit anything to Professor Brockwell.

1991 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

What follows is an abbreviated statement of Association expenses and income for fiscal year 1991 (January 1-December 31). A complete report has been distributed to all members.

Expenses -\$15,403.66
Certificate of deposit \$5,153
Income \$12,334.75
Income carried over from 1990
\$9,992.97
BALANCE +\$6,924.06

The Urban History Newsletter (ISSN 1049-2887) is published twice yearly by The Urban History Association for its members. **Copy deadlines are January 15 and September 15.** Address editorial matters to: Ann Durkin Keating, Editor, c/o Department of History, North Central College, P.O. Box 3063, Naperville, IL 60566-7063 USA (FAX 708-420-4243).

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Inquiries about the activities of the Association or about purchasing back issues of the newsletter (where available) should be sent to: Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA (FAX 708-234-6487).

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M.B. Kwan, University of Cincinnati.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Our newsletter depends upon its active readers. This issue is distinguished by contributed articles and reports on a variety of interesting topics that expand our appreciation of urban history in its many places and forms. I am grateful to Carl Abbott, Timothy J. Gilfoyle, John Mollenkopf, Carol A. Runnion, and Christopher Thale for their assistance with issue #7.

The Association warmly thanks Professor M.B. Kwan for providing the newsletter with his extensive bibliography on Chinese urban history. We wish to offer further such specialized bibliographies in urban history (whether the focus is a national culture or a defined topic).

But what I require is the cooperation and assistance of our readers to maintain the newsletter's high editorial quality. Tell us about conferences, seminars, museum exhibits, fellowships, ephemeral publications, milestones, etc. I especially welcome contributions from graduate students. Please let me hear from you, whether by letter, telephone, or fax (see page 8 for information).

Ann Durking Keating
North Central College

SSRC and NYC

In June, 1991, Social Science Research Council adjourned its Research Committee on New York City, which had completed five years of work. The Committee brought together political scientists, sociologists, geographers, economists, and historians interested in examining how New York City distilled and revealed larger issues of political, economic, and cultural development. It was chaired initially by Ira Katznelson and later by John Mollenkopf. Among the historians involved in defining the Committee's agenda were the late Herbert Gutman of the City University Graduate Center, Thomas Bender of New York University, Diane Lindstrom of Wisconsin, Kenneth Jackson of Columbia, and Olivier Zunz of Virginia. The political scientists involved, Katznelson, Martin Shefter, and Mollenkopf, also had a strong historical orientation.

The Committee began its work by commissioning papers presenting economic, political, and cultural perspectives on the antebellum, late 19th century, and post-World War II phases of the city's development. The Russell Sage Foundation published the results in 1988 as *Power, Culture, and Place: Essays on New York City*, edited by John Mollenkopf. Peter Buckley of Cooper Union and William Taylor of Stony Brook contributed essays on the cultural history of the first two periods; the other chapters would also interest urban historians.

Out of this effort grew four specific working groups, three of which have completed their missions. The first, co-chaired by Mollenkopf and Manuel Castells, focussed on the contemporary structural transformation of the city's economy and population and the implications of the transformation for various social strata, processes, and institutions. The resulting book, also published by Russell Sage in 1991, is entitled *Dual City: The Restructuring of New York*, edited by Mollenkopf and Castells. It argues that the new forms of inequality generated by the postindustrial transition are much more complex than any simple dualistic model can capture. It explores how the shift toward advanced corporate services, nonprofit services, and public services has interacted with an increasingly fragmented set of race, class, and ethnic groups to produce a new racial/ethnic/gender division of labor. Chapters include discussions of the informal economy, the mass media, neighborhood change, crime and the social fabric, and community organization and political mobilization.

Two other efforts have a more explicitly historical approach. *The Landscape of Modernity*, edited by David Ward and Olivier Zunz, is in press at Russell Sage. It asks how the skyscraper city arose in New York in the period between World War I and World War II. It examines the rise of zoning, the politics of metropolitan area planning (in the activities of the Regional Plan Association and the Port Authority), the trajectories of different kinds of ethnic neighborhoods, and the forces driving skyscraper production, including a case study on the Empire State Building.

A second volume, *Capital of the American Century?*, edited by Martin Shefter, examines the degree to which New York has remained dominant in commerce, politics and culture since World War II and how it has managed to remain at the top of the urban hierarchy despite constantly losing competitive advantage.

One Committee effort did not bear fruit, namely a project to create a historical atlas on New York City modeled on the three volume historical atlas of Canada. While this project had great appeal to Committee members, it proved to be too large

and expensive to finance in a recession. However, it sponsored *A Guide to Historical Map Resources for Greater New York*, by Jeffery Kroessler, published for the map and geography round table of the American Library Association by Speculum Orbis Press in Chicago.

(contributed by John Mollenkopf)

SEMINARS

St. Louis

This fall the St. Louis Urban Studies Seminar began its third season. Conceived initially as strictly a seminar on Urban History, the seminar has been recast as a larger seminar on the City and has become a meeting place for a wide array of urbanists in the St. Louis area. This new focus has been reflected in the funding of the seminar. Major funding has come from the Urban Education Department at Harris-Stowe State College and the Missouri Historical Society with additional sponsorship being provided by the St. Louis chapter of the American Planning Association and the St. Louis University's Urban Research Center and Department of Public Policy Studies.

Topics for the seminar this year range from public housing to Victorian theater. Gerald Early began the seminar in October by talking about his "Black Heartland" project and the effort to identify a midwestern black identity. In November, George Lipsitz gave a fascinating review of intellectual currents moving towards a new Urban History. Also speaking this fall was Tracy Davis who spoke on the theater district in Victorian London. George Wendel previewed a book on Pruitt-Igoe in January. Addressing the seminar in February will be Andrew Hurlley who will speak on industrial pollution in New York City. In March, Lana Stein will discuss her work on the relationship between politicians and municipal professionals. Robert Fishman will discuss the evolution of the twentieth-century city in April. The seminar will conclude with Mark Abbott's presentation on city magazines in May.

We are presently planning the seminar topics for next year and would welcome presentation proposals from urbanists who would like to visit St. Louis. We would also welcome proposals from other groups on the City who would like to participate in some cooperative venture. For further information, please contact Mark Abbott, Harris-Stowe College (314) 776-5354.

New York

The Seminar on the City at Columbia University holds ten monthly meetings during the academic year. The speakers for the spring semester 1992 will include Josef Konvitz (January), Alice O'Connor (February), and William R. Taylor (March). The seminar invites visiting scholars and professionals interested in urban history to attend its meetings. For additional information contact the co-chairs: Marc A. Weiss, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, Avery Hall, New York, New York 10027 (212-854-3524) and Leonard Wallock, Department of History, Hunter College, CUNY, 695 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10021 (212-772-5540).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

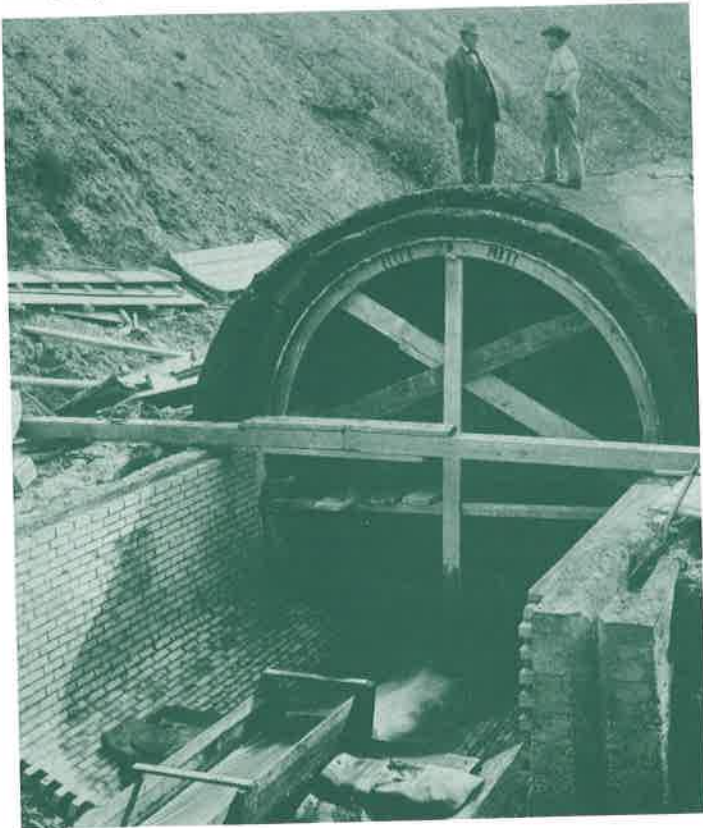
This regular feature will resume in issue #8 (October). Please send me reports, approximately 150 words maximum, about work underway on dissertations, articles, and books. I especially wish to include contributions from our graduate student members

Ann Durkin Keating
Editor

BALTIMORE PUBLIC WORKS

The Baltimore Public Works Museum first opened to the public on August 2, 1982 in the historic Eastern Avenue Pumping Station. The pumping station, continuously in operation since 1912, underwent a dramatic exterior restoration in 1980 which uncovered a glorious Edwardian structure. With interior improvements in keeping with technological advances, the old boiler room, whose boilers once produced steam to drive the now departed 19th-century Corliss pumps, became available for alternate use. With the future of urban growth and public services in question, the Mayor felt this a critical time to make citizens aware of the importance of basic public works services, such as water supply, sanitary and storm water services, trash collection and disposal, park lands, bridges and roads, etc. The 1,200 square feet space in the old boiler room was set aside to create the Baltimore Public Works Museum. The Museum was planned to provide exhibits and programs that explain the physical development of Baltimore and the effect of such development upon domestic and commercial life.

During the two year interim, the Department of Public Works built a collection of photographs, manuscripts and artifacts. Old glass plate negatives were discovered in an unused building which documented the construction of Baltimore's early 20th-century public works facilities. The Chief Engineer at that time had hired one of the first photographers to document construction for insurance purposes. This photographer's 4,000 images now constitute the main collection of the Museum. With the purpose at hand, many other valuable artifacts became available ranging from early wooden water pipes to a real steam roller and the first (1933) asphalt paver used in Baltimore. Old gas lights and fire plugs developed new importance, and all these objects were collected in order to tell Baltimore's story.



Construction of Baltimore's sanitary system included a "separate" storm drain system — storm water flows to nearest waterway instead of going to the wastewater treatment plan. This photograph from the Museum's collection shows construction of 138-inch storm water drain in Baltimore in 1908. (Baltimore Public Works Museum)

The Museum's long term exhibits, chronologically, have included "Tapping New Sources: The Development of Baltimore's Water Supply," "Baltimore's Bridges and Their Builders," "The Livable City" (History of Sanitary Engineering), "Tunneling Beneath Baltimore" (With Museum expansion to 5,000 s.f. in 1987.) and currently, "What's Beneath the Streets." Mini-exhibits have included "Taking the Lead: Baltimore's Directors of Public Works," "Women in Public Works History," "Excellence in Environmental Engineering," and "Public Architecture of Baltimore." The newest exhibit, planned to open spring 1992, is entitled "Taking the Lid Off Garbage: A History and a Challenge," funded by two state grants and private donations.

All of the Museum's exhibits were the result of broad-based community support by engineers and architects, by construction companies and industry, by families and individuals and by Federal and State grant programs. Ever increasing visitation by tourists, the general public and school groups has proved our educational mission is as important as our message: that public works is essential to the quality of life in an urban environment it makes cities not only possible but livable.

Museum visitors also discover that knowledge of urban environmental history can lay a foundation for concern, in turn, raising public consciousness and action to a personal responsibility. As stated in the Museum's orientation slide show: "Cities have no spectators, only participants..." As the Museum approaches its tenth anniversary, improvements and expansion plans are in the works to ensure the Baltimore Public Works Museum an exciting and successful future.
(contributed by Carol A. Runion, Curator)

THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

Loyola University of Chicago, the History Teaching Alliance (HTA) and the Illinois Humanities Council are sponsoring a joint program for Chicago secondary school teachers on urban history and contemporary urban problems during the 1991-92 academic year. The program is part of an ongoing effort among the three institutions to build bridges between university professors and high school teachers. Timothy J. Gilfoyle, Loyola University, is directing the project this year.

Already completed is a two week summer institute organized around seminars and guest lectures which examined current urban difficulties from a historical perspective. Central to this summer institute was an intensive introduction to the most recent and provocative work in urban and Chicago history, which provided teachers with background to analyze and judge contemporary urban problems. The summer institute also incorporated materials applicable to American history and social studies classes at the secondary level.

Still underway is a series of public lectures and panel discussions held throughout the current school year. Participants have been meeting once a month in a seminar-dinner with a guest speaker who gave a public address on a major urban issue. Speakers have included: Richard Phelan, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Vincent Lane, chair of the Chicago Housing Authority, and Kenneth T. Jackson, Jacques Barzun professor of history and Urban Planning at Columbia University. The February program featured a panel discussion on "The Legalization of Narcotics." For further information contact Professor Timothy J. Gilfoyle, Department of History, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626.

MILESTONES

Among the recipients of the 1991 biennial awards of the Society for American City and Regional History are three members of the Urban History Association: **Michael E. Holleran** received the John Reys Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation in American Planning History, 1989-91, entitled "Changeful Times: Environment, Planning, and Permanence in the Urban Environment, Boston, 1870-1930" (M.I.T., 1990); **Roberta M. Moudry** received the John Reys Prize for Best Master's Thesis in American Planning History, 1989-91, entitled "Gardens, Houses, and People: The Planning of Roland Park, Baltimore" (Cornell University, 1990); and **John T. Metzger** received the National Student Research Prize, 1990-91, for his paper, entitled "The History of Public Housing and Urban Renewal: Frank Crosswaith and the New York City Housing Authority, 1942-58" (Columbia University, 1990).

Eugenie Ladner Birch, Hunter College, C.U.N.Y., has been appointed to the New York City Planning Commission by Mayor David N. Dinkins.

Joseph Rodriguez, who recently completed his graduate work at Berkeley, has been appointed assistant professor of history at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Brandeis University, has been elected to the council of the American Historical Association.

1991 UHA PRIZES

Best dissertation in urban history, without geographic restriction, completed in 1990:

KAREN L. SAWISLAK, "Smoldering City: Class, Ethnicity, and Politics in Chicago at the Time of the Great Fire" (Yale University) Karen L. Sawislak's study, directed by David Montgomery, examines ordinary life in the wake of one of the worst disasters ever to befall at great North American city. In doing so the author raised fundamental questions about urban community. She reviews and challenges the city's romantic myth of its response to the Great Fire. She demonstrates how economic and ethnic divisions, with their ideological superstructures about the creation and distribution of wealth, affected relief and reconstruction. She shows that what the Great Fire illuminated, left standing, and even refined was less a city united by common tragedy than one divided by class, ethnicity, and their resultant politics. Professor Sawislak's prose style lends elegance to her telling of the story. (Karen L. Sawislak is Assistant Professor of History at Stanford University.)

Best scholarly journal article in urban history, without geographic restriction, published in 1990:

DAVID T. BEITO, with the assistance of Bruce Smith, "The Formation of Urban Infrastructure Through Nongovernmental Planning: The Private Places of St. Louis, 1869-1920," *Journal of Urban History* 16 (May 1990), 263-303, use this study of Vandeventer, Benton and University Place and other small privately-owned and maintained subdivisions located in Saint Louis, Missouri, to assert persuasively that private developers introduced to planning innovations such as boulevard and street easements, set-back, lot-size, and green-space regulations, long before government adopted such land use control devices as citywide public policy. Well crafted and clearly argued, the article focuses attention on proprietary control as a prototype for Progressive urban-environmental planning. This well-researched and well-written case study compels urban historians to explore beyond the city boundaries of Saint Louis. Such privately-owned and maintained enclaves existed as well in

other cities. Rather than idiosyncratic, these places represent perhaps another hitherto undetected realm of planning in the 19th century urban wilderness. (David T. Beito is Lecturer in History at University of Nevada at Las Vegas.)

Best book in Non-North American Urban History published in 1989 or 1990:

WILLIAM ROWE, *Hankow, Conflict and Community in a Chinese City, 1796-1895* (Stanford University Press, 1989) brings the history of early modern Asian cities into the mainstream of urban history. Denying that the development of Asian cities was exceptional, Rowe consistently compares commercial Hankow to its western counterparts. Hankow enjoyed greater social peace than most pre-industrial western cities. By examining neighborhood groups, community halls, and non-governmental community services Rowe demonstrates the growing importance of community ties and the regulation of conflictual social relationships. He traces Hankow's distinctiveness to the successful leadership of a paternalistic local elite for whom the regulation of conflict and the quest for cultural hegemony were inseparable. (William Rowe is professor of history at The Johns Hopkins University.)

Best book in North American Urban History published in 1990:

DAVID HAMER, *New Towns in the New World, Images of Nineteenth Century Urban Frontiers* (Columbia University Press, 1990) is a transnational work that is bold in its conception and impressive in its execution. The author enables town planners and city boosters of the nineteenth century to speak for themselves, and their words are taken seriously. Although the focus includes Australia and New Zealand, the message of the city's importance to the opening of the frontier is particularly important for North America. (David Hamer is professor of history at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.)



Russell Lewis, Chicago Historical Society, and Karen Sawislak, upon her receiving prize for Best Dissertation in Urban History. CREDIT: Michael H. Ebner.



President-elect Samuel P. Hays presenting certificate of appreciation to President Zane L. Miller. CREDIT: Michael H. Ebner.

SALUTE TO MILLER

The following letter from Richard C. Wade was read by Kenneth T. Jackson at the 3rd annual dinner of the Urban History Association on December 29th.

Only medical problems at home could keep me from attending the annual meeting of the Urban History Association and especially from hearing Zane Miller's presidential address. And also I am always sorry to miss the opportunity of visiting Chicago, where the ghost of Mr. Dooley still informs the gullible Mr. Hennessy and other urban historians.

Zane has been a friend of mine for exactly three decades this year. During this more than a quarter century he has been among the most forceful noises in identifying and developing the centrality of urban life in understanding the American experience.

His work ranges from an appreciation of Daniel Drake, the West's answer to Benjamin Franklin, through urban politics in the age of the political machine and boss to the significance of modern suburbanization. And his editorship of a new series on urban history promises to introduce us to a new generation of scholars.

Moreover, Zane has also understood that the responsibilities of the scholar do not end at the entrance to the campus and the door of the library. He has always been active in making available the perspectives and judgments of historical scholarship to contemporary society. From politics to archives, from urban policy to university affairs, he has contributed energy and intelligence to his community. He has been what Daniel Drake once called a "Noble Cincinnatian," one who has given to his city even more than he has taken.

It is fitting that he has served us as president for the past year, and we are lucky to have him around to enjoy the residual emoluments of that office which Sam [Warner] and I have found to be somewhat elusive.

NEW URBAN HISTORY SERIES

The University of Chicago Press has established a new series, **Historical Studies of Urban America**, edited by James R. Grossman and Kathleen Neils Conzen. Focusing upon American cities and metropolitan areas as loci of historical

change, the series will emphasize urban historians' shared concern for cities as preeminent artifacts of the modern world—places that shape social relationships and social processes as they are themselves shaped by the needs and visions of an evolving American society.

Amid repeated cries for synthesis, American historians continue to identify themselves and their work not only within the traditional categories of political, cultural, intellectual, social and economic history, but also within a seemingly infinite variety of subfields. This decentering of American history has attracted criticism for its seeming incompatibility with traditions of grand narrative. What has been accomplished, however, is essential: the inclusion of a vast majority of Americans absent from the older story, and the recasting conceptual frameworks and historical perspectives. The task now is to construct new stories.

By dint of its inclination to examine relationships between people, place, and institutions, urban history provides one framework for the construction of such stories. The synthesizing logic of place renders the city a logical venue for ambitious attempts at integrative narrative and analysis. Urban history contributes not only to the analysis of the American city; it also has the potential to emerge as a nexus within which historians can probe the complex relationships among the factors, local and supralocal, structural and cultural, that have forged the modern world.

We are looking for authors who see the synthetic potential of place, and who see place—in this case urban places—as a historical problem. We seek innovative studies whose urban focus generates the consideration of large themes. We encourage ambitious, rather than narrowly conceived manuscripts. These will not be books for "specialists." The series list will emphasize not only significance within the field of urban history, but also appeal to a broad audience of historians, urbanists in other disciplines, and educated lay readers. We consider it essential that a book be suitable for assignment in undergraduate courses, both in and beyond American Urban History. In this vein the editors and the Press encourage series authors to make innovative use of visual materials. Books in this series will be both accessible and scholarly.

Letters of inquiry can be addressed to either editor or to Douglas Mitchell at the University of Chicago Press, 5801 S. Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. All proposals for advance contracts and all manuscripts for final consideration will be read by both editors. One editor will take primary responsibility for each project. James R. Grossman is Director, Dr. William M. Scholl Center for Family and Community History, Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610. Kathleen Neils Conzen is Professor of History, Univ. of Chicago, 1126 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

URBAN ISSUE OF CRAS

The Canadian Review of American Studies, vol. 22 (Fall 1991) has published a special issue on urban studies edited by Bruce Tucker, University of Windsor. Articles include various disciplines and geographic locations, including New England, Berlin, Dallas, and Vermont. Among the contributors: Gilles Vandal, Bruce Daniels, Stephen J. Randall, Irene Gammel, Michael Zeitlin, Thomas Carmichael, Anne E. Labaree, W. Arthur Merhoff, David de Guistino. To purchase a single copy send \$15.00 (US) to: *Canadian Review of American Studies*, Social Science Centre 4433, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6A 5C2.

NEW CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Visitors to Chicago for the OAH meetings in April will find a striking new building on South State Street at Congress, housing an important urban history resource, the Harold Washington Library Center.

Chicago's new central library, dedicated in October, 1991, was badly needed. Over a decade ago, the library moved out of its long-time home, which became home to the city's Cultural center. Henceforth, the bulk of the collections led a peripatetic existence, housed successively in two converted warehouses. Many materials were unaccessible. The new ten-story building brings many scattered works under one roof, accommodating some two million volumes, and leaving room for many more.

Architecturally, the Harold Washington Library Center mixes classical and modernist elements. Its thick granite base and walls and overscaled windows project a sense of monumentality and power which will be evident to anyone approaching from State Street; in back, however, a sheer glass curtain overlooks Plymouth Court. The interiors are genuinely handsome, with far more wood, marble, and attention to detail than one might expect in an age of utilitarian, defensive public architecture. The library has a new computerized catalog, a generous supply of carrels, and there are many other signs that the designers thought carefully about users' needs.

For historians, urbanists, and their students, the library holds many more attractions than can be conveniently listed. The History Department, on the sixth floor, has extensive holdings of works on Chicago's history. Besides an extensive government documents collection, there are archival materials on microfilm, including foreign policy documents, Western Americana, African-American books and pamphlets, and Civil War materials.

The Special Collections Department holds some 17,000 volumes, 2000 linear feet of archival material, 37,000 photographs, and thousands of works of art and historical artifacts. Its civil war collection, originally the Grand Army of the Republic collection, also includes rare anti-slavery pamphlets, regimental histories and much besides. The Chicago theater collection includes programs (some from before the Great Fire) documenting neighborhood theaters, vaudeville shows, mainstream Loop theaters, even burlesque houses and beer gardens; its scrapbooks provide documentation of theater-going as a social event. Urban historians will be especially interested in the neighborhood history research collection, much of it originally collected by neighborhood historical societies. Also noteworthy is the 1893 Columbian Exposition collection.

The Harold Washington Collection, newly organized and still in process of cataloging, should be open to the public by summer, 1992. The late mayor's papers include materials on politics, city government, and his mayoral campaigns, as well as mementos and photos.

The Harold Washington Library is three blocks south of the Palmer House on State Street, overlooking the Loop elevated tracks. It is open from 9 until 7 Monday through Thursday, 9 to 5 on Friday and Saturday, and is closed Sunday.

(Contributed by Christopher Thale, University of Chicago)



*The new Harold Washington Library in downtown Chicago.
CREDIT: Chicago Public Library.*

1992 BUELL TALKS

The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture is pleased to announce its 1992 series of "Buell Talks on American Architecture," which will be held on Saturday, April 25, 1992, at Columbia University. This event will bring together a select group of doctoral students working under the broad rubric of American architectural history. The program is structured to strengthen the intellectual and academic qualifications of these emerging young scholars by providing a forum for collegial discussion of their work, as well as by associating them collectively and individually with some of the finest teaching scholars in American architectural history. The Center holds these Talks every other year, in order to bring together the most interesting students and to explore the new themes developing in the field. For more information contact: Gwendolyn Wright, The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, 400 Avery Hall, New York, NY 10027 (212)854-8165.

TEMPLE ARCHIVES

A number of notable changes have taken place at the Temple University Urban Archives over the past two years. In September 1990, Margaret Jerrido, formerly Associate Archivist and Director of the Black Women Physicians Project at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, was appointed head of the Urban Archives.

Publication has also resumed for the biannual *Urban Archives Notes*, providing information on current projects and accessions. Among recent projects was the preservation of newspaper clippings from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, as well as the organization of 900 cubic feet of glossy photographs and 200,000 packages of negatives from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Philadelphia Daily News*. For completed project reports or other information: Urban Archives, Paley Library, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122



UHA luncheon speaker at the OAH, William Julius Wilson

SPECIAL EVENTS AT O.A.H.

William Julius Wilson, Lucy Flower Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at The University of Chicago, will be the guest speaker at the Association's annual luncheon during the O.A.H., scheduled for April 3 (Friday) at the Palmer House. President Samuel P. Hays will preside. Professor Wilson's topic will be: "The 'Urban Underclass' and the American Belief System on Poverty and Welfare." Tickets **must** be purchased in advance and are **only** available from the Organization of American Historians.

"Samuel P. Hays and the Social Analysis of the American City" will be the topic of a roundtable discussion on April 5 (Sunday), 9:00-11:00 AM. Panelists include: Stuart M. Blumin, Samuel Hays, Lynn Hollen Lees, and Bruce M. Stave. Presiding will be Michael H. Ebner. Members of the audience may wish to consult, in advance, Samuel P. Hays, *City at the Point: Essays in the Social History of Pittsburgh* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1991).

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

The Milwaukee Public Library is well on the way to having an almost complete 110 year run of telephone directories for Milwaukee. Thomas F. Altmann, Assistant Coordinator Humanities Department, proposed of the project as a way to preserve this resource. Printed on inexpensive paper, and subject to hard use, the telephone books in the library's collection have been disintegrating rapidly. Upon study, it was found that no library, historical society, or phone company had preserved Milwaukee phone books.

Altmann convinced the Milwaukee Public Library and several corporate sponsors that the telephone directories are "ephemeral but surprisingly useful documents." The Library has found that in addition to historians and social scientists studying the development of Milwaukee, others using the material include business people and attorneys tracing missing heirs or looking for prior names of firms. Members of the media often use Yellow Page advertising to illustrate stories and individuals use the directories to research family histories and businesses.

The project was made possible through grants from Wisconsin Bell and Ameritech Publishing Corp. To date, coverage

is complete between 1881 and 1955. Currently the library is seeking funding to complete the microfilm project for 1955 to 1976. The local library friends group provided money for the commercially available Phonefiche (UMI) for 1976 to 1991. The library also has microform copies of city directories from 1847 through 1935, and hard cover copies from 1935 on.

For more information about the Milwaukee Telephone Directories Preservation Project please contact: Humanities Department, Milwaukee Public Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue, 53233, (414)278-3031.

The New York Public Library undertook a similar project in the late 1980s. Telephone directories for the following cities and years have been microfilmed: Baltimore 1914-1944; Boston 1909-1920; Buffalo 1920-1919; Chicago 1909-1920; Cleveland 1919-20; Los Angeles 1909-1925; New Orleans 1912-50; Philadelphia 1913-1919; Pittsburgh 1912-1950; St. Louis 1912-1950; San Francisco 1910-50; and Washington D.C. 1910-1950. Information about the pricing of these microfilms is available from: Reprographic Services, Room 67, NYPL, 11 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018.

REUTHER LIBRARY ARCHIVES

The Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs of the Walter P. Reuther Library of Wayne State University was established in 1960 to collect and preserve records of the American labor movement. A second broad theme concentrated on the ongoing changes in the nature of work and the effects of that dynamic on workers' lives. The collecting scope was subsequently expanded to include urban affairs, with particular focus on the historical evolution of the Detroit metropolitan area.

In the field of urban affairs, the Archives has accessioned the records of a wide range of significant organizations, such as the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, the Merrill-Palmer Institute, the Urban Environmental Conference, Inc., the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Detroit Economic Development Corporation, and the Metropolitan Detroit Council of Churches.

The Archives' audiovisual holdings include hundreds-of-thousands of photographs, audio recordings, and videotapes. This collection has led to the Archives reputation as a preeminent repository for materials documenting twentieth century urban, industrial America. For further information: Director, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202 (313)577-4024.

FREE UHA MEMBERSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students in urban history, broadly defined, are entitled to free membership for 1992. To take advantage of this offer send your name and affiliation to: Professor Leonard Wallock, Department of History, Hunter College, C.U.N.Y., 695 Park Avenue, NY, NY 10021 (FAX 212-772-4941).

New members will receive the newsletter (published twice yearly), a coupon entitling them to a 20 percent discount for new or renewed subscriptions to the **Journal of Urban History**, and the opportunity to participate in the Association's activities.

Graduate students who have joined the Association previously will have their memberships extended thru 1993.
