

The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
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Interpreting Canada's Urban Past

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Interpreting Canada's urban past sometimes seems like trying to come to grips with a "no-name brand" stew. We are familiar with the basic ingredients, we can recognize the processes that make the product, and we may even appreciate and savour the end result. Yet, to push the analogy towards the city, sometimes we are left wondering whether there is a distinctiveness to the flavour of the urbanization that has shaped the country.

What are some of the familiar, universal ingredients that make up Canada's "no name brand" stew-- its undefined urban past? External influences have been profound. A French and British colonial past formed the initial political context, at least until 1867 when Confederation was achieved, but the social and economic consequences of this political heritage remain to the present, for example, in the financing, peopling, architecture, and planning of Canadian cities. This expansion of Europe overseas is familiar fare in many countries. Found elsewhere, too, is the shaping force of American influences that have been felt across so many facets of Canada's urban character--urban reform at the turn of the twentieth century, technological transfer in the city-building process, or the acceptance of the managerial revolution in administering networks of urban-based businesses.

Like other western societies, Canada has also experienced the multi-dimensional stages of capitalism that explain, for example, the mercantile-industrial transition which created, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the modern city with its new economic roles, class structures, cultural forms, and geographies of social and economic segregation. An urban system emerged at this time to bind the country together, but Canada's core-periphery pattern of metropolis and hinterland can be found elsewhere.

This is not to say that no attempts have been made to explain the distinctiveness of Canada's urban experience. Many readers are doubtless familiar with the metropolitan thesis of Maurice Careless. Reacting against several flawed theories that attempted to explain Canada's general historical experience, including Turner's ideas about the role of the frontier in shaping new societies, Careless offered a metropolitan interpretation of Canadian development. Guiding the economic diversification, social change, political maturation, and cultural advance of the country was the all-pervasive influence of the metropolis, whether it be a London, a New York, or a Montreal. Since Careless first introduced his ideas in the 1950s, several generations of scholars have

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The Atlanta Project

Steven H. Hochman, Assistant to President Carter, Associate Director of Programs of The Carter Center of Emory University, and adjunct professor of history at Emory University, provides this updated and abridged version of an essay in *Buying America Back: Economic Changes for the 1990s* (Council Oak Books, 1992):

The mission of The Atlanta Project (TAP) is to united Atlanta as a community working to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. In the spirit of The Carter Center's problem-solving philosophy, TAP seeks to empower citizens to develop solutions to problems they identify in their neighborhoods and fosters collaboration among government agencies, other service providers, people who want to help, and those who need help. We hope TAP will serve as a model and an inspiration for similar projects across America.

TAP Strategic Plan, March 1992

On October 25, 1991, former President Jimmy Carter announced that he would launch The Atlanta Project, a massive effort to combat the multitude of social problems associated with urban poverty. At a time when the city was celebrating its selection as host of the 1996 Olympics and its designation by *Fortune* as the best in America for business, President Carter reminded everyone that there were two Atlantas: one rich and successful, another impoverished and desperate. He considered this intolerable, if not fatal, yet he sensed a pervasive mood of hopelessness that anything could be done to change the situation.

Despite a vast array of government and private programs designed to find solutions, the social problems in Atlanta and in cities throughout the nation were growing in severity. President Carter provided a vision for change which he shared with leaders of government and the private sector. From them he heard a confirming message: what they were doing was not succeeding and fundamental changes were necessary. No single institution, agency, branch of government, or jurisdictional level of government could solve these problems on their own.

President Carter's vision was a compelling one, based on strategies that he had seen succeed. First, he drew on his experience with The Carter Center, which, since its founding in 1982, had focused primarily on the developing world, encouraging the growth of democracy and addressing conflict, hunger, disease, and human rights abuses. Instead of creating large projects to administer, the nonprofit Center serves as a catalyst for action and a coordinator of programs. The Task

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CANADIAN URBAN HISTORY

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applied aspects of metropolitanism to a range of topics, from economic control to religious dominance. Today the metropolitan thesis is at a cross-roads. There is no synthesis of Canada's urban past built solely upon this idea, and scholars are increasingly calling for a more sophisticated rendering of metropolitanism (world-systems theory, anyone?), or for other approaches entirely.

But Careless' writings have had a profound impact on the development of urban history in Canada, and ultimately upon the ways Canadianists are currently interpreting their urban past. Careless' approach to urban history is decidedly inter-disciplinary. A historian by training, Careless nevertheless was well-versed in the writings of economists, sociologists, and geographers--amongst others. For this reason, urban history in Canada has always been influenced strongly by the social sciences, although a humanistic bent is increasingly discernible in some of the more recent writing. A glance at the broadly-based, multi-disciplinary Editorial Board of *The Urban History Review/Revue d'histoire urbaine*, the journal associated with the Canadian Urban History Association/Societe Canadienne d'histoire urbaine, reflects this inter-disciplinary distinctiveness that is so strongly attached to the scholars who are writing about Canada's urban past.

To a large degree, there has been a sort of mission by those who have been caught up in the spirit of researching and teaching about Canada's urban development. Some of these are students of Careless and others were trained in the United States, but many came to urban history in the 1960s and 1970s from a diversity of Canadian universities, albeit an urban history influenced by American and British scholarship. For many, the late Jim Dyos of Leicester University in England was a mentor of great esteem.

Although they were not his students, Careless greatly inspired Gil Stelter and Alan Artibise to consider forming an urban history group, loosely affiliated with the Canadian Historical Association and eventually the federal government's Museum of Man (later the Museum of Civilization). Through the 1970s and early 1980s, Stelter and Artibise worked tirelessly to promote an inter-disciplinary urban history in Canada, holding important international conferences, starting a journal, editing collections of essays, and promoting a series of illustrated histories of major Canadian cities. The Urban History Group met twice a year, once in the spring at the Learned Societies Meetings and again in the fall in some Canadian city. These meetings, with their papers and field trips, drew good attendance and many ideas were exchanged and friendships formed. Through the reorganized CUHA/SCHU, these meetings and exchanged continue, but in the context of tighter travelling budgets, fewer graduate students, and the changing interests of members, they do not have the force or strength of mission that they once enjoyed. To the good, however, these meetings more than ever now draw people from applied urban history, as archivists and museum officials in particular share with the Association their insights about Canada's urban past. Many new museum displays, such as the streetscapes at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa and the Royal British Columbia

Museum in Victoria, speak to the material record of the urban past, awakening a citizen's interest in Canadian urban growth.

By contrast, the discipline is rather at a standstill within the universities. Course offerings and enrollments remain firm, but there is little new curriculum growth or much opportunity for job creation at this level. The discipline is in competition, for example, with the growing fields of women's history, labour studies, and immigration history. Although not always strictly urban focussed, the research results of these areas of enquiry have enhanced, to be sure, our understanding of the Canadian city. Unfortunately, there has been no major attempt either through a conference or a work of synthesis to integrate the results of these growing fields.

Canada's history and its urban development have always been marked by a strong regional focus. There is no doubt that the force of scholarly regionalism has kept a national synthesis of Canada's urban past at bay. The sheer size of the country has encouraged the regional emphasis. The Industrial Heartland in southern Ontario and Quebec is a far different place than the isolated resource frontier of the Canadian Shield. The economic and social make-up of metropolitan centres contrast greatly with resource towns of small scale and singular purpose. Quebec scholars, of course, have dealt in depth with the tensions between French and English-speaking peoples, and the multi-cultural bias of Prairie cities is an important concern when writing about this hinterland region. In the Maritimes, especially in Nova Scotia, town beginnings had a distinctive imperial flavour while their de-industrialization early in the twentieth century has attracted interpretations of interest to dependency theory. British Columbia's urban record is best captured by understanding the more recent thrust of industrial capitalism.

The fruits of this scholarship find currency in regional journals such as *Acadiensis*, *Prairie Forum*, *BC Studies*, *Ontario History* and others. A major outlet for urban historical research of an inter-disciplinary nature, and in fact one of the few attempts to draw Canada's urban past together, exists in the multi-volume *Historical Atlas of Canada*. Published very recently by the University of Toronto Press, the three volumes each contain some sixty-six plates and thousands of maps, charts and diagrams, together with substantial written text. The place of towns and cities in the national and regional economies, the demographic basis of urbanization, the form of the mercantile town, the social patterns of industrializing cities-- all these and much more provide an important overview of the Canadian city in evolution over four centuries of development. *The Historical Atlas* comes as close as any scholarly work to reveal a distinctive Canada, and is suggestive of the themes that could appear in a comprehensive interpretation. At the very least, it shows that this interpretation should be decidedly inter-disciplinary, and that it must blend an emphasis on space (for example, on the urbanization of the regions) with an understanding of the cumulative force of capitalist time.

Canada's urban past does, of course, have a particular distinctiveness, and careful scrutiny of basic ingredients and universal processes will eventually produce a written history of lasting importance. We await this study, and value the path-breaking work that many scholars are currently contributing to the inevitable telling of the story.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

President-elect Kenneth T. Jackson presided over our fifth annual dinner at the Hunan Restaurant in San Francisco on January 8th. This festive occasion brought together more than 80 persons, including a sizeable contingent of graduate student members. Notable were the imaginative presidential address by President Lynn Hollen Lees (soon to be published in the *Journal of Urban History*) and the presentation of the Association's fourth round of annual awards for scholarly distinctions (listed in newsletter). Our outgoing president received a certificate of appreciation marking her term at our helm. Bill Issel expertly conducted a pre-dinner guided tour of Chinatown, attended by more than 25 persons. A special thank you to Bill, who also handled our arrangements in San Francisco expertly.

Joe William Trotter will be our distinguished guest speaker at the Association's annual luncheon during the O.A.H., scheduled for April 16 at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are only available from the Organization of American Historians.

Syllabus Exchange II, I am informed by the staff of the Valentine Museum, remains a coveted item. Postings of its availability have appeared internationally, which has contributed significantly to the brisk pace of sales.

The American Historical Association has fixed the location of the convention city as Chicago. Our sixth annual dinner now is scheduled for January 7, 1995 (Saturday). Timothy J. Gilfoyle, Loyola University of Chicago, will chair our local arrangements committee.

Michael H. Ebner

FIFTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President Lynn Hollen Lees called the fifth annual business meeting to order at 4:45 PM on January 7th in the Teakwood B Room of the San Francisco Hilton and Towers Hotel. Forty-three persons were present. What follows, in digest form, are the minutes of this meeting: (i) reading and approval of the minutes of the fourth annual business meeting of December 27, 1992; (ii) report from executive secretary-treasurer on the affairs of the association; (iii) report from the chair of the nominating committee, presented by Blaine Brownell in the absence of any member of the committee, reporting on election of slate of candidates as nominated; (iv) renewal of support for National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; (v) review of relationship with *Journal of Urban History* and adoption of resolution offered by David R. Goldfield authorizing executive secretary to pursue further discussions with Sage Publications in light of U.H.A. decision not to become sponsor of journal at this juncture; (vi) authorization, pending permission of the Valentine Museum, to release *Syllabus Exchange I* (1990) to H-Urban, the electronic mail network for urban historians co-moderated by U.H.A. members Alan Mayne and Wendy Plotkin; and (vii) appointment of committee, comprised of Kenneth T. Jackson, Mingzheng Shi, and Bruce M. Stave, to

organize joint conference of urban historians from People's Republic of China and North America during summer of 1995. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM as Lynn Hollen Lees handed the gavel to Kenneth T. Jackson.



[l to r] Michael Katz, Lynn Hollen Lees, and Kenneth T. Jackson [Credit: Dana Leventhal]

MEMBERSHIP

Judith Spraul-Schmidt, our membership secretary, reports that our membership for 1993 totalled 545. New life members include John Graham, Eric Monkkonen, Roderick N. Ryon, and Mingzheng Shi. They join a list including: Eugenie Ladner Birch; Blaine A. Brownell; Ruth Carter; Michael H. Ebner; Robert Fishman; Timothy J. Gilfoyle; Samuel P. Hays; Kenneth T. Jackson; Josef Konvitz; Roger W. Lotchin; Robert D. McCrie; Zane L. Miller; Carol A. O'Connor; Bruce M. Stave; Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.; Richard C. Wade; and Sam Bass Warner, Jr. Graduate students taking advantage of the Association's first year free membership offer totalled 37. Forty members of the Association reside outside of the United States in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, New Zealand, China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Turkey. To receive a membership brochure, contact: Dr. Judith Spraul-Schmidt, UHA Membership Secretary, 2830 Urwiler Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211 USA.

1993 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

What follows is an abbreviated statement of Association expenses and income for fiscal year 1993 (January 1-December 31). A complete report is available, upon request, to all members.

Expenses	\$ 12,806.96
1993 Income	11,429.01
carryover income	6,666.00
<i>Balance</i>	<i>+5,288.05</i>

THE ATLANTA PROJECT *(from page one)*

Force for Child Survival and Development, a Center affiliate, was created in 1984 because the leading international organizations promoting the immunization of children were duplicating efforts and only twenty percent of the world's children were adequately protected. The organizations asked the Task Force to coordinate their efforts, and by 1990 child immunizations had increased to eighty percent worldwide. President Carter looked for similar results in Atlanta, with The Carter Center, through TAP, facilitating government and interagency cooperation. TAP would not administer programs itself.

The second source for his vision was Habitat for Humanity, a housing program with which he and Mrs. Carter had become identified. President Carter was convinced that many people wanted to help the disadvantaged but did not know how to do so. Habitat had demonstrated how volunteers could effectively perform practical and specific tasks. Thus Habitat was a model for volunteerism--and empowerment. People who obtain houses through Habitat work alongside volunteers in constructing their houses and later work as volunteers on other houses. They also must pay for their houses, the cost of which is kept low by interest-free loans. Like Habitat for Humanity, TAP brings people together in a common cause and give disadvantaged people the means to help themselves.

A third significant influence on TAP was Cities in Schools, a national dropout prevention program that brings social services into schools, providing a model for interagency cooperation on the neighborhood level. Rather than treating school dropouts simply as a problem of the education system, it attempts a holistic approach incorporating assistance for families, and addressing unemployment, housing, health care, and crime. TAP adopted both the neighborhood and the holistic approaches to addressing problems.

Following the announcement of The Carter Center's Atlanta Project, President Carter moved to develop an organizational structure, a strategy, and a process for implementation. This took about eighteen months to complete. President Carter created an advisory committee that included key social service providers in the metropolitan area, representatives of low-income communities, and representatives of other groups who had proven to be effective in community work. In addition President Carter created a small secretariat of experts on community issues who could take the lead in managing and designing the project. These experts were loaned full-time to TAP by agencies, corporations, and educational institutions. President Carter wanted TAP to be predominantly an organization of volunteers.

Few of the thousands of people who volunteered could be used immediately. Although it would have been gratifying to President Carter to bring improvements quickly to impoverished areas of the city, TAP's goal was to create sustainable change by helping people take control of their own lives and neighborhoods. Residents themselves had to determine what their communities needed and join TAP as partners to fulfill those needs. People in poor neighborhoods would be expected to serve as volunteers alongside people

from more prosperous neighborhoods. They did not just need help, they needed the empowerment that comes from taking responsibility for helping themselves.

The best practical approach for achieving empowerment seemed to be through strengthening neighborhoods and families. Although poor people were scattered throughout the metropolitan area, the majority were concentrated in the southern part of the city of Atlanta, extending west into Fulton County, east into DeKalb County, and south into northern Clayton County. This area of 500,000 people contained the census tracts where the highest number of single-parent families and school-age mothers resided. President Carter decided to focus on this geographical region, dividing the area into twenty "clusters" centered around twenty high schools.

TAP assigned to each cluster one or two members of the advisory committee, who made the first contacts in the community. They helped the cluster begin to organize steering committees and task forces by drawing together people with stakes in the community: the residents, service providers, political representatives, business people, and church members. Within each cluster a resident with a record of community service was hired full-time to coordinate the cluster's participation in the project. The cluster coordinator, and an assistant who also lives in the cluster, play an essential role in facilitating communication and monitoring work within the cluster.

Individuals, corporations, and foundations provided remarkable support for TAP. This went far beyond contributions of funds. Construction companies donated work on The Carter Collaboration Center at Atlanta's City Hall-East, which became TAP headquarters. IBM contributed the computer network for managing the project, for communicating with the twenty cluster offices, and for operating software that assists with collaboration. Major corporations, such as Marriott, Delta Air Lines, and NationsBank entered into partnerships with individual clusters or with all of TAP, providing a full-time corporate advisors and volunteer time from employees. Area universities and colleges began their own partnership program, offering support to TAP in numerous areas including evaluation.

President Carter met with President George Bush, Cabinet members, and Congressional leaders, receiving their promise to give Atlanta an opportunity to experiment with the social programs funded by the federal government. Similar cooperation was promised by President Bill Clinton and members of his administration. With the aid of the Carnegie Foundation, TAP brought in experts and practitioners from across the country to offer advice on what has worked in social programs and what has not worked.

TAP is an experiment and is continually adjusting the way it operates. A difficult issue to resolve has been how to balance the desire to emphasize initiatives at the cluster level with the desire to use the expertise and resources available at the TAP-wide level. In April 1993, TAP conducted a complicated child immunization campaign, using 7,000 volunteers to knock on thousands of doors. Nearly 16,000 preschool children were brought in to receive their vaccinations or update their records. This significantly affected the whole community *(continued on page nine)*

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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, German Historical Institute (Europe).

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DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS

Please send further titles to: Professor David P. Schuyler, Program in American Studies, Franklin & Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604.

Suzanne E. Smith. "'Dancing in the Street': Motown and the Cultural Politics of Detroit, 1958-1972." Yale University/Hazel V. Carby.

BRIDGEPORT ARCHIVES

The City of Bridgeport Municipal Archives and Records Center has available for researchers the permanent records of Connecticut's largest city. The materials date from 1821 to the present, and may prove of interest to historians pursuing research in urban politics, finance, public works, economic development, education, social welfare, and architecture.

Among the Archives' holdings are: original records of Borough and Town of Bridgeport; City Council records; Mayor's papers; Engineering Department files; minutes of Boards and Commissions, including the Board of Education, the Board of Charities, the Parks Commission (Bridgeport has two Olmsted parks), and the Zoning Board; Police Bureau Detective Cases from the 1920s on; Voter Cards; building permits and plans; maps and aerial photographs; welfare case reports from 1900 to the present; and the records of Bridgeport's participation in the Model Cities program.

The Historical Collections of the Bridgeport Public Library house several complementary collections of records of private citizens, companies, and institutions.

The Municipal Archives is part of Bridgeport's Records Management Program. Staff cutbacks have made it impossible to offer research services; the Archives does, however, welcome inquiries from scholars and students about the extent and depth of its holdings, and will advise you as to whether or not a trip to Bridgeport will be worth your while. For information: Dr. Mollie Keller, Bridgeport Archives, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport CT 06604, (203) 576-8192.

CLEVELAND PRESS

When the *Cleveland Press* ceased publication in 1982, after 103 years, its "morgue" of clippings photographs were donated to the Cleveland State University Library, to serve as an important source of historical information. As flagship publication of the Scripps Howard newspaper chain and Cleveland's last afternoon daily, the *Cleveland Press* chronicled the economic, political and social history of one of America's major urban communities.

The *Cleveland Press* Collection is composed of three major record groups: clippings, photographs, and editorial cartoons. Additionally there are local history books and miscellany files of governmental and corporate reports kept for background research. The collection is housed at Cleveland State University Library and is under the supervision of the University Archivist, William G. Becker.

The clippings are articles published in the *Press*, clipped out, dated and filed in envelopes. Some earlier clippings were microfilmed. The envelopes are arranged in two series: named individuals and various subjects. There are approximately 1,500,000 clippings, either originals or microfilm copies. The photographs are typically 8x10 black and white prints that were published and still bear the cropping marks. The photos are arranged in legal-size manila folders and shelved as three series: identifiable individuals, subjects and publicity stills. The first series (which is currently being further divided into local and non-local peoples) consists of photographs showing only one identifiable

person, or a family group, or a group of individuals who have a corporate identity, such as a rock and roll band. The subject series covers nearly everything else, such as sporting events, scenic shots, company events, political gatherings, and groups of unrelated people. As a separate series are the photographs sent to the *Press* by theatrical agencies and networks promoting motion pictures, television programs or stage productions. There are about 500,000 photographs in the *Press* Collection.

The *Press* Collection excels for searches based on people's names, or by subject categories. Some ingenuity may be required to determine how the original *Press* staff might have filed a specific clipping or photo, and in this endeavor the assistance of the collection staff will help. For instance, articles or photographs involving African American issues may be found under "African-American," "Black" or "Negro," as well as under various subject headings, geographical place names, company names and individuals' names. Chronologically the collection is weakest before 1930, gains in strength to 1960 and is quite strong until 1980.

The collection is usually open to the public mornings and afternoons Monday through Friday. Some help is available to out-of-town queries, but a fee is charged for research questions and sending photocopies. Photographs can be ordered from the Instructional Media Center (however, copyrights are not held by the *Press* Collection and publication rights therefore do not transfer with the prints). For more information contact William G. Becker, The *Cleveland Press* Collection, Rhodes Tower #320, 1860 East 22nd Street, Cleveland, OH 44115. Phone (216) 687-2449.

THE ATLANTA PROJECT (from page four)

and was widely supported. Yet each individual cluster has its own agenda, and some people within TAP believe that because of the commitment to empowerment the emphasis should be on the neighborhood programs. A related issue concerns the different levels of community development found among the twenty clusters. Should TAP focus its resources on the clusters that are positioned to move ahead with strong leadership and organization, or should it focus on those clusters that are most desperate and lacking community?

Another challenge has been working with existing programs. Early in the development of TAP, meetings were held with hundreds of people from agencies, schools, and the religious community to learn about their programs and concerns, and to indicate a desire to help and not compete with their successful projects. However, satisfying all of these groups is impossible. TAP also has had to address issues related to race, management style, and leadership.

TAP will continue to face challenges, but has aroused great interest throughout the United States and other nations. Though the project is still in its early stages, people in other cities often say they cannot wait until success has been achieved in Atlanta before addressing their local problems. TAP has already begun sharing its experiences and will do far more in the future. There is no doubt that Atlanta has benefited from the project, but there is still a long way to go. President Carter continues to remind participants that "the only real failure would be not to try."

The Center for Applied Public Affairs Studies

by Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.

Founded in September, 1987, The University at Buffalo's Center for Applied Public Affairs Studies (CENTER) is a teaching and urban research and development institute. It offers an interdisciplinary Master of Science in Social Sciences degree in Urban Studies, researches the past and present American city, and engages in urban development projects.

The CENTER's mission is to produce a knowledge base that can be used to overcome racial problems and to rebuild, energize, and creatively transform urban America. It is concerned with using urban history to resolve the urban crisis. The goal is to produce, with others, studies that extend the frontiers of knowledge and that serve as a guide to rebuilding the city. In the context, the CENTER engages in the systematic, purposeful study of history to shed light on existing urban problems and to develop strategic approaches to solving them.

The key to such an approach is the linking of traditional and action-oriented research to the implementation of projects designed to plan, rebuild, and economically bolster distressed urban areas. Here, theories and hypotheses, formulated in the laboratory, inform projects designed to attack urban problems. In turn, insights gained from practice are transformed into hypotheses to guide research. This interaction between theory and praxis is central to the urban studies approach used by the CENTER. The intertwined goals of our current research studies and development projects are (1) to determine how changes in the economy and urban environment affect human behavior and the life chances of various groups, and (2) to use this knowledge as a guide to planning and implementing community and economic development projects. A description of two CENTER projects will illustrate our approach.

African Americans and the Rise of Buffalo's Post Industrial City, 1940-Present (Buffalo, 1991) was our first action-oriented research project. The goals were to identify and examine key problems facing blacks and then to develop a plan for attacking them. A team, composed of scholars from history, urban planning, economics, criminology, education, sociology, and political science, was assembled. After completing the research phase, we spent a year developing a strategic plan for grappling with the problems identified. This project, by shifting the emphasis from human service delivery to neighborhood planning and economic development, changed the way socioeconomic problems are attacked in Black Buffalo.

The **Towne Gardens Neighborhood Planning and Development** project posed another challenge. The goal was to craft a redevelopment plan for a distressed neighborhood. Here, we are using knowledge of the historic black community as the foundation upon which to structure planning and design concepts. By studying the historic dimensions of urban development, neighborhood structure, and everyday life and culture, we are forming ideas on how to design, rebuild, and develop a contemporary black neighborhood. To plan and

implement the project, we have assembled a team of planners, economists, architects, and urban designers. The project is sponsored by a coalition of groups including neighborhood residents, black churches, HUD, banks, and local government. Through these activities the CENTER seeks to provide answers to the troubling and urgent questions that undergird the urban crisis.

For further information: Professor Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., Director, Center for Applied Public Affairs Studies, University of Buffalo, S.U.N.Y., 101C Fargo Bldg #1/Ellicot Complex, Buffalo, NY 14261.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Scott Henderson, a doctoral student in history at SUNY-Buffalo, is currently working on a dissertation entitled, "Housing and the Democratic Ideal: The Life and Thought of Charles Abrams." This study will place Abrams' accomplishments in a larger socio-political context emphasizing the expansion of state power, social planning, and civil rights in contemporary American History.

John J. Pittari, Jr. writes: "I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington, currently working on my dissertation under the supervision of John Hancock. My research involves a critical study of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.'s pioneering role in the modern American city planning movement and the early development of the planning profession in this country. Recognized by his peers as perhaps the leader of the movement during its formative years at the beginning of this century, the younger Olmsted has been virtually overlooked by planning historians.

Going beyond a substantive appraisal of his career, my intention is to explore the evolutionary nature of Olmsted's planning philosophy and the influence it had upon the planning movement and the early development of the planning profession. Central to this study is the ironic degree of ambivalence Olmsted maintained as the leader of the field's initial professional organization (the American City Planning Institute) towards the creation of a planning profession for reasons which continue to trouble it today."



(l to r) Carl Abbott, Jessica Elfenbein, and Brooke Barr at the annual dinner in San Francisco [Credit: Dana Leventhal]

AMERICAN QUARTERLY ON SUBURBIA

The March 1994 issue of the *American Quarterly* (Vol. 46) features a forum on the circumstances and representations of post-1970s suburban development. In the lead article, "Bold New City or Built-Up 'Burb: Redefining Contemporary Suburbia," William Sharpe and Leonard Wallock dispute claims by Robert Fishman, Joel Garreau, and others that traditional suburbia is no more. Sharpe and Wallock present a widely-ranging, strongly-worded interdisciplinary critique of the recent literature on contemporary suburbs, pointing out that if the new edge cities and growth corridors multiplying on the metropolitan periphery have a different morphology than traditional suburbs, they nevertheless exhibit many of the same old social dimensions. How scholars and the general public think and talk about city and suburb blinds them and us to certain ongoing problems inherent in those social and geographical forms, the authors argue.

Sharpe and Wallock's indictment of scholars and observers of post-1970s suburban development who, by endeavoring to accept edge city on its own terms, have abdicated the role of grappling critically with its underlying problems is challenged, in turn, by four scholars who apply different disciplinary perspectives to the issues "Bold New City or Built-Up 'Burb" raises. The respondents are architectural historian Robert Bruegmann, social historian Margaret Marsh, urban historian Robert Fishman, and planning historian June Manning Thomas. The forum concludes with a spirited rejoinder from Sharpe and Wallock. [contributed by Mary Corbin Sies, The University of Maryland]

WAGNER SPEECHES

Transcripts of the Speeches of Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York City, 1953-1965, are now available on microfilm at the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives of LaGuardia Community College/CUNY. A computerized index enables researchers to access the speeches through subjects and key names. Filming of the speeches was made possible by a grant from the New York State Education Department.

The speeches of the three-term mayor cover a wide variety of domestic and foreign subjects. As mayor of the nation's largest city, Wagner frequently gave an American urban view on issues of national and international consequence. Subjects addressed most often by Mayor Wagner include civil rights, housing, health, labor unions, transportation, ethnicity, and poverty. A complete set of the 18-reel collection can be purchased for \$300, plus postage and handling. For more information about research or purchase, contact the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101, tel no. 718-482-5065, fax #718-482-5069.

STRASBOURG CONFERENCE

The Second International Conference on Urban History will convene in Strasbourg, France, September 1-10, 1994. The conference theme is "European Cities and Society." Sponsored by the European Association of Urban Historians, planned session titles include: The Language of

Civic Building, Suburbs and the Problems of Urban Integration, The Artisan and the European Town, Civil Ritual and Drama in the Renaissance City, Ethnic Minorities in the City, Frontier Cities, and Cities and 20th Century Wars.

Michael P. Conzen, University of Chicago will present the concluding lecture on "The Fate of European Urbanism in North America. Registration for the conference (400 FF before May 1, 1994; 450 FF after) or more information can be obtained from: Jean-Luc Pinol, Centre de recherches sur la ville, 32 rue de l'Ail, 67000 Strasbourg, France, FAX 33.88.75.15.65.

U.H.A. RELATIONSHIP WITH J.U.H.

The Association's relationship with Sage Publication's *Journal of Urban History* was a subject of considerable interest during 1993. The board of directors voted over the summer to conduct a survey of opinion circulated to the entire membership (23 percent responded). It resulted in the thoughtful analysis of the survey results prepared by John C. Schneider and distributed to the membership during December. After Michael Ebner conducted another meeting in January with representatives of the *J.U.H.* and Sage Publications upon reviewing the Schneider report, those members who attended the annual business meeting on January 7th voted not to pursue the offer of co-sponsorship; to have accepted this enticing and generous opportunity from the publisher of *J.U.H.*, it was concluded, surely would have narrowed rather considerably the membership base of the Association according to the Schneider report. But this does *not* close the matter entirely. A resolution was passed at the business meeting instructing the executive secretary-treasurer to pursue other mutually beneficial areas of cooperation with Sage Publications and *J.U.H.*, subject to ratification by our membership. Sage Publications will continue to offer the discount coupon for members of the U.H.A.

THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Past Presidents: Richard C. Wade/CUNY Graduate & Research Center (1989); Sam Bass Warner, Jr./Brandeis University (1990); Zane L. Miller/University of Cincinnati (1991); Samuel P. Hays/University of Pittsburgh (1992)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The Preservation Assistance Division of the National Park Service has published a source book for researchers seeking information on visionary practitioners who exercised a significant impact on the designed American landscape. Edited by Charles A. Birnbaum with Lisa E. Crowder and entitled *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, it includes sixty-one entries, including: Marjorie Sewell Cautley (1891-1954); Henry A. S. Deaborn (1783-1851); Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927); and Louise Shelton (1867-1934). Available from the Government Printing Office, its stock number is 024-005-01127-7. Cost is \$10 (international customers add an additional 25 percent). Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O., Washington, DC 20402-9325USA or place telephone order (202-783-3238).

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW ENGLAND

This new project, centered at the University of New Hampshire, will be co-edited by Burt Feintuch and David Watters. A single-volume reference work, it will explore the region's culture from a contemporary perspective. To be published in 1998, the *Encyclopedia of New England Culture* will engage ongoing debates about the nature of culture and the role that constructions of regional identity contribute to national identity. Bruce M. Stave will serve as section editor on urban and suburban New England. Scholars interested in contributing should send a letter of interest and a brief c.v. to: Blanche Linden-Ward, Assoc. Editor, *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*, c/o Center for the Humanities, Murkland Hall, Univ. of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-3596.

ELLIOT WILLENSKY FUND

The Planning Center of New York City's Municipal Art Society conducts a competition for the Elliot Willensky Award. It memorializes a charter member of the UHA, renown for his work on the history of Brooklyn and his passionate commitments to advancing public understanding of New York City. Isabel Hill's documentary film *Made in Brooklyn* received the Willensky Award last year.

The Elliot Willensky Fund seeks projects involving New York City's architectural history, historic preservation, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The focus of the project selected may be a question of immediate concern with the goal of influencing public policy. Or it may be an examination of the city's everchanging built environment and the way people live in New York City. Applications should be sent to: Willensky Fund, The Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10022.

1994 UHA COMPETITIONS

The UHA is conducting its fifth annual round of prize competitions for scholarly distinction including: best doctoral dissertation in urban history, without geographic restriction, completed during 1993; best book, North American urban history, published during 1993 (edited volumes ineligible); best journal article in urban history, without geographic restriction, published during 1993. Deadline for receipt of submissions is: June 15, 1994. For further information about procedures for making submissions, please write to: Dr. Glenna Matthews, 2112 McKinley, Berkeley, CA 94703. Do not send any submissions to Dr. Matthews.

MILESTONES

Dana L. Barron, doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, is the recipient of a dissertation fellowship from the Social Science Research Council's program on the urban underclass. The study examines strategies employed by poor unwed mothers and their families in Philadelphia, 1920-65. Lizabeth Cohen, New York University, has been elected to the nominating committee of the American Historical Association.

Deborah S. Gardner, Independent Scholar, has been awarded a fellowship for 1994-95 by the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on her biography of I.N. Phelps. Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College, is the recipient of the Nancy Roelker Mentorship Award of the American Historical Association.

Arnold R. Hirsch, University of New Orleans, is the recipient of a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. Clifton Hood, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, is the recipient of the New York State Historical Association's annual manuscript award for *722 Miles, The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York* (Simon & Schuster, 1993).



Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University of Chicago, has been elected president of the National Council of Public History.

Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University, and Elizabeth Blackmar, Columbia University, are the recipients of the Abel Wolman Book Award for 1993 as co-authors of *The Park and the People, A History of Central Park* (Cornell University Press, 1992). The prize recognizes the outstanding book in the history of public works.

Martin V. Melosi, University of Houston, was selected as Visiting Professor at Institut Francais d'Urbanisme (IFU), Universite de Paris VIII for December 1993. Mingzheng Shi, University of Houston, is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Chinese Studies of the University of California, Berkeley, during 1993-94.

Bruce M. Stave, University of Connecticut, was elected president of the New England Historical Association at NEHA's annual conference in October 1993. Ronald Dale Karr, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, will devote a spring sabbatical to work on manuscript on Brookline, Massachusetts in the nineteenth century.



UHA Prize Winners in San Francisco: (l to r): Ted Margadant, David Stowell, Philip Ethington, and Roy Rosenzweig [CREDIT: Dana Leventhal]

1993 UHA AWARDS

BEST 1992 JOURNAL ARTICLE IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION:

Philip J. Ethington, "Recasting Urban Political History: Gender, the Public, the Household, and Political Participation in Boston and San Francisco during the Progressive Era," *Social Science History*, 18 (Summer 1992): 301-333.

Philip Ethington's article represents the fruits of arduous and imaginative research. Wedding the insights of painstaking empirical work on urban voting behavior with those of culture and gender-based inquiry, the article suggests that the city is perhaps the optimum unit of analysis for those who seek to understand the impact women had on the public sphere during the Progressive Era--as well as the reaction of men to female political activity.

Philip J. Ethington is an assistant professor in the history department at the University of Southern California.

BEST 1992 DISSERTATION IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION:

David O. Stowell, "The Struggle for City Streets: People, Railroads and the Great Strikes of 1877" (August, 1992, Department of History, University of Buffalo, State University of New York).

"The Struggle for City Streets" takes a probing look at the July, 1877, railroad riots, an episode in the history of labor that most historians have long since thought they understood. It has been dismissed as a pre-industrial lark ringing down an older era and the precursor of the class confrontations to come. Stowell looks at the upsurge against the New York Central in Syracuse, Buffalo, and in greater Albany, areas where the great roads operated trunk routes, freight yards, and repair shops. Through a meticulous review of sources, mainly state reports and newspaper accounts long overlooked, Stowell uncovers the long tradition of vexatious relations between these behemoths and the workers, neighbors, and local interests often thrust aside for their efficient operation. All this is lucidly presented in a well-organized

work that has a clear sense of its goals and of its interpretive impact.

David O. Stowell is adjunct instructor in history at the University of Hartford.

BEST BOOK IN NON-NORTH AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY PUBLISHED DURING 1991 OR 1992:

Ted W. Margadant, *Urban Rivalries in the French Revolution* (Princeton University Press, 1992).

Ted Margadant's book on urban rivalries in France is a monumental piece of scholarship that will have a major impact on its field. The product of an enormous research effort informed by a variety of complex, sophisticated methodologies, including quantitative, demographic, and content analysis, Margadant takes urban rivalries seriously, avoiding the trend of many leading historians of this period to stay on the level of rhetoric (or discourse). He examines real conflicts and real efforts to protect local interests and further the local community. The bourgeoisie of the towns and communities sometimes resisted, sometimes joined the attempts of Paris to centralize and change government and administration in France, always trying to gain something for their towns. He concludes that there was some measure of real change in institutions and in political behavior, as well as some measure of continuity with the old regime. Local political and institutional loyalties were not created by the revolution, nor were they destroyed by the revolution's centralizing tendencies. Margadant enables us to watch this fragmented, proudly localized society re-create and integrate itself into national life and develop a national form of political expression. The book is a fine example of macro- and microhistory, forcefully expressed with clarity and authority.

Ted W. Margadant is professor of history at the University of California, Davis.

BEST BOOK IN NORTH AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY PUBLISHED DURING 1992:

Roy Rosenzweig & Elizabeth Blackmar, *The Park and the People, A History* (Cornell University Press, 1992).

*Virtually all historians would agree that Central Park has served as one of the most enduring symbols of the nineteenth century urban development of the United States. Yet, until the publication of Roy Rosenzweig and Elizabeth Blackmar's *The Park and The People*, this complex and extraordinary urban institution had never received the scholarly attention that it deserves. The magnificent accomplishment of Frederick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux and the hundreds of people who worked on the creation of the park, Central Park also represents the shifting cultural uses of urban public space. From the "proper" park of the 1860s to the "diverse" recreational and imaginative park of the 1990s, the story is riveting. Central Park has reflected the changing fortunes of urban America; park supporters and managers have struggled against grandiose improvement schemes, dramatically altered patterns of use, rising crime, and political indifference. But as Rosenzweig and Blackmar demonstrate through sharply etched vignettes, graceful prose, and handsome illustrations, Central Park has remained the "most democratic space" in New York, perhaps the nation.*

Roy Rosenzweig is professor of history at George Mason University; Elizabeth Blackmar is associate professor of history at Columbia University.

Urban Policy: Implications for Research in Urban History

Josef W. Konvitz is Principal Administrator, Urban Affairs Division, Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development; he is on leave, Department of History, Michigan State University. [The opinions expressed in this article are the author's, and not necessarily those of the OECD.]

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), created in 1961 as the successor to the OEEC which administered the Marshall Plan, brings together the 24 countries of the industrialized world. As an intergovernmental organisation, it promotes policies that will help the Member countries pursue economic growth consistent with social and environmental well-being. The Urban Affairs Division in the OECD was established following a proposal made in 1979 by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. In subsequent years its work programme has evolved to reflect changing priorities as well as the lessons learned about policy. The work of the Division has three priorities for 1994: 1) urban environmental problems; 2) cities and national economic development; 3) the problems of distressed urban areas a conference on "Women and the City" is also planned. Contemporary urban problems raise questions about historical developments. In brief, given that urbanisation is a historical process, how does an understanding of the past help us to understand the implications of current trends for the future? And given that it is a global process, how can an understanding of urban developments outside the United States help establish priorities in public policy both for American cities and for multilateral, international efforts?

The urban environment is a policy area closely related to a traditional yet still important aspect of urban history covering everything from sewers and sanitation, to public health and parks. The effects of urban infrastructures on land use patterns, economic growth and public health, and the process of technological innovation and diffusion in the environmental field, are topics of interest to policymakers on which historians have something to say; is another. Concerns about the impact of cities on global resources on the one hand, and about environmental conditions within cities on the other, call for a comprehensive view of the city. But as can be seen from the cursory treatment of the spatial dimension in many historical studies, environmental issues are not easy to correlate with social, economic and political problems. The task of integrating policies across sectors in government corresponds to the art and challenge of synthesizing historical material on the city drawn from economic, social and political sources. Much remains to be done of a methodological nature in both history and policy: the effort to integrate environmental issues into urban policy is likely to yield insights about how cities can be studied that historians can incorporate in their work.

"The Ecological City" project draws attention to another aspect of cities of interest to historians, the nature and role of public participation. How do pressure groups get in formed? How does knowledge about the city contribute to the making of public culture and public policy? How can new institutions appropriate to contemporary conditions be

established that recognize the need for greater public participation on the one hand, and the growing technical complexity of urban issues on the other? One of the critical questions facing cities today is the manifest lack of any framework for collective decision-making or for strengthening the capacity of firms and individuals in the private sector to act more responsibly. Can a new civics emerge through cultural change, or only in response to an overwhelming crisis? These questions have an historical as well as a contemporary dimension; from either perspective, the focus is on power, knowledge and democracy.

Environmental concerns are promoting a revival in ideas about planning, which remains however contested ground. Whose values and purposes should be reflected in plans? How much incremental change can communities absorb? At what point do suburbs start to accumulate the same problems as cities? The intellectual history of cities is partly shaped around the history of how cities have been planned. Historians recognize that the importance of city and regional planning is measured not only by the implementation of plans, but also by their representational and instrumental value as a tool by which the larger purposes of the city and its resources can be shaped and directed toward certain objectives. The history of planning has much to say about the conditions favorable to change, a subject all the more important as the imaginative capacity to shape a vision of the future seems poorer now than it was fifty or a hundred years ago.

Economic structures and activities have most often defined what a city is. The linkages between national economies and urban economies are however often difficult to analyse. Macroeconomists are not much interested in this topic, and if the "city biography" tradition in urban history is a reliable guide, neither are urban historians. This is all the more surprising given the impact of urban form on production, transportation and energy demand. The impact of the current recession, the scale of public and private debt, and the implications of structural economic change are provoking many questions about the economic functions of cities, urban hierarchies, and urban networks.

A related topic is the question of urban poverty. The debate about the underclass in American cities is echoed in Europe. There is a need for comparative studies that historians are uniquely prepared to provide. If race is the dominant theme in American debates on the underclass, on what basis can American issues be analyzed in an international, comparative context? In the past, how have cities evolved programmes to improve social and economic conditions, and what can be learned from that record of relevance today? To what extent did national economic growth alleviate urban poverty? What can Europeans learn about immigration and cities from the American experience? What can Americans learn about alleviating urban poverty from the European experience? Are contemporary problems qualitatively different from those faced in the past? Do social problems originate in urban social and economic life, as scholars often say was the case in the 19th century? These are big questions that add a long-term perspective frequently lacking when politicians and the public respond to riots and recessions.

Taken together, these topics call attention to the

importance of clarity in language. City and suburb mean different things to different people in the same country, let alone in different countries. Our discourse about cities often claims objectivity in ways that permit cultural assumptions and values about technology, economic behavior and social relations to remain unstated. The problem of objectivity cannot be so easily solved by trying to uncover hidden structures in society and culture; as studies of class and gender, for example, have shown, new paradigms sometimes only displace the boundaries of knowledge, not reduce their impenetrability. On the other hand, the scholarly study of urban social patterns may lead to the conclusion that different groups have incompatible interests; on the other, the making of policy is an exercise in finding ways to treat the city as a whole, and to strengthen the factors that promote stability and cohesion. This does not mean that policymakers and historians cannot communicate, only that all who work on cities must make a greater effort to fashion more powerful ways of perceiving and understanding complex phenomena.

Urban historians who see how generalisations about urban experiences and the growth of cities break down into the stories of particular groups and places may wonder how history can relate to policy, which appears to be the realm of the general and the uniform. Nevertheless, the points in common between policy and history need to be underscored. It can be argued that government policy has erred in the past by treating cities as all alike. There is now however a countervailing tendency in the policy field: to emphasize that solutions to urban problems must be worked out within local contexts, and with due attention to the differences between places which are themselves partly the product of changes and events in the past. There may be inherent tendencies at the national level to resist the full implications of decentralisation, but there are domestic and international pressures in the form of fiscal constraints and competitive challenges respectively that promote new policies for more effective problem-solving at the local level, and more sophisticated methodologies for describing and analyzing urban conditions. History by itself cannot provide prescriptive policies, but it can inform the criteria by which policies can be evaluated even as it shapes the public culture within which policy evolves.



[l to r] Ricahrd C. Wade, UHA charter president, and Carl Abbott, president-elect, in San Francisco [CREDIT: Dana Leventhal]

NPS LABOR STUDY

In cooperation with the National Park Service the Newberry Library is undertaking a study to generate nominations for National Historic Landmark sites significant to labor history in the United States. The result of the study will be the nomination of twenty sites for possible designation as National Historic Landmarks by the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior.

We are contacting state historical societies, labor organizations, state preservation officers, and labor scholars in order to solicit suggestions for potential sites. We would like your help in identifying these sites so that we may create as broad a base as possible in the initial stages of the project.

All sites that reach the final nomination stage must meet the National Park Service criteria for National Historic Landmarks, and also demonstrate national labor history significance. In order to determine national labor history significance we are looking for sites which fit the following categories: work processes; events; people; leisure establishments; labor education; workers' communities; and labor organizing

We invite suggestions of sites that fit within each of these categories. Suggestions should include information that we could use in the evaluation process, including a brief description of the site and bibliographic references. For more information, contact, Dr. James Grossman, Scholl Center for Family and Local History, Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Chicago, IL 60611.

UHA SYLLABUS EXCHANGE II

Syllabus Exchange II, a cooperative venture of the Association and The Valentine Museum remains available. Edited by Judy A. Lankford of The Valentine, it contains a lengthy introductory essay by Richard Harris (a geographer on the faculty of McMaster University in Ontario). In addition to presenting its readers with 24 syllabi, it also includes 15 research assignments. Among the contributors are: Elaine Abelson; Howard Chudacoff; Timothy Gilfoyle; Martin Melosi; Pat Mooney-Melvin; Barbara Posadas; William Sharpe; Leonard Wallock; and Sam Bass Warner.

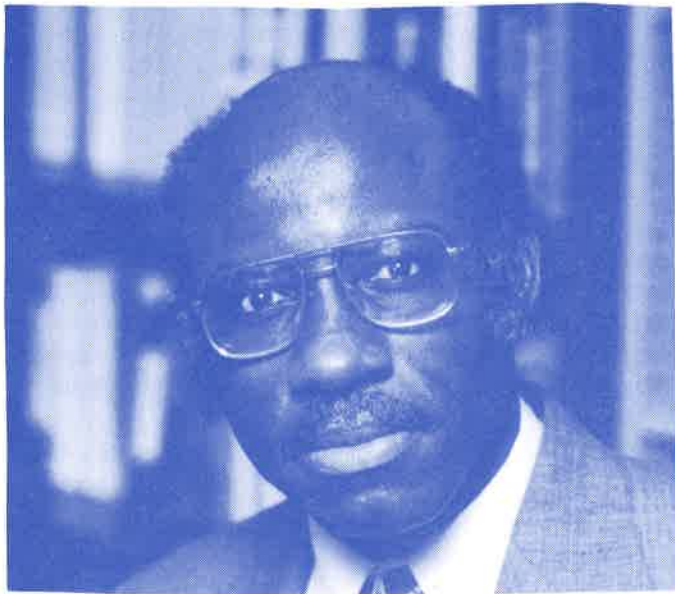
To purchase copies send your check or money order (*only* in US dollars please) for \$25 within US, \$26 in Canada, or \$26.50 elsewhere. Checks must be made payable to: The Valentine Museum. Telephone, fax, e-mail, and C.O.D. orders will not be accepted. Send prepaid order to: *Syllabus Exchange II*, c/o The Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1590 USA.

The Urban History Newsletter (ISSN 1049-2887) is published twice yearly by The Urban History Association for members and subscribers. Copy deadlines are January 15 and September 1. 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). Inquiries about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be sent to: Judith Spraul-Schmidt, Membership Secretary, 2830 Urwiler Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211 USA.

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 708-735-6291; INTERNET ebner@lfcmail.lfc.edu).

TROTTER TO SPEAK AT U.H.A. LUNCHEON

Joe William Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University, will be the distinguished guest speaker at the annual U.H.A. luncheon on April 16th, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. His topic: "The African American Experience and The Future of Urban History." Luncheon reservations must be made in advance through the O.A.H.; for further information consult program guide or call 812-855-7311. Luncheon ticket are not available through the U.H.A.



Joe William Trotter [CREDIT: Carnegie Mellon University]

WOMEN OF HULL-HOUSE

Chicago's Jane Addams Hull-House Museum has produced a documentary video. It explores the story of Hull-House through the contributions of Jane Addams as well as Ellen Gates Starr, Florence Kelley, Dr. Alice Hamilton, Grace Abbott, Edith Abbott, and Mary Kenney. To order please send check or purchase order, payable to *University of Illinois*, for \$65 to: Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago (M/C 105), 800 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60607-7017. Illinois residents must add 8% sales tax.

THE MAKING OF MODERN ATLANTA

Two urban historians, Timothy Crimmins of Georgia State University and Dana White of Emory University, have written an eight program television series entitled *The Making of Modern Atlanta*. Broadcast on Atlanta's WPBA beginning in 1991, the series was produced by Chris Moser and directed by Oscar Moss. The production and broadcast were funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Georgia Humanities Council plus several Atlanta-area foundations as well as corporations. (For a review of this series consult *Journal of American History* [December, 1993], pp. 1204-06.) To obtain additional information: Georgia Humanities Council Resource Center, 50 Hunt Plaza, NE, Suite 44E, Atlanta, GA 30303-2936.

J.U.H. ISSUE ON ENVIRONMENT

Christine Meisner Rosen and Joel A. Tarr have assembled, as guest co-editors, a special issue, the May '94 number of the *Journal of Urban History*. Contributors include: Tarr and Rosen, "The Importance of an Urban Perspective in Environmental History;" Christopher Hamlin, "Environmental Sensibility in Edinburgh, 1839-1840;" Andrew Hurley, "Creating Ecological Wastelands: Oil Pollution in New York City, 1870-1900;" Martin V. Melosi, "Sanitary Services and Decision-making in Houston, 1876-1945;" and Adam W. Rome, "Toward an Environmental History of Residential Development in American Cities and Suburbs, 1870-1990."

PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

The Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland, College Park, is offering a four-day training course on 35mm and large-format photography of historic architectural and engineering structures on May 23-26, 1994. The course is offered in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service. For more information, contact: Professor Mary Corbin Sies, Dept. of American Studies, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, (301)405-1361. Email: ms128@umail.umd.edu.

H-URBAN

H-Urban has achieved much in its first year: 400 subscribers from the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, Italy, South Africa and Australia. Among the materials made available on-line in H-Urban's discussions and archives during the year were: a directory of urban historians; bibliographies on city politics and other historical issues; information on Internet sources including the on-line Institute of Historical Research and Centre for Metropolitan History (London) server; discussion on urban history texts; tables of contents of journals associated with urban issues including *Journal of Urban History*; abstracts of articles about urban issues in major historical journals; and announcements of conferences and listings of sessions dealing with urban history (SACRPH and SSHA programs were placed on-line for H-Urban Subscribers).

H-Urban will begin to review books and CD-ROMs in the near future, and is seeking suggestions of books and reviewers. To subscribe, send a note to Listserv@uicvm or Listserv@uic.edu with no subject and the message: SUBSCRIBE H-Urban Firstname Lastname, Affiliation.

Alan Mayne, a historian from the University of Melbourne, became co-moderator in January, 1994. Wendy Plotkin established H-Urban and is the co-moderator. Contact her with questions at U20566@uicvm.uic.edu or (312)738-1121; History Department, UIC (m\C 198), 851 S. Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60607-7049.

DISSERTATION GROUP

Chicago-area graduate students researching and writing dissertations in American Urban History are invited to present their work and discuss it informally with other graduate students. For more information, contact Robin Bachin, Scholl Center for Family and Community History at the Newberry Library, Chicago; (312)943-9090.