



The Urban History Newsletter

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Discovering History in Chinese Cities

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In China, history is alive in ways that it is not in the United States and possibly the rest of the world. Magazines and books which present history to the public -- often stingy with documentation but generous with exciting and amusing anecdotes -- actually sell in large numbers. One of the more popular of these recently was a book called *Urban Monsoon: The Cultural Spirit of Beijing and Shanghai* (Chengshi jifeng: Beijing he Shanghai de wenhua jingshen), which explores the development in the last hundred years of distinctive "urban styles" in -- and rivalry between -- what many see as by far the most important cities in China (ignoring, perhaps to their eventual regret, the claims of Guangzhou and neighboring Hong Kong).

The author of *Urban Monsoon*, Yang Dongping, explains in his introduction that the book was written during a period in the early 1990s when the issue of the differences between Beijing and Shanghai was being hotly debated in China. Surprisingly to an American historian of China, Yang writes that he was inspired to write the book as a consequence of the translation into Chinese of Rhoads Murphey's 1953 classic *Shanghai: Key to Modern China*. A survey of English-language studies of cities in China in the twenty years following publication of Murphey's book here suggests that, as careful and absorbing as it is, it did not stimulate anywhere near the interest in Chinese urban issues in the United States that it has in China in this decade.

Until the mid-1970s, cities and their place in Chinese politics and culture did not figure as a major focus of historical research. With some exceptions, such as Paul Wheatley's *The Pivot of the Four Quarters* -- which examined the theoretical underpinnings of ancient Chinese urban planning -- and Jacques Gernet's *Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion* -- a portrait of 13th-century Hangzhou -- studies of Chinese history between 1953 and the mid-1970s ignored cities, *per se*, and often concentrated on the history of the imperial civil service and the "Confucian" philosophy associated with it, on one hand, and the economic and social origins of the 20th-century Communist revolution, on the other.

In the 1970s Stanford University Press published three conference volumes on Chinese cities, *The City in*

Communist China (Lewis, ed.), *The Chinese City Between Two Worlds* (Elvin and Skinner, eds.), and *The City in Late Imperial China* (Skinner, ed.), which promised to shake up a dormant field. The latter has indeed been very influential, particularly the chapters written by the editor, William Skinner, an anthropologist with an interest in central-place theory, who urged historians to stop thinking of China as a homogenous entity and instead to conceive of it as a set of interconnected "macroregions," each with its own internal network of marketing systems linking villages to market towns to regional cities, and so on.

Partly because of the attraction of Skinner's macroregion approach, the influence of *The City in Late Imperial China* is easiest to see, not in studies of cities themselves, but in books which focus on larger geographical areas -- often provinces, rather than Skinner's macroregions. Mary Backus Rankin and R. Keith Schoppa, for example, published studies of Zhejiang province, the former showing the linkages between elites along a continuum of rural and urban settings and the latter identifying sub-provincial regions which served as fairly distinct arenas for political action. More recently, Ken Pomeranz has used a wide range of historical and geographical evidence to argue that economic policies adopted by the Qing state in the late nineteenth century in order to compete in the world market system led to the economic decline of towns and rural areas in one region of North China and the relative prosperity of another.

Since the late 1980s, Chinese historians both inside and outside of China have increasingly felt the effects of two different phenomena -- the efforts by some scholars to introduce elements of critical theory, cultural studies, and feminist or gender theory into studies of East Asia and the opening of archives in the People's Republic of China. At the same time and in light of the post-Mao "Open Door" economic strategy, there has been a new emphasis in the P.R.C. on historical antecedents for economic growth. All of these factors have contributed to a veritable outpouring of published works and works-in-progress which take as their frames of reference individual cities and/or urban institutions, culture, classes, and even, in a few cases, specific urban neighborhoods.

William Rowe was one of the first scholars, in this new era of opening archives and innovative theoretical approaches, to undertake a detailed study of one Chinese city. His two books on Hankou (Hankow), the large commercial city partway up the Yangzi River, challenged Max Weber's influential characterization of Chinese urban communities as not sufficiently autonomous to present effective opposition to the centralized and economically conservative Confucian state. Both Rowe and David Strand, author of a lively and important (continued on page 2)

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(from page one)

book on Beijing in the 1920s, have argued that late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Chinese cities saw the development of a "public sphere" similar to that which Jürgen Habermas has posited in regard to early-modern Western European cities. The debate over whether an urban Chinese public sphere ever formed, and, if so, what it looked like, has continued apace since the publication of the Rowe and Strand books in 1989, tinged with a certain sad irony given the June Fourth massacre of that year.

Although Rowe and Strand wrote about Hankou and Beijing, respectively, the city which has been favored with far and away the most attention among Chinese historians in the United States and Europe is twentieth-century Shanghai. Both Shanghai's Municipal Archives and the Business Archives which has been established at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences have seen a steady parade of historians in the past ten years. All of this exertion has produced studies of Shanghai's early-19th-century development (Johnson), Shanghai's workers (Honig 1986 and Perry), Shanghai's bourgeoisie (Bergère), Shanghai's capitalists (Coble), Shanghai's public health (MacPherson), Shanghai's municipal government (Henriot), Shanghai's police (Wakeman), Shanghai's academics (Yeh), Shanghai's students (Wasserstrom), Shanghai's literary world (Fu), Shanghai's ethnic tensions (Honig 1992), and Shanghai's sojourners (Goodman and Wakeman/Yeh).¹ These works have begun to explore the texture of Shanghai life over time with a degree of attention that has never before been devoted to a Chinese city. Someday, Shanghai may be as well known as Chicago or Paris or London!

The drawbacks of this almost exclusive emphasis on modern Shanghai are obvious (particularly to those of us studying other regions!). With few comparable studies of earlier time periods and different urban settings, the scholars of Shanghai have scant resources on which to draw to put the Shanghai experience in its Chinese context.² It is to be hoped that future studies of Chinese cities will recognize more fully the value of comparative perspectives. Fortunately, historians in China itself are not affected quite so strongly by the allure of modern Shanghai, and some have even turned their attention to market towns, which Skinner long ago identified as key spaces in China's urban system. For such scholars, as for their non-Chinese counterparts, it is the growing accessibility of municipal and other archives which is making possible much more nuanced studies of Chinese urban history.

In sum, interest in urban history from a variety of perspectives is growing rapidly among scholars of China, including our colleagues who publish in East Asian languages. Space precludes a survey of such publications, but interested readers will find a discussion of trends among Chinese scholars of urban history in the article by Zhang Limin cited below. Those who would really like to keep up with new developments in Chinese urban history are welcome to subscribe to *Wall and Market: Chinese Urban History News*. A description of this new publication appeared in the Fall 1995 issue of *The Urban History Newsletter* and may also be obtained by dropping me a line at the address listed at the end of this essay.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Once again during 1995 the Association worked hand-in-hand with the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, as a co-sponsor of its successful sixth biennial conference held in Knoxville during October. David Schuyler, the program chair, deserves a commendation for arranging a broad array of interesting sessions which included participation by many urban historians.

David R. Goldfield presided over our seventh annual dinner during the meeting of the American Historical Association, bringing together more than 50 persons at the Atlanta History Center on January 6. We listened to an insightful presidential address by Carl Abbott (soon to be published in the *Journal of Urban History*). The Association is grateful to Houghton Mifflin Company and more than 50 our own members (acting under the cloak of anonymity) who generously underwrote the dinner (thus enabling the Association to subsidize the cost of the dinner.) None of this would have been possible, moreover, without the gracious hospitality extended by Rick Beard, director of the AHC and an active member of the UHA. Elsewhere in this issue you also will find a report on the winners of the Association's four prizes for scholarly distinctions.

Douglas Greenberg, president and director of the Chicago Historical Society, will be the distinguished guest speaker at the Association's annual luncheon during the O.A.H., scheduled for March 29. The OAH program, no doubt because the local arrangements committee is co-chaired by Susan E. Hirsch and Harold L. Platt, will also feature a series of Chicago-area field studies (e.g., a blues bar pub crawl, a tour of Chicago neighborhoods, a tour of Oak Park to view the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright, etc.)

Thanks to the efforts of the OAH staff, the conflict between the Urban History Association's annual luncheon and a significant urban history session has been remedied. The luncheon will be held, as scheduled on March 29 at the Chicago Historical Society. The session entitled "Public Money, Private Profit ..." has been shifted to March 30 at 11:30 a.m. Many thanks to Arnita Jones, executive director of the OAH, for making this change.

Warm thanks to our officers and directors whose terms expired with the conclusion of 1995: They include: Carl Abbott; Rick Beard; David Hamer; Susan Hirsch; Paul Hohenberg; Bill Issel; Howard Rabinowitz; and Mary Corbin Sies.

Michael H. Ebner

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. Inquiries about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be sent to: Clifton Hood, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456-3397 (e-mail Hood@hws.edu). 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 847-735-6291; e-mail ebner@lfc.edu).



Mark Cortiula and Ann Durkin Keating at the UHA's annual business meeting
(CREDIT: Gilbert Stelter)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President Carl Abbott called the seventh annual business meeting to order at 4:46 PM on January 5 in the Embassy Room of the Atlanta Hilton and Towers Hotel. Twenty-one persons were present. What follows, in digest form, are the minutes: (i) memorials were read about deceased members Peter R. Knights (by Molly Ladd-Taylor and Eric E. Lampard) and Roy Lubove (by Edward K. Muller); (ii) reading and approval of the minutes of the sixth annual business meeting; (iii) report on the affairs of the Association by the executive secretary-treasurer; (iv) report by the editor of the newsletter; report by the committee on nominations, certifying the election of the slated candidates; (v) renewal of support for the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; and (vi) a spirited open discussion about the current and future programs of the American Historical Association as they pertain to urban history. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm as Carl Abbott surrendered the gavel to David R. Goldfield.

UHA FINANCIAL STATUS

As a federally tax exempt not-for-profit organization, Section 501(c)(3), the Urban History Association makes an annual filing with the Internal Revenue Service that is prepared by the Chicago-based accounting firm of Shaw Eisenberg Floyd & Rothchild. Copies of all our annual filings are maintained by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and are open to inspection by the membership. Each filing is signed by the president of the Association as well as our accountant.

The Association's fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year. What follows is an abbreviated statement of the Association's financial circumstances for 1995 (prior to the preparation of our federal filing):

Expenses	\$13,586.83
Income	11,393.61
Balance for '95	- 2,193.22
Cash balance from '94	7,668.44
NY checking account balance	650.00
BALANCE	6,125.22

During 1995 our circumstances were affected, as reported in newsletter # 14, by the fact for the first time in a three years our total membership has dipped to below 500, the precise figure being 474 on December 31, 1995. This decline

is part of a national trend among comparable learned societies, which experts attribute to the constricted economic conditions confronting American higher education. And as also reported in the preceding issue, with the foregoing in mind the Association successfully has instituted key steps to control its expenses (relying on bulk-rate mailing whenever feasible and shopping the cost of printing the newsletter), each aimed at maintaining our prevailing dues structure.

You are encouraged to contact Michael Ebner if you have questions about any aspect of the foregoing.

IN MEMORIAM:

GORDON E. CHERRY

Gordon E. Cherry, professor emeritus of geography at the University of Birmingham (UK), died on January 11th after valiantly struggling to thwart prolonged illness. He was well known to urban historians internationally for his important book on Birmingham's history as well as other volumes on the history of planning in England and beyond, as co-editor of the esteemed journal *Planning Perspectives*, and as the founder of the Planning History Group as well as its successor the International Planning History Society.

JUH TO INTRODUCE MUSEUM & FILM REVIEWS

Its recent expansion from a quarterly to a bi-monthly format will enable the *Journal of Urban History* to feature museum and film reviews on a regular basis. Reviews will highlight museum exhibitions and documentary films of special interest to urban historians. Brief in length, the reviews will run no more than four to six, double-spaced manuscript pages. If you wish to be commissioned for a review or if you have a suggestion about a particular museum exhibition or documentary film that deserves to be covered, please contact Leonard Wallock, Associate Director, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, 3591 Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9011, Telephone (805) 893-4809, Fax (805) 893-4336, or E-mail wallock@humanitas.ucsb.edu.

FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center, founded in 1991, is the site for scholarly activity supported by a consortium of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Their combined faculties comprise one of the largest concentrations of women's studies scholars nationally. Although stipends are *not* offered, the Center does provide research associates with offices, borrowing privileges at consortium libraries, and the collegiality of a diverse community of feminist scholars and activists. For further information: Five College Women Studies Research Center, Dickinson House, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 01075.

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. Contributors to this issue include: Mark Cortiula, Nipissing University (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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CHICAGO MAYORS RANKED

Melvin Holli, University of Illinois at Chicago, recently contributed "The Experts Choose Chicago's Great Mayors" to *The Public Perspective, A Roper Center Review of Public Opinion and Polling*, 6:5 (August/September, 1995). Polling 110 persons he determined to be *experts*, Holli reports the following outcome:

Mayor/Average Rank/Number of times ranked first

Richard J. Daley (1955-76)/2.2/23

Carter Harrison Jr. (1897-1905 & 1911-15)/4.5/2

Harold Washington (1983-87)/4.7/9

Edward Kelly (1933-47)/5.0/2

Anton J. Cermak (1931-33)/6.4/2

William B. Ogden (1837-38)/6.9/1

John Wentworth (1857-58 & 1860-61)/8.0/5

Richard M. Daley (1989-)/8.7/2

Edward Dunne (1905-07)/8.9/0

For additional information: Melvin Holli, Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago, P.O. Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680.

BUDAPEST QUARTERLY ON URBAN HISTORY

In the spring of 1995, Lynn Hollen Lees (University of Pennsylvania) and Andrew Lees (Rutgers University-Camden) edited a volume of the *Budapest Quarterly* entitled *The Modern Metropolis: Perceptions, Plans, and Developments in Western Europe*. They assembled this volume at the invitation of Professor Andras Gerf of the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, where there is a lively interest in things urban. He wanted to familiarize Hungarian intellectuals with a variety of writings in English about cities that would probably have been unknown to almost all of them. The editors sought to fulfill their assignment by including not only some of our own work (selections from Andrew Lees' *Cities Perceived* and Lynn Lee's UHA presidential address on "Urban Public Space in the 1990s) but also selections from Brian Ladd's and Jeffry Diefendorf's books on city planning in Germany, from Peter Jelavich's UHA prize-winning *Berlin Cabaret*, from Paul Boyer's *Urban Masses and Moral Order in America*, from an essay by Carol Willis on the Empire State Building, from David Goldfield and Blaine Brownell's and Jon Teaford's texts (sections on the Great Depression and on urban crises in the 1960s and 1970s), and from an essay by Robert Fishman on American suburbanization.

Expertly translated and accompanied by thirty-nine illustrations, these writings ended up not only in Budapest bookstores but also on the desk of Budapest's mayor, the young and dynamic Gabor Demsky, whom we had the pleasure of meeting last June. The editors were especially gratified to hear of the use he had made of Boyer's discussion of Progressive reformers in Cleveland. He had mentioned their efforts just that morning in a speech to a group of citizens who were trying to combat social deviancy and urban breakdown. They believe it proved useful to see that historical scholarship was being applied to the solution of

present problems and that the history of the American city could still provide positive examples. For additional information: Andrew Lees, Department of History, Rutgers University, 311 N. 5th Street, Camden, NJ 08102 (e-mail: alees@crab.rut.edu).

ARCHIVES AND THE METROPOLIS CONFERENCE IN LONDON

An international conference, July 11-13, at London's Barbican Centre will bring together speakers from all over the world to discuss cultural, political and social aspects of the archives of great cities from antiquity to the present day. The aim is to investigate the nature of the records generated by these cities and to increase understanding of the role they play in metropolitan life.

Among the themes covered will be their political purpose and use, their display, access, buildings and value as sources. There will be case-studies from a varied range of cities including Vienna (Ferdinand Opll), Stockholm, Tokyo, Chicago (John Daly), New York (Clifton Hood), Cairo (Raouf Abbas), and, of course, London.

The conference is sponsored by the Corporation of London and organized by the Centre for Metropolitan History, the Greater London Record Office, the Corporation of London Records Office and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Department. Details are available from the Greater London Record Office, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB, or by e-mail from o-myhill@sas.ac.uk.

URBAN POVERTY PAPERS

The Social Science Research Council's Committee for Research on the Urban Underclass (1988-94) has made available a collection of more than 20 papers prepared for a 1993 conference of government officials, community-based practitioners, and academic researchers. Urban historians Michael B. Katz, Alice O'Connor, and Thomas J. Sugrue are among the authors. For a listing of the papers and their prices contact: Carole Oshinsky, National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), Columbia University School of Public Health, 154 Hayden Avenue, NY, NY 10032 (telephone 212-927-8793; fax 212-927-9162; e-mail ejs22.columbia.edu).



(l to r) Owen Gutfreund, Max Page, and Clifton Hood at the Atlanta History Center during the seventh annual dinner (CREDIT: Michael Ebner)



UHA presidents past, present and future: (l to r) David R. Goldfield, Lynn Hollen Lees, Carl Abbott, and Raymond Mohl at the seventh annual dinner (CREDIT: Michael Ebner)

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGEMENT & POLICY

Sage Publications, with sponsorship from the American Public Works Association, will launch a new peer-reviewed journal in July aimed at practitioners and academics in public works and the public infrastructure industry. Members of the editorial board include Ann Durkin Keating, Martin V. Melosi, and Joel A. Tarr. Topic areas include: public infrastructure in society, both public and private; public works institutions, functions, and history; infrastructure engineering and project management; environmental policy and planning; public works operations; public works systems maintenance and renewal; and legal issues in public works. For editorial information: Claire L. Felbinger, *Public Works Management & Policy*, c/o Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH 44115 (e-mail: claire@csuohio.edu). For subscription information: 1-805-499-9774.

PAPER CALL: DEFINING COMMUNITY

Proposals for panels, roundtables, workshops, single papers, and performances are invited for an interdisciplinary conference entitled "Defining Community, Reexamining Society" to be held September 20-21, 1996 (Friday and Saturday) at the University of Michigan-Flint.

The conference seeks to examine, reflect on, and respond to the growing crisis in American civic life both by exploring the idea of community and the realities of communities in the United States and by imbedding these explorations in an understanding of economic, social, cultural, and political forces. Recognizing that the erosion of community has been a recurrent theme in American social and cultural history, conference organizers nonetheless affirm it imperative, at this juncture, to theorize about the nature of community, analyze the root causes of its current decline, and, where possible, intervene in this crisis.

The organizers invite participation by scholars from

all humanities, social science, and fine arts disciplines, and encourage geographically and historically comparative work that contextualizes the contemporary American experience. In addition, we solicit submissions by public policy analysts, community activists, social service practitioners, and representatives of business, labor, educational, and cultural organizations. Themes of particular interest include, but are not limited to: problems in defining community, including the use of spatial, experiential, and referential approaches; processes of community construction and invention, especially the establishment, maintenance, recognition, and renegotiation of boundaries; case studies in community formation, consolidation, erosion, dissolution and/or re-formation; mapping of communities, including the interconnections and oppositions of local, regional, national, and international levels; intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and class in communities; expressions of power within and among communities; costs of exclusion from and price of inclusion in specific communities; examples of attempts to identify and solve community problems; the roles of individuals and institutions in fostering social cohesion; investigations of and recommendations for public policies.

A key area for the promotion of civic life in contemporary America is K-12 education. In order to foster collaboration on this important topic, a preconference will be held on Thursday, September 19, for teachers, educational administrators, and curriculum specialists. Proposals are also invited for this preconference.

Partial travel subventions may be available for conference presenters. The conference is sponsored in part by a grant from the 1995-1996 State of Michigan Research Excellence Fund and is supported by the Project for Urban and Regional Affairs (PURA) at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Please submit session and paper proposals (including 1-2 page paper abstracts and brief resumes for all participants) by April 10, 1996 to: Professor Nora Faires, Chair of the Conference Committee, c/o Department of History, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI 48502-2186 (phone: 810-762-3366; fax: 810-766-6838; email: comconfer@umich.edu).

1996 UHA PRIZE COMPETITIONS

The Urban History Association is conducting its sixth annual round of prize competitions for scholarly distinction.

1. Best doctoral dissertation in urban history, without geographic restriction, completed during 1995.
2. Best book, North American urban history, published during 1995 (edited volumes ineligible).
3. Best journal article in urban history, without geographic restriction, published during 1995.

The prize for the Best book in non-North American urban history will next be awarded in 1998 for titles published during 1995 or 1996.

Deadline for receipt of submissions is: June 15, 1996. To obtain further information about procedures for making submissions in the 1996 round of competitions, please write to: Professor Ted W. Margadant, Chair, Department of History, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA USA. **Do not send any submissions to Professor Margadant.**

PAPER CALL: THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

The XX International Congress of the History of Science (ICHS) will meet from 20-26 July 1997, at the University of Liege in Belgium. The general theme of the Congress is "Science, Technology, and Industry." Discussions will focus on the relationships between pure science, applied sciences and technology in their social and economic context. Traditional scientific and historical sections and other topical questions will also have their place.

Harold L. Platt and Chris Sellers have gained approval for a day long symposium entitled "The Industrial Environment: Perspectives on the Science, Technology, and Politics of Pollution in the Age of Industry" at the ICHS. They invite proposals for papers on the historical interactions between industries and their environments, and the important ways in which science and technology mediated these interactions. The symposium will bring together a wide range of perspectives on environmental impacts themselves--from toxic waste dumps to greenhouse effects--and the ways in which lay people as well as scientists became aware of them; that is, when, where, and why different groups began to single out these phenomena and frame them as "problems." They are especially interested in bringing together people interested in environmental perspectives from different countries. They also plan to pre-circulate papers among participants, so drafts must be ready prior to presentation.

To submit a proposal or to request more information, contact Harold L. Platt, Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, U.K [email: platt@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk]; or Christopher Sellers, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Cullimore Hall, University Heights, Newark, N.J. 07102 [email sellers@tesla.njit.edu]. Deadline for a one page proposal is March 31, 1996 (papers will be due April 1, 1997.)

PAPER CALL: MILWAUKEE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Marquette University's Department of History, its Institute of Urban Affairs, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society are hosting a major historical conference in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the chartering of the city of Milwaukee. It will be held October 24-26, 1996 at Marquette University's Alumni Memorial Union and hopes to attract participation from a wide spectrum of people interested in Milwaukee's past.

The first day of the conference will highlight addresses by Jon C. Teaford of Purdue University, Joe William Trotter of Carnegie Mellon University, and Clay McShane of Northeastern University. The second day will be a historical symposium with more traditional paper sessions. On the last day activities conducive to the historical society and the general public will be scheduled.

Papers are solicited on all aspects of Milwaukee's history or that of its greater metropolitan area, including analyses employing either comparative or interdisciplinary perspectives. Proposals focused on Milwaukee's rich ethnic

heritage are especially welcomed. Proposals for either individual sessions or entire panels are encouraged.

This event hopes to be the major scholarly conference of Milwaukee's 150th year and it is hoped that the keynote presentations as well as selected offerings from the historical symposium can be included in a published work. Thematically the event devotes itself to the following issues: What factors have conspired to shape today's Milwaukee? What factors have "worked" in the creation of Wisconsin's largest metropolis and in contrast what has not "worked?" We expect sessions on neighborhood and community, on industry and transportation, on race and ethnicity, on professions and churches, on geography and environment as well as work on comparative urbanization.

Those submitting proposals should send a one page abstract of the paper, complete with paper title (and session title, as well as moderator and commentator's name if that applies) and a brief vita for each participant by June 7. Proposals sent by surface mail can be directed to: Dr. Thomas Jablonsky, Institute for Urban Life, Marquette University, Brooks Hall 100, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-1881. FAX 414-288-3259; Telephone: 414-288-5473.

THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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Past Presidents: Richard C. Wade/CUNY Graduate & Research Center (1989); Sam Bass Warner, Jr./Brandeis Univ. (1990); Zane L. Miller/Univ. of Cincinnati (1991); Samuel P. Hays/Univ. of Pittsburgh (1992); Lynn Hollen Lees/Univ. of Pennsylvania (1993); and Kenneth T. Jackson/Columbia University (1994).

UHA '94 AWARDS

BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION, PUBLISHED IN 1994:

Josef Konvitz, "The Crisis of Atlantic Port Cities, 1880-1920," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 36:2 (April, 1994), 293-318.

This article provides a tightly written, insightful examination of the autonomous role of urban ports during their heyday. Carefully examining cities in North America, Britain, and continental Europe, Konvitz argues that international, interurban networks were a function of the organization of space and labor within port cities, and that the relocation of ports away from city centers diminished the cultural, economic and social activity of the city as a whole. Original in perspective and argument, this article could inspire a new generation of research on the similarities of port cities and the international shipping routes that connected them.

Josef Konvitz is the Acting Head, Urban Affairs Division, Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris).

BEST DISSERTATION IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION, COMPLETED DURING 1994:

Andrew James Brown-May, "'The Itinerary of Our Days': The Historical Experience of the Street in Melbourne, 1837-1923" (University of Melbourne, 1994).

Andrew James Brown-May has written a sometimes witty, sometimes elegant, but always fascinating dissertation entitled "'The itinerary of our days': the historical experience of the street in Melbourne [Australia], 1837-1923." In it, he takes the street, a part of the urban landscape that most of us have always taken for granted, and breathed life into it, teaching us that streets have a history and have not always been what they are today.

The devotion of the roadway to the automobile had its origins well before the widespread use of that contrivance. Before the middle of the nineteenth century, the carriageway and the footpath were not sharply distinguished from each other and provided much of the open space within towns and cities, providing the location for a myriad of urban social, economic, and political activities other than getting from one place to another. But after that time, municipal authorities began to establish moral, gendered, and aesthetic interpretations of the sidewalk. Their new conceptions made street areas safer and more sanitary, but they also created more rigid surveillance over public social behavior. As time passed, the economic function of the roadway as space for hawkers and vendors was also increasingly regulated because of concerns about social class, noise, race, litter, and municipal self-image. By 1920, the street had become a widely controlled place for complex negotiations about public social behavior and the object of detailed rules and laws rather than a locus claimed by a diverse range of social and economic groups for public display, both actually and symbolically.



UHA prize winners for 1995: (l to r) Carl Smith, Andrew Brown-May, and Peter Jelavich; not in attendance was Josef Konvitz (Photograph thanks to Andrew Brown-Miller)

By focusing on the street—an almost completely neglected, but nevertheless significant part of urban landscape, morphology, and infrastructure—Andrew Brown-May has highlighted and emphasized a major element of cities and reminded us that the street once did more than either providing a home for cars or supplying access to other places. In doing this, he has enriched and refined our understanding of cities and their history.

Andrew J. Brown-May is a Research Associate in History at Monash University (Australia). His dissertation was directed by Alan Mayne.

BEST BOOK IN NON-NORTH AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY PUBLISHED DURING 1993 OR 1994

Peter Jelavich, *Berlin Cabaret* (Harvard University Press, 1993)

Peter Jelavich's book is an exceptionally rich and rewarding study of the rise and fall of Berlin cabaret between the beginning of the twentieth century and World War II. Jelavich situates this protean art form within the context of Berlin's metropolitan culture, whose spectacular consumerism and hectic pace of life fostered a modernist taste for exaggerated sensations. In lively chapters that describe the social origins, commercial ambitions, and artistic creativity of a succession of theatrical groups, he shows that the satirical impulse of cabaret was tempered by business calculations as well as by political censorship. Even during the Weimar Republic, nudity was a more controversial aspect of most cabaret revues than political satire, which more often than not expressed widespread public disillusionment with the Republic itself. From the vantage point of cabarets in Berlin, which fostered a distinctive metropolitan identity at the height of Weimar culture, entertainment was more important than politics. In the last part of the book, Jelavich tells the tragic story of Jewish cabaret artists, many of whom had underestimated the danger of Nazism until it was too late. The last performances of Berlin cabaret took place in the concentration camps of Westerbork and Theresienstadt, from

whence most of the performers were sent to their deaths at Auschwitz. Throughout this deeply-researched and beautifully-written book, Jelavich demonstrates the ambivalent relationship between the metropolitan culture of the cabaret and the political culture of the German nation. In the trajectory from Berlin to Auschwitz, a vital part of Berlin's metropolitan culture, as exemplified by its Jewish cabaret artists and impresarios, was annihilated.

Peter Jelavich is professor of history at the University of Texas.

BEST BOOK IN NORTH AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY PUBLISHED DURING 1994:

Carl Smith, *Urban Order and the Shape of Belief, The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman* (University of Chicago Press).

Carl Smith's book is an innovative study of the cultural significance of three events in late nineteenth century Chicago. It is an interdisciplinary work that heightens our understanding of these events in a national context and also demonstrates the value of literary and cultural studies in urban history. At one level Smith engagingly focusses on how Americans "read" three Chicago events - the fire, the Haymarket bomb, and the Pullman strike - as the disorderly embodiment of instability, growth, and change in a city that had become the symbol of American economic growth. The city itself became contested ground for conflicting visions of urban order. At another level, Smith explores the relationship between thought, experience, and action in urban history. He uses a wide range of literary and historical sources to examine the way that social reality was affected by the system of ideas or words through which they were expressed. His imaginative approach challenges us to broaden our conception of the dimensions of urban life and our approaches to the study of urban history.

Carl Smith is professor of English at Northwestern University.

RICHARD SPENCER CHILDS

Charter member of the UHA, Bernard Hirschhorn, has compiled a comprehensive bibliography of the writings of Richard Spencer Childs. What follows is a brief excerpt from the bibliography. Please contact the editor or Dr. Hirschhorn concerning a complete version of this bibliography. The papers of Richard Spencer Childs have been donated by Bernard Hirschhorn to the Columbia University Libraries in New York City.

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INCH'S BOOKS (U.K.)

Inch's Books, operated by Peter Inch and Janette Ray, was established in 1986. It specializes in the supply of out of print and new books on art, design, architecture, photography, and town planning. It has an international circle of clients, including major institutional and private customers. The bookshop is situated in the historic city of York; it also produced catalogues encompassing British and non-British topics of inestimable value, listing books for sale. For example, Catalogue # 80 is entitled "The City and Country" and includes sections devoted to city planning before 1940, utopias, housing, wartime reconstruction, and postwar planning. To add your name to its mailing list, write to: Inch's Books, 82 The Mount, York YO2 2AR, U.K. (fax [0] 1904 635821).

LINKING RESEARCH TO ACTION

With underwriting from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University conducted an invitational conference in the autumn of 1994. Bringing together 60 experts from academic, government, business, community organizations, and media, it addressed questions initially raised in Henry Cisneros (Ed.), *Interwoven Destinies: Cities and the Nation* (W. W. Norton, 1993). The two-day conference was conceived and organized not to solve critical urban problems but to identify their causes and to assess the state of knowledge about how to deal with them. To obtain a copy of the resulting report, entitled *Dealing with the Urban Crisis: Linking Research to Action*, contact: Audrey Chambers, CUAPR, Northwestern University, 2040 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208-4100 (708-491-8712 or achamber@nwu.edu).

MILESTONES

Andrew Brown-May, Monash University (Australia), is the recipient of the Dyos Prize for 1994, bestowed by the Centre for Urban History at Leicester University (U.K.) for the best article submitted to *Urban History* ("A Charitable Indulgence: Street Stalls and the Transformation of Public Space in Melbourne, 1850s to the 1920s" and published earlier this year.

Nan Ellin has been appointed assistant professor of urban design and planning at the University of Cincinnati. She looks forward to moving into a brand new Peter Eisenman-designed building this summer. Her book *Postmodern Urbanism* (Blackwell) was recently released in England.

Michael Frisch, SUNY Buffalo, is the recipient of this year's Oral History Association Book Award for *Portraits in Steel* (Cornell University Press, 1994).

Deborah Gardner received a grant for 1996 from the Nonprofit Sector Research Fund of the Aspen Institute for "A Family Legacy of Philanthropy and Civic Work, 1830-1990," which is a part of a biography of I. N. Phelps Stokes. Also important to note, with the recent publication of the *Encyclopedia of New York City*, is that Deborah Gardner served as the project's first managing editor.

Douglas Greenberg, Chicago Historical Society, has been elected to the Council of the American Historical Association.

Richard Harris, McMaster University (Canada), was the recipient of a research grant from the Hagley Museum and Library's Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society.

A. Scott Henderson, a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY-Buffalo, is currently finishing a dissertation on the housing activist and urban reformer, Charles Abrams. He would like to communicate with anyone who knew Abrams or his immediate family. Scott can be reached at 8 Aiken Circle, Greenville, SC 26911 (email ScottH803@aol.com), or at 803-246-6852.

Marilynn S. Johnson, Boston College, is the recipient of the Sierra Book Prize for *The Second Gold Rush: Oakland and the East Bay in World War II* (University of California Press, 1993).

Patricia Nelson Limerick, University of Colorado, has been named a MacArthur Prize Fellow.

Deborah Dash Moore, Vassar College, is the recipient of a National Jewish Book Award for *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.* (Columbia University Press, 1994).

Thomas J. Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania, is the recipient of a research grant from the American Council of Learned Societies.

GREENBERG TO SPEAK AT U.H.A. LUNCHEON

Douglas Greenberg will be the distinguished guest speaker at the annual U.H.A. luncheon at the Chicago Historical Society on March 29 (Friday), held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. His topic: "You Don't Need a Weatherman to Know Which Way the Wind Blows: Urban History for a Plural Society." Greenberg is the president and director of the



Douglas Greenberg (Chicago Historical Society)

Chicago Historical Society; prior to assuming his current position in 1994 he was vice-president of the American Council of Learned Societies. Luncheon reservations must be made in advance through the O.A.H.; for further information consult program guide or call 812-855-7311. Ticket are *not* available through the U.H.A.; nor will they be available at the door.

. . . AND WHILE YOU ARE AT CHS

For UHA members attending the OAH, by displaying your convention badge you gain free admission to the Chicago Historical Society.

Must see in the museum galleries are two exhibitions.

Rogers Park/West Ridge: Rhythms of Diversity, celebrating the people who populate this North Side neighborhood as one of the most culturally and economically diverse in Chicago and the nation. It is the second installment in the CHS series entitled *Neighborhoods: Keepers of Culture*, documenting the history of four Chicago neighborhoods. (Consult the feature essay that Russell Lewis contributed to issue # 12, October '94, entitled "Curating with the Community," for further detail on this series.)

The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America reflects a previous collaboration among the Illinois State Historical Society, the Huntington Library, and the Louise and Barry Taper Collection based upon an original concept of Louise Taper. It premiered at the Huntington Library on October 12, 1993. For those of you who will be using the United Airlines Terminal at O'Hare Airport as you enter or exit Chicago, be sure to see Lincoln's 1861 carriage on display in the front lobby; it is part of the permanent collection of the Chicago Historical Society. Also visit the CHS bookstore for an array of unique items pertaining to Chicago history and the Lincoln exhibition.

CHS is located at the south end of Lincoln Park: Clark Street and North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614. Its main lobby entrance is on Clark Street, immediately north of North Avenue. Metered parking is available in the general vicinity of the Society. Public parking garages are located west, on North Avenue at Wells Street. CTA bus nos. 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156 stop nearby. The Chicago Historical Society is a 10-minute cab ride from the convention hotels.