



The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
March 1997, Number 17

URBAN HISTORY AT PENN

by Thomas J. Sugrue

In the late 1920s, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania debated whether to move from its late nineteenth-century campus in West Philadelphia to suburban Valley Forge. Such a move would not have been entirely unprecedented. In 1872, Penn had moved from a small campus in Center City Philadelphia to the then fashionable streetcar suburb of West Philadelphia, about two miles away. But in the 1920s, proposals to flee the increasingly urban neighborhood met with fierce faculty opposition. Today, the university and the city are intertwined--sometimes tensely. Located in the midst of the city, the University of Pennsylvania has become a major center for the study of urban history, culture, and politics.

Penn's urban environment is extraordinarily diverse. West Philadelphia is now home to university staff and faculty (many of whom live in splendid turn-of-the century rowhouses), students (who inhabit a classic student quarter of fraternities, sororities, and absentee-owned apartments), and poor and working-class African Americans, and immigrants from India, Cambodia, and Ethiopia (who live in apartments and rowhouses on blocks that often show the signs of abandonment and urban disinvestment). A mile to the east are the gleaming towers and quaint rowhouse blocks of Center City Philadelphia, the boutiques and upscale restaurants that cater to the city's professionals. Within a few miles of campus are colonial Society Hill, the bustling eight-block long Italian Market, a lively Chinatown, the bohemian South Street, the gay and lesbian neighborhood around Washington Square West, the renovated warehouses and art galleries of Old City, and the luxury high rises of Rittenhouse Square.

Penn's heterogeneous surroundings, in the midst of the nation's fifth largest city, makes it an ideal place to study urban history. The history department is home to some of the nation's leading urban historians, including past UHA president Lynn Hollen Lees, and historian of poverty and social policy, Michael Katz. The undergraduate curriculum includes a much lauded Urban Studies program, whose majors take a wide range of interdisciplinary courses on the city and who participate in internships in city agencies, cultural institutions, public schools, architecture and urban planning firms, and community organizations. In addition, a large number of undergraduates participate in courses sponsored by the University's Center for Community Partnerships, which through more than 30 classes, supported by the Ford and Kellogg Foundations, brings Penn students into community-based learning projects in local public high schools.

Penn's graduate program plays a major role in training



(l to r) Lynn Hollen Lees, Thomas J. Sugrue, Max Page, and Michael B. Katz celebrating the University of Pennsylvania's near monopoly of the UHA prize competitions for 1996 (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

urban historians. Graduate students take courses in history and often in related departments, working with Douglas Massey, Ewa Morawska, and Elijah Anderson in sociology, Seymour Mandelbaum, Gary Hack, and Anne Spirn in city planning, Mark Stern and Dennis Culhane in social work, David Brownlee and Robert St. George in art history and historic preservation, and many other faculty in English, Anthropology, and the Wharton School. In addition, Penn offers an innovative graduate certificate program in urban studies, centered around a core, two-semester urban theory and research seminar. Our current urban history graduate students and recent graduates have won prestigious fellowships from the Social Science Research Council, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, and from the Immigration History Society. In addition, recent graduates, Alison Isenberg, who will soon join the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Max Page, now of Georgia State University, have won the best dissertation prizes from the Society of City Planning Historians and the Urban History Association.

In addition, Penn is easily accessible to major collections in urban history. The University's Van Pelt Library is home to the Lewis Mumford collection, among others. Only a short subway ride away are the rich collections at Temple University's Urban Archives, the Historical Society of (see following page)

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Pennsylvania, the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and more than forty other archives, libraries, and museums. In addition, because of the University's location in the heart of the East Coast corridor, Penn-based researchers have easy access to archives in New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, all within two hours of Philadelphia.

For those interested in the history of the American Revolution, Valley Forge is only thirty minutes from the Penn campus, its pristine fields an oasis in the midst of sprawling suburban shopping malls, office parks, and subdivisions. But for urbanists, Philadelphia's nearly intact walking city and its Victorian adjuncts, its diverse ethnic neighborhoods, its troubled post-industrial landscapes, and its rich cultural resources of provide an intellectual milieu ideal for thinking about, writing about, and struggling with the great promises and the troubling burdens of American urban history.

GILBERT STELTER'S WWW URBAN HISTORY COURSE

My course, "Reading a Community: Urban History at the Local Level", became available on the World Wide Web about a year ago. It was the first course of its kind in this form so I had no models to follow. Its current address is . . .

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/urban.html>.

This website is not a complete course in itself, as in a distance education course. It is meant to augment a fourth year seminar in Canadian urban history which meets once a week. Two Ph.D. students, Richard Gorrie and James Calnan, played key roles in conceiving and setting up the website.

For those who have not seen it, the site is made up of three parts. The first is a "course manual" of 120 pages I wrote because there still is not a basic survey of Canadian urban history. The manual is divided up into twelve modules, including four introductory modules on "levels" of urban development - international, national, regional, and local - and eight thematic modules such as "Victorian Culture and Urban Form", "Building the Twentieth Century City", and "Cultural Perceptions of Urbanism". In each of the modules I introduce the basic concepts and relevant international and Canadian literature, then suggest how these relate to the local level, in this case, a study of Guelph, Ontario.

Those who know me will not be surprised to find that I have included hundreds of slides of cities from around the world. I have also tried to show the personal side of urban history by including photos of some of the great pioneers such as Jim Dyos, Maurice Careless, and Richard Wade, or of the current crop of influential urban historians, such as David Goldfield and Lynn Hollen Lees.

At relevant points in the modules I have created links to current discussions taking place on H-Urban. For example, when studying suburbanization, they can read some of the very useful and spirited discussions that have taken place on that subject, often

of an interdisciplinary and international nature.

The second part of the site is "online resources." Here is a large international urban history bibliography I have compiled, organized chronologically and by countries. Here are also several of my articles on Guelph's architectural history, updated and illustrated. A large database of 19th century Guelph building records is being constructed here and is not yet generally available.

A third section is the "Web Workshop", a virtual atelier. Here are the weekly technical workshops (which operate in addition to the weekly seminars), and the student projects in progress. Outlines of the student seminar presentations are posted a week prior to their presentation in class. This is where some very useful student discussions take place via our own listserv, discussions which cover everything from advice to other students on relevant material they may have found, to commentaries on urban developments or local events. Connected with this section are a group of internationally known scholars who have agreed to help with one or more students doing projects in their area of specialization. Students read something by the assigned mentor before beginning their primary research, then corresponded with them by e-mail. Some of those who helped out in this way this past term were David Hamer, Victoria at Wellington, N.Z., on the concept of the urban frontier; Bob Morris of Edinburgh on class distinctions; Richard Harris, McMaster, on suburbanization and housing; John Taylor, Carleton, on economic growth; and Graeme Davison of Monash on late Victorian culture.

The students have been very positive about the course and its manner of delivery, even though very few of them had any prior experience with the Web. We are currently planning some changes which include more organized online discussion groups on related topics - eg., the city in film. We will also add audio and video tapes of interviews the students have done with local builders and community organizers. We also hope to get into the field of computer mapping with help from local geographers.

One of my regrets (in addition to realizing how much time all this takes) is that so few historians have bothered to get Web access. I have received a good deal of positive feedback from geographers, architects, and planners, but only a small percentage of historians can be reached in this manner.

For more information: Gilbert Stelter, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada (gstelter@uoguelph.ca)

NEW EDITOR: Timothy R. Mahoney

Timothy R. Mahoney, associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska--Lincoln, has succeeded Ann Durkin Keating as the editor of *The Urban History Newsletter*, effective with this issue. The new editor, who did his graduate work at the University of Chicago with Kathleen Neils Conzen, is the author of *River Towns in the Great West, The Structure of Provincial Urbanization in the American Midwest* (Cambridge University Press, 1989).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Urban History Association is in entering its ninth year since its establishment in Cincinnati in December of 1988.

Once again during 1997 the Association worked hand-in-hand with the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, as a co-sponsor of its successful seventh biennial conference to held in Seattle next October. David Schuyler, the program chair, has arranged a broad array of interesting sessions which will include participation by many urban historians.

Raymond A. Mohl presided over our eighth annual dinner during the meeting of the American Historical Association, bringing together almost 100 persons in Manhattan on January 4. We listened to an provocative presidential address by David R. Goldfield. The Association is grateful to Sage Publications, Inc., and more than 50 our own members (acting under the cloak of anonymity) who generously underwrote the dinner (thus enabling the Association to successfully meet the challenge of dining in New York City.) Elsewhere in this issue you also will find a report on the winners of the Association's four prizes for scholarly distinctions.

Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California, will be the distinguished guest speaker at the Association's annual luncheon during the O.A.H., scheduled for April 19 at the San Francisco Hilton & Tower. The O.A.H. program features an abundance of sessions involving urban historians.

Warm thanks to our officers and directors whose terms expire with the conclusion of 1996: They include: Maureen Flanagan; David R. Goldfield; David R. Johnson; Roger Lane; Margaret Marsh; Archie Motley; Richard Rodger; and Joel A. Tarr.

Finally, this represents the last time that the Association will warmly acknowledge Ann Durkin Keating and Clifton Hood, each of whom will step down next month. Their unstinting efforts, as our newsletter editor and our membership secretary, respectively, have proven indispensable to the Association's continued successes.

Michael H. Ebner

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our numbers have diminished, albeit *not* alarmingly but steadily, since 1994. This reflects a national trend among learned societies rather than being endemic to the UHA. We ended 1996 with 460 members, a modest decline of 14; at the end of 1994 our membership had stood at 505.

Four new life members include: David Gerwin; Alice O'Connor; Joseph Rochford; and Carol Willis. They join a list including: Carl Abbott; Eugenie Ladner Birch; Blaine A. Brownell; Ruth Carter; Michael H. Ebner; Robert Fishman; Timothy J. Gilfoyle; John Graham; Thomas Hanchett; Samuel P. Hays; Kenneth T. Jackson; Josef Konvitz; Roger W. Lotchin; Robert D. McCrie; Zane L. Miller; Eric Monkkonen; Carol A. O'Connor; Gordon Olson; Roderick N. Ryon; Mingzheng Shi; Bruce M. Stave; Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.; Richard C. Wade; and Sam Bass Warner, Jr.



(l to r) Raymond A. Mohl, Eric Monkkonen, Clifton Hood, an Ann Durkin Keating enjoying the annual dinner on January 4 (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

First year dues are waived for graduate students who are new members of the Association.

At the conclusion of 1996, thirty-four members of the Association reside outside of the United States in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, New Zealand, China, and Singapore. If you wish to receive a membership brochure, contact: Clifton Hood, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456-3397 USA (Hood@hws.edu).

EIGHTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President David R. Goldfield called the eighth annual business meeting to order at 4:45 PM on January 4th in Liberty Room 1/2 of the New York Sheraton Hotel. Thirty-two 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 January 3, 1995; (ii) report from Ann Durkin Keating on the newsletter; (iii) report from executive secretary-treasurer on the affairs of the association; (iv) report from Clifton Hood on membership; (v) report from the chair of the nominating committee, presented by Arnold R. Hirsch, reporting on election of slate of candidates as nominated; (vi) renewal of support for National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; (vii) discussion of the Association's relationship with the *Journal of Urban History*; and (viii) endorsement of a statement prepared by Richard C. Wade on his national campaign against illiteracy. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM as David Goldfield handed the gavel to Raymond A. Mohl.

H-NET RECIPIENT OF AHA AWARD

The American Historical Association awarded H-Net (Humanities on Line) its biennial "James Harvey Robinson Prize" for the "most outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of history in any field." In accepting the award at the Association's annual meeting in New York City on January 5, the executive director of H-Net, Richard Jensen, explained that the great majority of H-Net's 54,000 subscribers are undergraduate teachers, and they teach over a million students every semester. "Thanks to the encouragement and leadership of H-Net's 230 volunteer editors, our subscribers are willing and eager to help each other with problems of topics and themes, syllabi, course design, textbook selection, exam questions, supplementary readings, grading, and every other phase of the complex business of teaching high quality history courses."

H-URBAN began in Chicago early in 1993 as the first internet forum to be established by H-HET. During the four years of its existence, H-URBAN has grown into an international scholarly community of some 1,260 members. They are drawn from 35 countries. Three-quarters of H-URBAN's subscribers live in the United States (942 users), and another 93 subscribers are Canadian (the forum's second-largest national grouping). Australians have to date formed the third-largest national grouping (currently 61), although this is likely soon to change, with rapid membership growth during the last year in Britain (currently 59 subscribers). Italy is the fifth-largest subscriber nation (with 16 users), followed closely by the Netherlands (12) and Spain (10).

The editors of H-URBAN are Martha Bianco (Portland State University, USA), Maureen Flanagan (Michigan State University, USA), Alan Mayne (University of Melbourne, Australia), Mark Peel (Monash University, Australia), Wendy Plotkin (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA), and Keith Tankard (Rhodes University, South Africa). Clay McShane (Northeastern University, USA) is Book Review Editor, and William Wright (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA) is Contributing Editor for Teaching. Elizabeth Earle (University of Texas at Austin, USA) and Caroline Miller (Massey University, New Zealand) are Assistant Editors for Subscriptions. Carrie Wilson (University of Michigan, USA) is Contributing Editor for Surveys, and Ben Schrader (University of Melbourne, Australia) is Assistant Editor for Surveys.

MOHL INTERVIEWED

A publication issued at Florida International University--*The Atlantic Millennium, A Graduate History Journal on Atlantic Civilization*--features an interview by Thomas A. Castillo with Raymond A. Mohl (Vol. 4, Fall, 1996, pgs. 5-30). While focussing on his research project on the history of Miami, Florida, it also covers his graduate training with the late Bayrd Still at New York University. For further information: *The Atlantic Millennium*, c/o Department of History, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33139 USA or e-mail HISGSA@servax.fiu.edu.

I.S.P.H. CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY: July, 1998

An international urban conference under the auspices of the International Planning History Society, entitled "Taking Stock: The 20th-Century Experience," will be held at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia from July 14-18, 1998.

Organised by the University of New South Wales School of Planning and Urban Development in the Faculty of the Built Environment, the IPHS Conference will be the eighth in a series which started in London in the late 1970s. Since then conferences have been held in Brighton, UK (1980), Tokyo (1988), Birmingham, UK (1989), Richmond, VA (1991), Hong Kong (1994), and Thessaloniki (1996).

The Sydney conference will also function as the 4th Australian Urban History/Planning History Conference.

Proceedings will centre around critical evaluations of the ideas, ideologies, institutions, achievements, conundrums, problems, legacies, and challenges of urban and regional planning and policy in the twentieth century. This focus will promote the desired nexus with contemporary issues and debates.

Papers on any topic will be welcome. Within the overall conference theme, the program is expected to highlight several strands: cultural heritage; environmental management; urban design; power, politics and policy; space and place; planning and social theory; and 'other' planning histories.

A regional focus on Asian and Pacific Rim cities is encouraged. A temporary web site is under construction at <http://www.arch.unsw.edu.au/notices/planhist/>

If interested in presenting a paper and/or to be placed on the conference mailing list, contact: Dr. Robert Freestone, IPHS Conference Convenor, School of Planning & Urban Development, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW 2052, Australia (Ph: +61-2-9385-4836; Fax: +61-2-9385-453; e-mail: R.Freestone@unsw.edu.au).



(l to r) Michael H. Ebner receiving travel instructions from Clifton Hood (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. We are currently seeking editors for Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Contributors to this issue include: Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); Ronald Dale Karr, University of Massachusetts, Lowell (U.S. articles) and Geoffrey Kerslake, Guelph University (Canada).

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- RICHARD SPENCER CHILDS**
Following is another installment from a comprehensive bibliography of Richard Spencer Childs compiled by Bernard Hirschhorn. Hirschhorn most recent article on Childs (Progressive Era reformer) appears in the Dictionary of American Biography (Supplement 10, 1995). Hirschhorn spoke last year at the Seminar on the City at Columbia University on "Richard Spencer Childs: Progressive Era Reformer—Linkages to the 1990s." The first two sections of this bibliography appeared in the March and October 1996 issues of the newsletter.
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WALL AND MARKET: Chinese Urban History News

The Fall 1996 issue of *Wall and Market: Chinese Urban History News*, is now available in paper and electronic form. This issue includes a feature essay on premodern Chinese urban history by Victor Cunrui Xiong, introductions to Japanese research on Shanghai and Tianjin, a description of the Beijing Municipal Archives, bibliographies of recent works in the field in English and Chinese, three conference reports, and a directory of the membership of the Chinese Urban History Association, listing research interests of the members. The Fall 1996 paper edition is 32 pages; the electronic edition is divided into four files ranging in size from 30,000 to 45,000 bytes. Members of the editorial board are: Kristin Stapleton; Lee McIsaac; Mingzheng Shi.

Wall and Market is published twice yearly in both electronic and hard-copy versions. Electronic subscriptions are free. Hard-copy subscriptions are \$9 per year for individuals, institutions, and libraries. For information about ordering the hard copy version, for \$9, contact: Kristin Stapleton, Department of History, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027, USA, kestap01@ukcc.uky.edu.

New subscribers: please provide your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, as well as your major field and the cities and historical periods on which you focus, describe your research interests and current projects in a few sentences, and indicate whether or not we may include you in our published directory.

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING HISTORY SOCIETY: Update

Following the untimely death of Professor Gordon Cherry, founding President of the International Planning History Society, in January 1996, a new President was elected in July. He is Professor Stephen V Ward of the School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP, UK (e-mail svward@brookes.ac.uk).

After the IPHS conference held in Thessaloniki in Greece 17-20 October 1997, the next major international conference sponsored by the Society will be held at Sydney in July 1998, organized by the new IPHS Conference Convenor, Rob Freestone (see following news item).

Another important issue currently being considered by IPHS concerns possible ways of commemorating the huge contribution of Gordon Cherry to advancing the study of planning history, perhaps through some memorial lecture, publication or other means.

The IPHS has over 400 members throughout the world. The membership fee remains at £10 sterling or \$17 US per annum. (Many other currency equivalents available). Members receive the IPHS magazine, *Planning History*, three times each year and lower rates at IPHS sponsored conferences and seminars. To join IPHS write or e-mail the Membership Secretary, Dr David Massey, Department of Civic Design, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX, UK (dwmMassey@liverpool.ac.uk).

UHA PRIZE WINNERS: 1996 Round

Best Article in Urban History published during 1995: co-recipients:

Harold L. Platt, "Invisible Gases: Smoke, Gender, and the Redefinition of Environmental Policy in Chicago, 1900-1920," *Planning Perspectives* 10 (1995), 67-97.

"Invisible Gases" by Harold Platt explores the historical roots of one of the most significant issues of our time: the energy-intensive development patterns characteristic of American urbanization. Specifically, the article traces the campaign of Chicago's female-led Anti-Smoke League in the early years of the century. As the league pressed for use of cleaner-burning fuels in the city, it encountered a variety of groups that sometimes supported and sometimes opposed its efforts. To analyze these political conflicts, Platt draws on recent work in a number of historical subfields too often studied in isolation, such as history of women and their involvement in the political realm, technology, the environment, medicine, professionalism, and, of course, cities. Thus, we find that the article is not only important substantively, but also points toward new ways of

Harold L. Platt is professor of history at Loyola University Chicago.

Thomas J. Sugrue, "Crabgrass-Roots Politics: Race, Rights, and the Reaction against Liberalism in the Urban North, 1940-1964," *Journal of American History* 82 (1995): 551-578.

In "Crabgrass-Roots Politics," Thomas Sugrue tackles two very important and inter-related subjects: the erosion of the New Deal coalition and the role of race in post-war American politics. The article explores the response of blue-collar families in Detroit to the large numbers of African Americans who moved to the city during the 1940s and 1950s, particularly white anxieties about the market value of homes if neighborhoods became multi-racial. Sugrue connects traditional concerns of urban history, such as public housing, homeownership, ethnic/racial identities, and local political activism, to recent scholarship on political culture. The concept of "homeowner rights" that he identifies and explores adds a significant urban dimension to current discussions about the sources and implications of "rights" language. The article demonstrates the importance of looking at city and neighborhood issues to understand transformations in national politics.

Thomas J. Sugrue is assistant professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Best Dissertation in Urban History completed during 1995:

Max Page, "The Creative Destruction of New York City: Landscape, Memory and the Politics of Place, 1900-1930," University of Pennsylvania, 1995



(l to r) Kenneth T. Jackson congratulating Carol Willis, recipient of the Best Book Award in North American History for 1996 (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

"The Creative Destruction of New York City: Landscape, Memory and the Politics of Place, 1900-1930," carries on the best traditions of scholarship in urban history. It is broad in scope, ambitious in design, and extremely well written focus is the interplay between capitalist urbanization in New York City and the efforts of city people to intervene and shape that process. Thus, the city is both an agent and object of change over time. In contrast to the body of literature that emphasizes the physical expansion of American cities, Page contends that the central process of capitalist urbanization at the turn of the century was "creative destruction" -- the demolition and rebuilding of the urban core. This process of razing and rebuilding, Page argues, was the catalyst for a host of urban initiatives, including zoning, slum clearance, historic preservation, the establishment of city history museums, and renewed efforts to preserve "nature" in the city. Finally, in a city where history supposedly "has no truck," collective memories, or constructed stories about the past, were central to each of these initiatives. In a city where developers tore down new and old alike, where even the most cherished monuments and costly homes fell prey to the wrecking ball, elite New Yorkers mobilized to inscribe their own visions of history (and future) on the physical landscape of their city. The dissertation links literatures in geography, urban history, architecture, and urban planning with new work on landscape and memory. It is a refreshing new look at the "capital of capitalism," and it is a welcome addition to the field.

Max Page is an assistant professor of history at Georgia State University. He wrote his dissertation under the direction of Michael Katz.

Best Book in North American Urban History published during 1995:

Carol Willis, *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*. New York: Princeton

Form Follows Finance explores the emergence and development of skyscrapers in New York and Chicago from the 1890s through the 1940s, years when these two largest of U.S. cities were dominant, each distinctively so, in the construction of tall office buildings. In a striking departure from the common notion that once freed by new technology to rise ever higher downtown business buildings became expressive vehicles principally for architects and corporate image-makers, Carol Willis locates these "vernaculars of capitalism" more firmly within the urban commercial and real estate environments. Here they were shaped, quite literally, by speculative urges, market and program demands, concerns for return on investment and, in turn, land use plans, building codes, and zoning. The resulting structures--their height, profile, internal layout--were thus a product of factors ranging from the peculiarities of the site to long-term real estate cycles. Using a dazzling array of sources, including floor plans, design documents, skyline views, and photographs of individual buildings and their interior workspaces--many of which are reproduced to enhance the narrative throughout--Willis makes a superb contribution to the field of urban history, and one that stretches past its boundaries to engage the interests of economists, planners, architects, and geographers.

Carol Willis is adjunct associate professor of urban studies at Columbia University.

Four competitions (including best book in non-North American Urban History published during 1995 or 1996) currently are underway in the Association's round of prizes for 1997. Deadline for submissions is June 15. For additional information: Dr. John C. Schneider, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, Tufts University, 108 Bromfield Street, Medford, MA 02155 USA. Do *not* send any submissions to Dr. Schneider.

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: Timothy R. Mahoney, Editor, c/o Department of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588 USA (Phone: 402-472-3247; fax: 402-472-8839; e-mail: tmahoney@unlinfo.unl.edu).

Inquiries about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be sent to: Joel Schwartz, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ07043 USA (Phone: 201-655-7541; e-mail: SCHWARTZJ@saturn.montclair.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).

PAPER CALL: Bridges and Tunnels

The Centre for Metropolitan History and the Construction History Society's joint conference, to be held at the Institute of Historical Research (London University) on 9 and 10 July 1997, is designed to investigate as many aspects as possible of the subject of metropolitan river crossings.

The chronological and geographical ranges have no particular limits: papers relating to Antiquity, Medieval and Modern times are equally acceptable, as are those concerned with metropolitan river crossings in any part of the world.

There will be two broad categories of paper: general, dealing with themes--such as the problems of designing metropolitan bridges, the aesthetics of bridges, the economics of crossings, comparisons in time or space - about 45-44 minutes in length; and particular studies, relating to specific problems or individual crossings, normally of 20-30 minutes in length.

Papers should be delivered in English if possible, but those in French will be acceptable. Grants towards speakers' expenses may be applied for.

Offers to speak, with a very brief outline of the proposed paper, should be sent no later than 15 April, 1997 to: Olwen Myhill at the Centre for Metropolitan History, Room 351, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (Fax: 0171 436 2183; E-mail: o-myhill@sas.ac.uk).

BOWT: Big Onion Walking Tours

Since 1991, Big Onion Walking Tours has been offer educational and innovative tours of New York City's historic districts and ethnic neighborhoods. Directed by Seth Kamil, a doctoral candidate in American urban and ethnic history at Columbia University, BOWT is comprised entirely of American history graduate students from Columbia and New York University. All guides are licensed by the City of New York. As of 1996, they had led more than 750 tours, making us the largest historical walking tour company in the city.

BOWT offers more than 20 different walking tours throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Among them: the Multi-ethnic Eating Tour; Greenwich Village; Ellis Island; East & West Harlem; Central Park; Brooklyn Bridge and Brooklyn Heights; and Revolutionary New York. Our most popular tour is *Immigrant New York*, which explores the evolution of the ethnic Lower East Side, a neighborhood that has been the first area of settlement for more than a half-dozen of New York City's major ethnic populations. In 1997, Big will be developing a gay and lesbian history tour.

Big Onion functions on two levels. First, we publish a brochure three times a year that contains a schedule of the public tours we offer each weekend year-around. Second, all of our tours are available to groups. Group tours can be scheduled any day of the week.

For more information: Seth Kamil, Director, BOWT, P.O. Box 20561, NY, NY 10021 USA (e-mail: bowtnyc@aol.com or telephone: 212-439-1090).

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Joel Schwartz

Joel Schwartz, professor of history at Montclair State University, will succeed Clifton Hood as membership secretary on May 1. Author of prize-winning *The New York Approach*, *Robert Moses*, *Urban Liberals*, and *The Redevelopment of the Inner City* (Ohio State University Press, 1993) and co-editor (with Daniel Prosser) of *Cities of the Garden State: Essays in the Urban and Suburban History of New Jersey* (Kendell-Hunt, 1977) he did his graduate work at the University of Chicago with Richard C. Wade.

BERLIN CONFERENCE ON RAPID TRANSIT HISTORY

On November 29-30, 1996, the Technical University of Berlin sponsored a conference on historic Iron Railways: Technical Structures or Living Monuments? that examined the historic engineering of rapid transit in Berlin, Hamburg, Aachen, Vienna, Paris, New York, and Chicago.

The conference aimed at promoting new approaches to the conservation of "industrial objects, by opening discussions between art historians and engineers. German engineers have pursued goals of economy and safety without considering the cultural dimension, while conservationists have applied to industrial objects that remain in service standards of preservation that were designed for cathedrals and castles and that require the protection of original materials. This debate is particular to Germany, but the rest of us need to consider industrial conservation as the post-industrial age proceeds.

German reunification has given this problem special urgency in Berlin. Now that Berlin is becoming a world city again, its national and urban rail systems are being modernized. Sections of the S-Bahn (elevated) system that had been abandoned for decades are being replaced.

A day-long tour of the original S-Bahn allowed conference participants to view the massive rebuilding that is transforming Berlin, a remarkable sight with significance for urban historians. The conference proceedings are to be published. (Contributed by Clifton Hood, Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

HISTORICAL DICTIONARIES OF CITIES

Scarecrow Press (UK) has instituted a series with the publication during 1996 of its *Historical Dictionary of Tokyo* by Roman Cybrisky (Temple University). This volume, 256 pages in its length, contains more than 250 entries as well as an introductory essay about Tokyo, a chronology of historic events, a table of population and geographic area for each of the wards, cities, towns, and villages comprising Tokyo Metropolis, and lists of the city's previous mayors and other chief executives, its tallest buildings, and other information including a detailed bibliography plus maps and photos.

Forthcoming is a comparable volume on Stockholm. Editorial inquiries invited by: Jon Woronoff, Scarecrow Press, 8 Feldon Street, London SW6 5AF, UK (fax [44] 0171-731-1895).

For information about purchases: 1-800-462-6420.

MILESTONES

Etan Diamond has joined the staff of the POLIS CENTER at Indiana University in Indianapolis. He recently completed a dissertation at Carnegie Mellon University, with a dissertation on Orthodox Jews in Toronto.

Philip Ethington, University of Southern California, is a fellow at the Getty Institute.

Bernard Hirschorn has received a \$3000 award (subvention) from the University Seminars at Columbia University to assist in the preparation of *Democracy Reformed: Richard Spencer Childs and His Fight for Better Government* to be published later this spring by Greenwood Press.

Clifton Hood, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, is the recipient of a travel grant from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

The Huntington Library awarded fellowships for residential study during 1996-97 to: Sarah Elkind, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Greg Hise, University of Southern California; and Timothy Mahoney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

John Ingham, University of Toronto, Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University, and Clifton Hood, Hobart & William Smith Colleges have appeared in recent installments of the PBS series *The American Experience*. Ingham discussed Andrew Carnegie; Jackson and Hood talked about New York City's subway system.

Gail Radford, SUNY Buffalo, is currently a visiting fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University.

Adam Rome has joined the faculty of the history and geography departments at Pennsylvania State University, where he specializes in environmental history. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas with a dissertation entitled *Prairie Creek Hills Estate: An Environmental History of Homebuilding in American Suburbs, 1945-70*.

Dave S. Rossell, University of California-Berkeley, is the recipient of research grant from the Hagley Museum and Library's Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society.

Michael O. Smith, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, is the recipient of the Student Essay Competition Prize for 1996 conducted by the *Michigan Historical Review* for "The City as State: Franchises, Politics, and Transit Development in Detroit, 1863-79."

Thomas J. Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania, is the recipient of the President's Prize of the Social Science History Association for 1996 for his book *The Origins of the Urban Crisis, Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton University Press, 1996).

Religion and Urban Culture in Indianapolis

The POLIS CENTER is a research center on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Founded in 1989 to produce the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994). POLIS has expanded its role to become a major center for research on urban life in Indianapolis. Currently, the Center is engaged in a project on Religion and Urban Culture. Funded by a \$2.25 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, the

project is investigating the role of religion in the neighborhood and metropolitan life of Indianapolis. Project components include intensive case studies of neighborhoods and congregations; a documentary video on Indianapolis religion; a book of essays and photographs on the theme of *Spirit and Place*; curriculum material on the teaching of religion in American history; and a broad historical study of religion in Indiana over the past century. Through this project, POLIS seeks to understand religion's role in building community and strengthening local ties within the context of physically and socially dispersed metropolitan regions of the late-twentieth century.

The historical and contemporary information on religion that POLIS is collecting is augmented by other contemporary data found in the SAVI (Social Assets and Vulnerabilities Indicators) database. Developed as a joint project of POLIS and the United Way's Community Service Council, SAVI contains a vast array of urban information on Indianapolis, from census and demographic data to police and health department statistics. All of this data can be mapped and analyzed graphically through POLIS's comprehensive geographic information systems technology. Together, the contemporary and historical social and demographic data, the knowledge about local neighborhoods and religion, the mapping capabilities, and the historical primary source material collected here make THE POLIS CENTER one of the richest repositories of urban information in the country.

If you are interested in conducting historical or contemporary research on religion, urban culture, or other topics, using Indianapolis as a case study, please contact: Etan Diamond at THE POLIS CENTER, 425 University Boulevard, 301 CA, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (Internet: ediamond@iupui.edu)



(l to r) Blaine Brownell and David R. Goldfield at the annual dinner (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)



Kevin Starr (Credit: California State Library)

KEVIN STARR TO SPEAK AT U.H.A. LUNCHEON

Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California (as well as professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Southern California), will be the distinguished guest speaker at the annual U.H.A. luncheon at the San Francisco Hilton & Towers on April 19 (Saturday), held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. His topic: "Searching for the California Urban Archtype."

A prolific author, he best known for the acclaimed multi-volume history of the California, five volumes having been published since 1973 (the most recent being *The Dream Endures: California in the 1940s*) by Oxford University Press. Starr also has published *Land's End, A Novel* (McGraw-Hill, 1979) and *Over California* (Collins, 1990). He is a contributing editor to the *Los Angeles Times*.

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.

NEWSLETTER BIBLIOGRAPHERS STILL NEEDED!

The newsletter is still seeking replacement bibliographers for Canada and Europe. If interested, please contact the editor

as soon as possible.

Bibliographers interested in contributing to the newsletter in other national fields (e.g., Africa, Asia, Latin America) also are encouraged to offer submissions.)

Contact: Timothy R. Mahoney, Department of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588 (e-mail: tmahoney@unlinfo.unl.edu).

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