



The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
October 1989 Number 2

THE CITY IN ISRAELI HISTORY

The Jewish population of Israel is among the most urbanized in the world. Although Jews in their homeland were primarily farmers through the Roman-Byzantine period, in more recent centuries they have been city dwellers. In 1881, when the first wave of pioneers began to return from the lands of the Diaspora, nearly all the country's Jews lived in cities. Whereas the Arab population, particularly the Moslem element, was primarily rural, Jews lived in the four holy cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Safed and in the coastal towns of Jaffa, Haifa and Acre. The Zionist movement invested most of its resources trying to redress this imbalance by recreating a populous peasantry. Despite the priority Zionism gave to the countryside, historic circumstances — some unique and some universal — as well as the choices of individuals have made Israel into a society of cities. Indeed, the transformation of the initial Zionist imperative has been so marked that nearly all the new settlements in Judea and Samaria — the disputed territories on the west bank of the Jordan River — are towns rather than agricultural communes which have been so popularly and even romantically associated with Zionist pioneering. In sum, Jews in their homeland, like their brethren in the Diaspora, have remained an urban people despite a significant attempt at modification.

Three fundamental questions may be asked about the Zionist settlement experience that illuminate both the role of the city in Israeli history and the process of urbanization in general. (1) Why has Israel become so overwhelmingly urbanized despite the concentrated effort to return masses of Jews to the land? The explanation primarily involves issues in economic and political history. (2) What has been the impact of security problems and of competition for territory on the pattern of Zionist settlement? Since Zionist colonization has often taken place in a hostile environment, such problems have influenced the choice in communities Zionists have planted as well as their location. In effect, the historian must examine the modern Israeli city in a framework familiar to scholars of ancient Israelite or Crusader citadels which were intended to perform similar functions. (3) How and why have Israeli cities achieved their particular physical form? As an extension of modern Western urban culture, Israel is at once a laboratory and an occasional battleground for transplanting and adapting competing European town planning concepts and practices.

1. The Transformation of Zionist Settlement Policy

The anti-urban bias of Zionist ideology and settlement policy was rooted in the Enlightenment notion that the animus against Jews would diminish if they became "normal" by working the land like the peoples amongst whom they lived. Socialist criticism contributed to this belief with the analysis that Diaspora Jews were not sufficiently productive and their vocational distribution required correction by revolutionizing their occupational structure. Most thinkers — right or left — claimed that the individual and collective rejuvenation of

Jews depended on their reestablishing close contact with national soil. While variations on the virtues and necessity of working the land were common by the end of the 19th century throughout Europe and the United States, Zionists invested an exceptional proportion of their collective resources in the effort to move city-dwellers to the land.

Their endeavor produced significant results. The success of the kibbutz and the moshav as models of cooperative communitarian colonization are well-known. Jewish farmers transformed idle and barren land into a source of bounteous agriculture, making Israeli farming a model for many nations. Nevertheless, success in the countryside was not sufficient to produce the conditions necessary for a modern state. Zionists came to understand that there is a natural limit to the amount of talent and wealth a modern economy can invest in agriculture.

By the time the state was established in 1948, it was apparent that only an urban-industrial economy could resolve the economic and political dilemmas which Zionism faced. In 1950, the National Plan called for a network of cities in a hierarchy that ranged from three metropolises and regional centers to "development towns" of various sizes scattered throughout the country. Although at least 80% of the population was expected to live in these communities, this proportion became even larger and proximate to that found in such countries as the United States and West Germany. Even the majority of workers in kibbutzim, initially organized as agricultural communities, now work in industry rather than in the fields or orchards. This non-agricultural direction in Zionist colonization has been manifested over the past 20 years in the innovative form of settlement — labelled "urban" by geographers — that is being planted in the countryside of Judea and Samaria. These colonies are generally organized without reference to the agricultural activity carried out in their area and are tied to the urban economy inside the pre-1967 borders. Many residents commute to Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv for work while others remain at home writing software for computers or religious texts on parchment for international markets.

While the particular timing and pace are related to unique historical circumstances, Zionist urbanization is rooted in a universal process that is common to modern societies throughout the world: the inexorable movement of populations from the countryside to the city.

2) Spearheads of the Zionist Frontier

Perhaps the most ancient function of a city is to provide security to its inhabitants and to those residing in its vicinity. Reminders of this historic responsibility are still visible throughout the country in the ruins of Jericho in the Jordan valley, Herod's Caesarea on the Mediterranean, Crusader citadels in the Galilee, and Nabatean fortress/towns in the Negev. Indeed, Jerusalem's ancient walls still play a role in the contest for the city as demonstrated in Israel's 1948 War for Independence and in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Although contemporary technologies have diminished the value of walls, cities — as protected and armed concentrations of population in well-chosen locations — are an important means of controlling and defending strategic areas.

In the decade before World War I, officials responsible for colonization first located clusters of farming settlements in sensitive areas, consciously adopting the pattern of the last 19th century German penetration into hostile Polish territory around Posen. Later, for the political and economic reasons described above, it became necessary to integrate cities and towns with agricultural colonies as instruments of strategic utility. Facing the possible partition of Palestine in the late 1930s, Zionist strategists drew plans for encircling Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa with satellite suburbs and for founding Afula in the center of the agriculturally and strategically important Jezreel Valley.

The National Plan of 1950 dramatically advanced the use of cities for national defense. A small country lacking easily defensible borders, Israel used both agricultural and urban settlements for securing potentially vulnerable areas. Thus, Ashkelon was established immediately north of the Gaza strip, Kiryat Shemona was placed literally on the Lebanese border in the Upper Galilee, and Eilat developed alongside Jordan's Aqaba on the shore of the gulf both share. More than twenty other cities were founded or revitalized in order to control important and sensitive territory distant from the center of the country. At the same time, drawing upon the most modern concepts of population distribution as well as upon White Papers concerning the impact of the blitz on London during the Second World War, planners used this massive town-building program to decentralize Israel's limited population.

Colonization since the 1967 war has continued to be urban-directed. Israel's major settlements in the vast spaces of Egypt's Sinai were the cities of Ophira (Sharm el-Sheikh) at the southern end jutting into the Gulf of Suez and Yamit in the extreme north on the Mediterranean near the border with the Gaza Strip. In the densely populated west bank, planners are proceeding not only to repopulate the Jewish Quarter of Hebron but to establish within contested territory lines or clusters of defensible new towns. Jerusalem, perhaps the most disputed and significant area of all, has been encircled with new neighborhoods and settlements even as additional residents have been encouraged to move into the city's center. In many areas, the town has replaced the kibbutz as the chosen instrument for penetration and control.

Elements of the Zionist colonization program should be familiar to students of other frontiers including American urban historians who have described the movement westward from the fortifications of lower Manhattan to Detroit and St. Louis and across to the Pacific. The Israeli variation is a 20th century illustration of how cities may still act as "spearheads of the frontier," not only across vast spaces of a relatively uninhabited continent, but in a far more limited and intensely contested territory.

3) Transplanting Western Town Planning

Since Israel is on the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe, numerous cultures have left their imprint on the land in a wondrous and still visible variety of physical remains. This process continues. Modern Israeli towns have been built in forms derived from Western Architecture and city planning since European influences have been dominant.

Shortly after they conquered Jerusalem, for example, the British addressed the problem of rebuilding the city in an

appropriate style and order. Perhaps their best-known regulation, insistence on stone as the prime building material, insured that Jerusalem would retain its historic character. Most other regulations during the Mandate brought Jerusalem and the rest of the country under the influence of the town planning movement that was transforming Britain herself. An important agent in this process was Patrick Geddes who arrived from Outlook Tower in Edinburgh in 1920 on his way to India to plan 50 cities being developed under the Raj. His activities through the 1920s further reinforced the Garden City idea that was being advanced by the work and writings of a group of talented pioneer architects and planners. No less significant, European Jews, fleeing the spread of Nazism, brought capital and aesthetics they had learned to appreciate before emigration. Among them were 19 students of the Bauhaus who made not only Tel-Aviv but much of the country into a laboratory for the International Style by adapting avant-garde European concepts to a Mediterranean landscape.

In the course of transplanting and adapting, there was conflict over which concepts should be implemented. This competition vividly demonstrates how physical plans reflect discrete social and political assumptions. The most important debate concerned Tel-Aviv, Zionism's largest settlement by far and the first city found and built by Jews in 2,000 years. Established in 1909 as a garden suburb to Jaffa, it developed into a boom town by the 1920s. The question was whether Tel-Aviv would be developed on a bourgeois or a working-class model. Labour Zionists attempted to recreate the ethical and political values of the kibbutz in the new town even as middle class pioneers envisioned a capitalist, entrepreneurial community on a European and American standard. While Labour Zionists turned to the experience of "Red Vienna" of the 1920s in attempting to ring Tel-Aviv with satellite garden suburbs for workers and to construct housing estates — Wohnhofs — inside, the bourgeoisie imagined the elegance and amenities of the Ringstrasse.

Political control determined physical form. Although they dominated national institutions and were able to implant the kibbutz in the countryside, Labour Zionists failed to gain control over city hall. This meant that they could not achieve the land controls and municipal investment their schemes required. Instead, it was members of the middle class who founded and managed Tel-Aviv. They built a metropolis dedicated to facilitating commerce and industry and equipped their city with the complement of public art and institutions which their success made possible. In the larger context, Tel-Aviv became an entrepreneurial, commercial-industrial city and is immediately recognizable as one of a type established since the 19th century on the frontiers by an expanding international capitalist economy.

The themes outlined here are part of a rich historical experience that Israeli urban history has only begun to explore. Although the data may be parochial, a full appreciation of its meaning and significance requires a comparative framework and an international context that transcends place and time. This is appropriate, for while the study of urban history is conducted within national historiographies, the phenomena it examines are universal.

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Selwyn Ilan Troen received his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago where he was a student of Richard Wade. He is a Senior Associate Member and Weidenfeld Fellow at St. Anthony's College, Oxford University and the Lopin Professor of Modern History at Ben-Gurion University at Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel (on leave).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

With great pleasure I am able to report to you on some of the activities of our organization. As of early September, our charter membership exceeds 245 spurred very considerably by twin membership campaigns organized earlier this year by Josef Konvitz and Leonard Wallock. Particular efforts were made, with some success, to reach prospective members whose interest is outside of North American history. Included in our ranks, besides college and university faculty, are architects, archivists, civil servants, editors, independent scholars, lawyers, librarians, museum professionals, planners, and secondary school educators, all of whom share a common interest in urban history. You will receive, imminently, a dues statement for 1990.

If you are interested in volunteering to compile and edit a data base that would yield a directory, a guide to current urban history research, and a demographic profile of our membership, please contact me for further discussion as to what is entailed. Limited funds are available to support the cost of this project.

Our nominating committee, consisting of Carol O'Connor (chair), Gail Radford, and Gilbert Stelter, is collecting your recommendations and will soon be reporting to the membership on its deliberations. To be elected is our president for 1991, who will serve as president-elect during the preceding year. No seats on the board of directors expire until December 31, 1990.

During the forthcoming meeting of the American Historical Association, scheduled this year for San Francisco (December 27-30), our association will be very active.

On December 28th, beginning with cocktails at 6:30 PM, we shall have our annual dinner—open to members and their guests—at a restaurant off the premises of the convention hotel. Our guest speaker will be Richard C. Wade, outgoing president of The Urban History Association. Information

The City Historian of Rochester, New York

This publicly supported office, now in its 68th year, has maintained a fairly unique program. The following excerpts from an article by Blake McKelvey, City Historian Emeritus, marking the semi-centennial of Rochester History, tell something about the nature of this unusual job, as well as the scope and character of the journal.

Of course a major function of *Rochester History* has been to provide convenient summary reviews of the city's history, and we have produced a succession of such articles over the years . . . Summary accounts have their appeal, particularly to the general reader, but the historian of a city has to probe more deeply into its various aspects. As a municipal historian he has a special responsibility for an objective recording of its civic development. I accordingly devoted the April number in *Rochester History's* fifth year (1943) to a detailed review of "Civic Developments of Rochester's First Half Century."

But the city historian cannot limit his circle of colleagues to a local region. To see his city in perspective he must know its relation to other nearby and far distant cities. The report of my first trip abroad, "A Local Historian's Reflections After Visiting Foreign Cities" (January 1952) and, five years later, my comments on a dozen western cities visited during "A City Historian's Holiday," were compiled to help the historian as well as his readers see Rochester as part of a dynamic urban society. My January 1959, "The Rochester Area in American History," had a similar objective and helped to promote my involvement in a newly formed American Urban History Group and in similar conferences abroad.

about paid advance reservations—a necessity—will be mailed to you very early in November. We have Robert W. Cherny to thank for graciously accepting the considerable responsibility for our local arrangements.

On December 29th, beginning at 4:30 PM at a location in the convention hotel, we shall have our annual business meeting. Look for an agenda and accompanying documents, including a draft of our proposed by-laws, on or about December 1. Other issues requiring our discussion include: (1) the possibility of affiliation with the AHA; (2) the utility of an advertising campaign for new members; and (3) the creation of a committee to establish a series of annual prizes in urban history for distinction in scholarship, instruction, and exhibitions.

Looking ahead to the spring, William H. Whyte is scheduled as our distinguished guest speaker at the annual luncheon of The Urban History Association. It is scheduled for Noon on March 24 in conjunction with the convention of the Organization of American Historians in Washington, D.C. We have Sam Bass Warner, Jr. to thank for making these arrangements.

Elsewhere in this issue you have read abundant testimony as to the profusion of scholarly activities among our members in organizing panels on urban history at the meetings of disciplinary associations. Where feasible, The Urban History Association wishes to co-sponsor such sessions. Please check with me, early on, to avoid replication of effort and confusion.

For those of you who may need phone me, please note that on November 11, 1989 the Area Code for suburban Chicago changes from 312 to 708-295-2307.

Michael H. Ebner
Lake Forest College

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N.E.H. FUNDS CITY HISTORY CONFERENCE FOR OCTOBER, 1990

The Chicago Historical Society and *The Journal of Urban History* will jointly sponsor an invitational research conference supported by The National Endowment for the Humanities (pending the completion of a financial agreement) on October 25-27, 1990. Entitled "Modes of Inquiry for American City History," it holds the promise of profoundly shaping the future direction of scholarly research for American urban historians. The conference will consist of 3 plenary sessions, 11 topical sessions, 3 field sessions, 2 roundtable sessions, and 1 concluding session.

Organizers of the conference are: Michael H. Ebner, Kathleen Neils Conzen, and Russell Lewis. The meeting site will be the Chicago Historical Society. Selected proceedings will be published in an edited volume by The University of Chicago Press in 1992.

The conference is distinguished from earlier meetings of American urban historians, the last of which occurred in 1970, by its sharply defined focus. Participants will self-consciously explore the nature of historical inquiry about the American city, setting this research field within the larger context of humanistic discourse. Framing the conference is a series of central questions, pursued in five commissioned papers delivered at three plenary sessions by Thomas Bender, Michael H. Frisch, Terrence J. McDonald, Eric H. Monk-

konen, and Charles Tilly. Among the other conference participants are: Gunther Barth, Lizabeth A. Cohen, William J. Cronon, Oscar Handlin, Neil Harris, Dolores Hayden, Samuel P. Hays, Kenneth T. Jackson, Ann Durkin Keating, Lynn Hollen Lees, Diane Lindstrom, Gary B. Nash, Carol A. O'Connor, Christine Meisner Rosen, Mary Corbin Sies, Gilbert A. Stelter, Susan Page Tillett, Joel A. Tarr, David Thelen, and Gwendolyn Wright.

Although the schedule of papers to be delivered is in place, approximately 125 spaces remain available for American urban historians who wish to participate in the conference deliberations. The basis of selection will be a record of scholarly accomplishment for senior scholars and the promise thereof for junior applicants. Prospective participants should send, by January 15, 1990, the following information: (i) a vita, (ii) a 250 word statement of current research, and (iii) a request, where essential, for partial travel support. Reviewing the applications will be the conference organizers and two members of the conference's national advisory committee, Blaine A. Brownell and Perry R. Duis. Notification will be made to applicants on or before February 15, 1990.

Applications should be submitted to: Mr. Russell Lewis, Head, Department of Publications, The Chicago Historical Society Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

Publications

The OAH Magazine of History, a publication aimed at secondary school teachers, will sponsor a theme issue on urban history. Topics covered will include historiography, lesson plans, profile of a teacher, dialogue (a column presenting viewpoints and opinions about teaching), classroom media and teaching strategies. Prospective contributors should write to: Dr. Bernard Hirschhorn, 301 E. 21 Street, New York, New York 10010.

The Historical Society of Washington D.C. (formerly the Columbia Historical Society) has recently published the first issue of a new journal, due out twice a year, entitled *Washington History*. It becomes the successor to *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, 1897-1989*. *Washington History* will publish sound scholarship on the whole range of Washington social, political, cultural, and physical history in ways that will both inform the scholar and interest the general public. It will also include book reviews and short notes on books and films. The editors welcome contribution from both professional historians and from those for whom history is an avocation. The magazine is available free to members of The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. For more information contact the society at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036-1507.

Editorial Opportunities

Urban Resources, a multi-disciplinary urban studies journal is searching for a new sponsor and editor. For its first five years, the University of Cincinnati has served as the journal's sponsor, and Leslie F. Chard, Professor of English at the University of Cincinnati as its editor. Each issue of the journal has focused on a topic of current interest to urban scholars and practitioners. These topics have been arranged so as to involve a wide array of urban disciplines in any given year. An on-going concern was to give voice to humanists and historians, as well as others. For more information contact Professor Chard, *Urban Resources*, Division of Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati, Mail Location 175, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0175, (513)475-0175.

Awards, Grants and Prizes

"The French Revolution: Paris and the Provinces" is the topic for the 1990 Webb-Smith Essay Competition sponsored by the Department of History, University of Texas at Arlington. For the best essay of 10,000 words or less on this topic, a prize of \$500 will be awarded. (Among recent winners of this competition is Raymond Mohl, founding editor of *The Journal of Urban History* and professor of history at Florida Atlantic University, for an essay on sunbelt cities.) Manuscripts are due by February 1, 1990. For additional information write to The Webb Memorial Lectures Committee, Department of History, Box 19529, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019-0529.

The 1989 Abel Wolman Award winner is *Technology and the Rise of the Networked City in Europe and America* (Temple), edited by Joel A. Tarr, Carnegie Mellon University and Gabriel Dupuy, University of Paris. This \$1000 award is made annually for the best book in public works history published during the preceding year. It is sponsored by the Public Works Historical Society in memory of Dr. Abel Wolman, who was one of the leaders in twentieth century urban public health. A brochure highlighting the 20 nominated books for this year's competition, as well as discount order information, is available. The deadline for nominating books published during 1989 is February 15, 1990. To receive the brochure highlighting this year's nominees, or information on the award itself, contact the Public Works Historical Society, 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, (312)667-2200.

Two books in urban history have been recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society with its Awards for Superior Achievement, bestowed annually to the best published volume on some aspect of the state's history. Winners are *Creating Chicago's North Shore, A Suburban History* (Univ. of Chicago Press) by Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College, and *A Century of Urban Life, The Norwegians in Chicago Before 1930* (Norwegian-American Historical Society) by Odd Lovoll, St. Olaf College.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. Contributors to the bibliography this issue include: Mark Cortiula, University of Guelph (Canada); Thomas Sugrue, Harvard University (European); Gail Hershatter, Williams College (China); Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); and Ronald Dale Karr, University of Lowell (U.S. articles).

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Upcoming Conferences and Seminars

■ The St. Louis Urban and Local History Seminar is in its first full year. The seminar sponsors monthly meetings at Harris Stowe State University. Among the 1989-90 speakers are: Jon Teaford, Michael Conzen, Katherine Corbett, Neil Primm, Charles Kindleberger, Michael Ebner, Iver Burnstein and Robert Tabscott. For more information, contact Mark Abbott, Harris Stowe State College, 3026 Laclede, St. Louis, MO 63103, 314-533-3366, ext. 403.

■ The 23rd Annual Duquesne University History Forum, Pittsburgh, PA, October 25-27, 1989, focusses on urban history. Of the 45 sessions scheduled, 21 deal with topics concerning cities, e.g., African cities, oral history in an urban setting, the city in the classical world, women's education and reform in nineteenth century cities, the changing position of blacks in urban and suburban America, snowbelt cities, small cities, the medieval city, urban transportation systems, etc. Plenary addresses will be delivered by Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Boston University ("The Environmental History of the Metropolis") and Jan De Vries, University of California, Berkeley ("Urban History in its Context"). The program booklet is available from: History Forum, c/o Department of History, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282-1704. To make hotel reservations call Hyatt Pittsburgh, 412-471-1234.

■ A number of sessions pertaining to urban topics are scheduled for the 1989 American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, November 2-5, 1989 at the Toronto Sheraton and Towers. Gayle Gullett, Indiana University Northwest, Susan Albertine, Susquehanna University, and Frances Pohl, Pomona College, will present papers at "Political Uses of Public Space: Women's Work at the Columbia Exposition, Chicago, 1893," with comments by Eric Sadweis, University of California, Berkeley and Karen Blair, Central Washington University. "Does the Border Make a Difference? Adoption of New Systems in a Transnational Context" includes papers by Donald F. Davis, University of Ottawa (on jitney buses), Paul Bellamy, Case Western Reserve (on workmen's compensation), and Patricia Petersen, University of Toronto (on municipal governments), with comments by David Flaherty, University of Western Ontario and Michael Grossberg, Case Western Reserve University. George Lipsitz, University of Minnesota, will present "Discursive Space and Social Space: Television, Highways, and Cognitive Mapping the 1950s City" at a session entitled "Apocalyptic Culture: The Beginning of the End?" "Constructing the Audience: Changing Relationships Between Culture Producers and Consumers" includes papers by Steven Tischler on baseball; Robert Snyder, Princeton University, on vaudeville; Barbara L. Tischler, Barnard College, on orchestras; and Margaret King, Thomas Jefferson University, on theme parks. David R. Goldfield, University of North Carolina will chair "Cultural Landscapes and City Planning in Canada and the U.S." with papers by Margaret Ripley Wolfe, East Tennessee State University, Gilbert A. Stelter, University of Guelph, and Kathy Sue Edwards, University of Texas, Austin, and comments by Blaine A. Brownell, University of Alabama, Birmingham and Bruce Daniels, University of Winnipeg. Adam Walaszek, Jagiellonian University, Poland, Winston Chrislock, College of St. Thomas, Ivan Cizmic, University of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Matjaz Klemencic, University of Maribor, Yugoslavia, will present papers at "Immigrants as Community Builders in America and at Home: Cleveland's Eastern Europeans in

Eastern European Perspective." "The Politics of Public Space in Turn-of-the-Century Budapest and New York" will include papers by Gabor Gyani, Roy Rosenzweig, Elizabeth Blackmar, Peter Sipos, David C. Hammack and Zsuzsa Nagy.

■ The Urban History Association will sponsor a session entitled "The Impact of Southern Urban History" when the Southern Historical Association convenes in Lexington, Kentucky, November 8-11. Chairing the panel is President Richard C. Wade, C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center; participants in the discussion will be David R. Goldfield, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Kathleen Neils Conzen, University of Chicago, Blaine A. Brownell, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Don H. Doyle, Vanderbilt University.

■ Urban history is the focus of several sessions on the program of the November 16-19 meeting of the Social Science History Association Meeting at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University will preside over "Gentrification and Displacement in New York City: Urban Metaphors and Western Motifs," Leonard Wallock, Hunter College, and Neil Smith, Rutgers University will present papers, with comments by Ira Katznelson, New School, and Sharon Zukin, Brooklyn College. At "Nonprofit Organizations in Urban Areas," Jon Van Til, Rutgers-Camden, will preside, Leda MacIntyre Hall, Indiana University-South Bend, and Mark Rosentraub, Indiana University-Fort Wayne will present papers, and Marc Levine, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Jeffrey Henig, George Washington University will provide comments. Bill Brustein, University of Minnesota, David LoRomer, Michigan State University, Jan DeVries, University of California-Berkeley, and David Miller, Carnegie-Mellon University, will present papers at a session entitled "Space and Society: Geographical Analysis of Social Structures," while Harvey Graff, University of Texas at Dallas, will preside and Tom Hall, De Pauw University will provide comments. Kathleen Conzen, University of Chicago, Roger Lotchin, University of North Carolina, Terrence J. McDonald, University of Michigan, Christine Rosen, University of California-Berkeley, David Hammack, Case Western Reserve, and Eric H. Monkkonen, University of California-Los Angeles, will participate in "Roundtable: Eric Monkkonen's 'America Becomes Urban.'"

■ The 1990 meeting of the College Art Association will include several sessions on urban themes. The meeting will be held in New York City, February 15-17, 1990 and will include: "The Townscape in Western Art," sponsored by John S. Hallam, Rice University; "Architecture and the Design of Cities," sponsored by Edward Kaufman, Columbia University; "Art and Civic Identity," sponsored by Patricia Fortini Brown, Princeton University; and "Images of the Underclass: 1500-1800," sponsored by Barry Wind, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For more information about the meeting contact the program chair, Patricia Mainardi, Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

■ A number of sessions related to urban history are scheduled for the March 22-25, 1990 Organization of American Historians annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Along with the UHA luncheon (March 24) with William H. Whyte as the featured speaker, there will be a session devoted to the new suburban history (March 23) and the historiography of American urban history. More details on these sessions in the next newsletter.

French Urban History: Papers at the International Congress on the History of the French Revolution

This Congress, held May 3-6 in Georgetown served as the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies, and included several papers on urban history. Many papers on various aspects of culture, society, politics and economics dealt with issues relevant to an understanding of the urban past. A session on urban planning and revolution included papers by Marcel Roncayolo, Ecole Normale Supérieure, "Planification urbaine pendant la Revolution française et l'Empire," Barrie Ratcliffe, Université Laval, "Urbanization and Urbanisme: Parisian Elites and Sewage, 1789-1847," Nicholas Papayanis, Brooklyn College, "Public Transportation in Paris from the Revolution to the Second Empire," with a comment by John Merriman, Yale. In a session on Paris and the arts in the Revolution, Stanley Mellon, University of Illinois at Chicago, discussing "Paris: A Museum of the French Revolution," discussed the ways in which people in the nineteenth century contemplated the Revolution as they visited contemporary Paris, and the ways in which buildings in Paris changed as the Revolution itself was remembered at different times.

In a session on urban problems, Philip Benedict, Brown, and Robert Schneider, Brandeis, gave a paper on "Urban Development and Civic Life under the Old Regime: Implications for the French Revolution," which suggested that the 18th century was not a period of accelerating urbanization in France, as scholars have argued. Urbanization per se, therefore, was not a contributing factor to the outbreak of the Revolution. Living standards, overall, were rising before the Revolution, but even though the economic circumstances of different groups relative to each other were shifting, the forces of economic change were not strong enough to have contributed to the Revolution. The authors emphasized that cultural changes in the behavior of individuals and groups were probably more radical than economic changes affecting their status. These behavioral changes, which relate to the now-fashionable topic of sociability, illustrate the attenuation (but not the collapse) of more traditional norms and the diffusion of new ones based on a clearer distinction between private and public life. Finally, they argue that efforts to support and enhance municipal institutions in the 18th century may have influenced ideas of popular participation in government, and in any case show some of the limits to the absolutist state.

As these papers suggest, the task of explaining the French Revolution impels French historians to reevaluate the relationships between people and cities and between cities and the state from the middle of the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.

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1989 Summer NEH Seminars

"Urban History: Places and Processes:" NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers, 1989, University of Virginia

The purpose of this seminar was to explore the ways the history of a "place leads inevitably to a discussion of the broader frameworks that constitute intellectual and historiographical debates. We were concerned with the ways knowledge of a particular place can illuminate, and be illuminated by, broader historical perspectives.

In the first three weeks, we sought to understand how cultures, politics, and economics interact in a shared spatial concept. The following five weeks were devoted to the study of integrative functions, that is, those processes of change that transcend the historical problems associated with any particular city. The goal was not to find universal laws but rather to establish meaningful connections between large-scale structural changes and local life. Most readings were on American urban history from the 1850s to the present.

Thirteen scholars participated in the seminar. There were nine full-time college teachers (one economist, one political scientist, one sociologist, one social psychologist, one art historian, four historians) one part-time teacher, part-time urban planner, one museum curator, and one consultant in historic preservation. The thirteenth member of the seminar was a Chinese professor of American history from Shanghai, who made his scheduled trip immediately after the Tiananmen Square massacre. Participants ranged in age from their late twenties to their mid sixties. They came from all regions of the United States.

Olivier Zunz, Director
University of Virginia

This past summer, for the fourth and I expect the last time, I had the privilege of leading a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers on American Urban History: Cities and Neighborhoods. Meeting on the campus of Columbia University between June 12 and August 4, the seminar was limited to thirteen participants, including six from New York State, two from Pennsylvania, and one each from Rhode Island, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, and Greece. Only three were from history departments, with three others from sociology, two from Afro-American studies, two from urban studies, one from architectural history, one from geography, and one from the museum field.

The seminar required three kinds of activities. The first involved wide readings and active discussions, usually at regular seminar meetings on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. A second aspect of the summer program involved individual research projects, which in this case ranged from a history of Bergenfield, New Jersey, to a study of the evolution of Fordham Road in the Bronx, to an examination of the role of social scientists in designing the "war on poverty" program, to an analysis of New York City construction industry. Three members of the seminar focused on history or present circumstances of Harlem.

The third basic seminar activity, and that which elicited the most enthusiastic response, was the scheduling almost every week of a field trip. As the summer progressed, members of the group took in such places as the Municipal Archives, Chinatown, Little Italy, the Lower East Side Tenement House Museum, Co-op City, Fort Schuyler, Harlem, Astoria, the South Bronx, the Queens Museum, Fort Hamilton, Staten Island, and Richmondtown Restoration.

Kenneth T. Jackson
Columbia University

Athens and Rome—Florence and Venice

A conference entitled "Athens and Rome—Florence and Venice City States in Classical Antiquity and Medieval Italy" was held at Brown University May 7-9, 1989. Inspired largely by the late E.J. Bickerman's proposition that constitutional development in medieval Italian communes generally paralleled that of early Rome, and that features of the social history of archaic GrecoRoman city-states were comparable to better known medieval analogues, an international group of ancient and medieval scholars met in Providence to systematically compare aspects of medieval and classical city-states.

Six themes for comparison were identified: consciousness and representation; citizens and political classes; politics and conflicts; urban and architectural forms; symbols and rituals; and territory, external relations and empire. Papers were prepared by twenty-four scholars, including David Herlihy, Marino Berengo, Glen W. Bowersock, Giorgio Chittolini, Guido Clemente, and Christiane Klapisch-Zuber. Synopses of the papers, which were distributed before the conference, were presented.

Discussion by selected commentators and an audience of 150 registrants followed. The conference was organized by Kurt Raafflaub and Anthony Molho, Brown University. Working papers of the conference are available for \$30 from the Institute for International Studies, Box 1970, Brown University, Providence RI 02912. Requests should be addressed to J. Emlen.

Calvert Vaux Symposium

On April 14 and 15, 1989 the Museum of the City of New York hosted a symposium, co-sponsored by the National Association of Olmsted Parks, on the career of the architect and city planner Calvert Vaux, entitled "Shaping Nineteenth Century New York: Politics, Planning and Reform, 1860-1910." Papers presented in lecture/slide form encompassed the social, political and cultural milieu in which Vaux worked, and his partnerships with Frederick Law Olmsted.

The following scholars presented papers. They were introduced and moderated for discussion by Dr. Dana White of Emory University: Deborah Gardner, The New-York Historical Society, "Calvert Vaux and Nineteenth Century New York City," George Tatum, advisory board for The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers presented "The Architectural Styles of Calvert Vaux," David Schuyler, Franklin and Marshall College, "The Partnership of Olmsted, Vaux & Co.: Public Designs in the New York Metropolitan Area," Bruce Kelly, New York landscape architect, "Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted — Partners," David Hammack, Case Western University, "Who Were the Politicians, and How Did They Play?" David Scobey, Brandeis University, "Vaux Populi? Class Politics and Urban Design in Gilded-Age New York," and Elizabeth Blackmar, Columbia University and Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University, "The Park and the People: Central Park and its Publics, 1860-1910." Discussion is underway for the future publication of these papers in book form. Additionally, walking tours were led of Prospect Park, Central Park, and of Tompkins Square Park. Gallery talks were provided by William Alex, President of the Frederick Law Olmsted Association and guest curator of the Museum's exhibition, Calvert Vaux: Architect Planner. The overall organization of these programs was handled by Rick Beard, Associate Director for Programs at the Museum. The symposium was successful because the specific audience it attracted was pleased to convene and share their common interests and research. [Contributed by Liz Smith, Museum of the City of New York]

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Jeffrey M. Diefendorf, University of New Hampshire writes: "For several years I have been working on a book on the rebuilding of Germany's bombed cities after 1945. The project has entailed research in nearly two dozen city, state, and private archives and specialized libraries in Germany and in the United States, and I have conducted numerous interviews with former German planners. What began as a comparison of the experience of three or four cities has grown to a much broader study of the process of reconstruction in nearly all of West Germany's major cities. The original time limit, 1945 to 1955, has also been expanded because it became clear that one cannot explain what happened if one starts in 1945. I will be showing that there were fundamental continuities between the Weimar Republic, the entire Nazi period, and the period after 1945.

At the same time, I have been examining aspects of reconstruction that were directly related to the massive bombing campaign and the crushing of the Third Reich and that therefore presented new problems for the Germans: rubble clearance, emergency repairs and construction, shortages of building materials and labor, the role of the occupying armies and the impact of their priorities, and financial questions deriving from the collapse and subsequent revival of the West German economy. Some of the results of my research have appeared in article form; I expect to finish the book during this academic year. Finally, as a result of exchanges that came out of the growing scholarly interest in postwar rebuilding all over Europe, I have also become interested in cross-national comparisons. An international conference in 1987 has led to a book of essays (*The Rebuilding of Europe's Bombed Cities*) of which I am an editor. It will be published this Fall by The MacMillan Press and St. Martin's."

Mary Corbin Sies, University of Maryland explains: "This fall I am finishing the manuscript for a book which will be published by Temple University Press as part of the "Technology and Urban Growth" series; it's entitled *The Suburban Ideal: Cultural Metaphor for Modern American Living, 1877-1917*. The study is a cultural history of the suburban ideal as it was articulated and realized in physical form by groups of upper-middle class Americans living in turn-of-the-century planned, exclusive suburbs. My conclusions are based upon historical ethnographies of Short Hills, NJ; the St. Martin's section of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia; Kenilworth, IL; and Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis. Drawing from historical records and extensive artifactual field analysis, I reconstruct the suburban design process in each community in order to comprehend the organization and the meanings of the suburban built environment and of the lives lived there."

Jeffrey S. Adler, University of Florida notes: "I am completing revisions of a manuscript on the rise and fall of antebellum St. Louis. This project examines the influence that eastern merchants exerted on the development of St. Louis and its trading partners. I am particularly interested in analyzing the ways in which sectionalism influenced the growth of western cities, and my research indicates that sectional tensions accelerated the relative decline of St. Louis and contributed to the extraordinary development of its principal rival, Chicago. I am also beginning research on the changing relationship between crime and poverty in the nineteenth century. This project will examine the rise of the "dangerous class" in the American city.

Dates to Hold for 1989-90

At the American Historical Association Meeting San Francisco, 1989

December 28th, 6:30 PM

A private dinner at a local restaurant
for members of The Urban History Association,
their families, and friends

Speaker: Richard C. Wade

[reservation information will be mailed on November 1]

December 29th, 4:30 PM

The annual business meeting of
The Urban History Association

[details and exact location will follow]

At the Organization of American Historians Meeting Washington, D.C., 1990

April 24th, Noon

The Annual Urban History Association Luncheon

Speaker: William H. Whyte

[register in advance thru O.A.H.]

Bibliographies, Guides and Research Collections

The Center for Washington Area Studies has published several bibliographies which should be helpful to urban historians. *A Selected Bibliography for Washington and Descriptions of the Major Local Collections*, by Perry G. Fisher and Linda J. Lear, describes various repositories for Washington with commentary on quality and utility (\$6.00). Susan L. Klaus compiled *Links in the Chain: Greenbelt, Maryland and the New Town Movement in America*, an annotated bibliography from the urban planning and historical literature of the greenbelt tradition and the new towns movement. It celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the federal Greenbelt towns and is available for \$5.00. In addition, *Selected Theses and Dissertations on the Washington D.C. Region*, compiled by Rita A. Calvan, highlights research from capitol area universities since 1940 (\$4.00). These publications are available at the prices noted above from the Center for Washington Area Studies, George Washington University, 2020 K Street, NW #2409A, Washington DC 20006.

The Cincinnati Historical Society published *The Bicentennial Guide to Greater Cincinnati* this past December. *The Bicentennial Guide* was initially conceived of as an update of a book that has been a standard reference work on the city for more than forty years: *Cincinnati, A Guide to the Queen City and Its Neighbors*, published in 1943 and created by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. This new guidebook, however, gradually evolved into a very different work. While the older guide was essentially a portrait of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky as the FWP writers saw it in the late 1930s and a catalogue of significant and historic sites and buildings still existing at the time, *The Bicentennial Guide* takes a broader historical perspective, focusing on how the city and its component suburbs have developed and changed through time. The book is divided into four sections, each consisting of communities in the metropolitan area that are related by geography, as well as the time and manner of their development. Each part begins with photographs and a short introduction to explain

how the communities described in that part of the book are related. Then, maps and written directions lead a tour through the area in question, past important or representative businesses, subdivisions, churches, shopping strips, railyards, and institutions. Shorter essays chronicle the history of individual sites and analyze their changes in the broader context of community change. *The Bicentennial Guide* was compiled by Cincinnati Historical Society staff members, Geoffrey J. Giglierano and Deborah A. Overmyer, with Frederic L. Propas. The 1988 guide is illustrated with over 400 color and black and white photos, both contemporary and historic. There is an index and a bibliography of important primary and secondary sources. It is available through the Cincinnati Historical Society, Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Museums and Historical Societies

The Chicago Historical Society exercises an influential role nationally by actively encouraging collaborative efforts between its curatorial staff and historians in the academy. *Chicago History*, the Society's quarterly edited by Russell Lewis, publishes scholarly articles in an illustrated format aimed at a general readership; recent contributors include Michael P. Conzen, Robert Fishman, and Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz. The Urban History Seminar was instituted in 1983, inspired by The Columbia University Seminar on the City. Meeting nine times each year, it provides a forum for discussion of research in progress; it encourages papers from scholars ranging from doctoral candidates to the most seniors contributors to the field. The roster of speakers for 1989-90 includes: Elaine Abelson, Joseph L. Arnold, John D. Buenker, William J. Cronon, Roger Daniels, Robert Fisher, Paul G. Merriam, Steven A. Reiss, and Mary Corbin Sies. The Society also involves scholars, working in tandem with its curatorial staff, in the development of new museum exhibitions. Historians have served as co-curators on the two major permanent exhibitions, one involving the American Revolution (Alfred Young) and another on the Civil War (Eric Foner.) And most recently, Sam Bass Warner, Jr. and Susan Hirsch have been appointed to collaborate with Robert I. Goler, curator for decorative and industrial arts, on the new exhibition about Chicago in the 1890's scheduled to open next year. For more information about these activities write to: Ms. Susan Page Tillett, Director of Curatorial Affairs, The Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

Fellowship Opportunity

Two residential fellowships for research projects in American architecture, landscape studies, or urbanism, past or present, will be offered in 1990-91 by the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University. Applications will be considered from scholars in any academic discipline as well as from practitioners. A Ph.D. or its equivalent in professional achievement is required. The Center intends to offer a Senior Fellowship at \$50,000 and a Junior Fellowship at \$30,000. The Fellows will be expected to teach one seminar and take part in the activities of the Center during the academic year. Application deadline is December 15, 1989. For further information and application forms, contact: Gwendolyn Wright, Director, Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027.