

The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
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THE "EDO BOOM"

When I sat down with a colleague to discuss this essay, hoping to crystallize my thoughts on the state of Japanese urban history, he did me one better by providing just the sort of "hook" I had been looking for. A Japanist himself, recently returned from an extended stay in Tokyo, he related with bemusement an experience he had last spring. One Monday, it seems, he caught an ad in the daily paper announcing that a six-volume reprint of the *Pictorial Guide to Edo* (originally issued in 1834) would go on sale the following day. As this rare guidebook is central to his work, he was feeling especially fortunate as he made his way to a large Tokyo bookstore later in the week. He scanned the shelves in search of the quarry, but was compelled at last to summon assistance. The clerk informed him, to his amazement, that the entire run had sold out a day after it reached the booksellers: Not a set was to be had in Tokyo. My colleague's experience bears witness to the so-called "Edo boom," that surge of popular interest in anything and everything concerning historical Tokyo, which has recently swept Japan. Beyond the capital as well—in Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, and a host of other cities—similar "booms" have been widely publicized. The Japanese, it seems, have at last rediscovered their cities.

The "Edo boom" is but the most visible example of a "city boom" which has been gathering momentum for nearly a decade. The latter has generally been attributed to widespread public concern with the quality of city life in Japan. Afflicted with a host of ills—including astronomical land prices, soaring rents, high costs of living, unchecked urban sprawl, environmental pollution, cramped living conditions, inadequate public amenities, and manifold social problems—Japanese cities have become decidedly less hospitable. Some residents have fled to suburbia, the privileged few to planned communities called "new towns." But, as the demand for suburban digs has risen and the supply of available space dwindled, housing costs have soared beyond the reach of most Japanese. Moreover, urbanization has proceeded at such a pace that many suburban communities have already been gobbled up by the metropolis. Those along the Osaka-Kobe corridor have seen such extensive development that they are virtually indistinguishable from the great cities which straddle them. For the residents of this vast conurbation, and others like it, there is no longer any escape from the realities of urban life. In my reading, the current "city boom" signals a popular awakening of sorts: At last the Japanese are acquainting themselves with the cities they live in and seeking ways to improve them.

Well before popular interest in the city began to rise, a new generation of urbanists was quietly at work diagnosing the ills of the Japanese city. The pathbreaking studies of two urban economists, Ken'ichi Miyamoto and Tokue Shibata deserve special mention. Their multi-dimensional analyses of the postwar city, produced in the 1970s, set the tone for Japanese urban studies on the eve of the "city boom." Highlighting the social consequences

of rapid urban industrialization, they effectively challenged the capitalist model of city development promoted by big business and big government alike. Miyamoto and Shibata revealed the problems attendant to urbanization and, in the process, stimulated critical concern with city life. Urban studies has since attracted a wide range of practitioners, from disciplines as diverse as sociology and engineering.

Some among this new generation of urbanists see themselves as visionaries. Projecting beyond the problems which currently plague Japanese cities, they envision the creation of portopolises and technopolises, or of great underground cities called "All-celands." But the great majority of urbanists have approached the Japanese city as a patient of sorts, poking and prodding every imaginable part of the urban anatomy. They are the epidemiologists of city life, devoted to restoring the health of urban Japan. That this new (and prolific) generation of urbanists has yet to produce a fresh agenda for Japanese cities is a matter of some concern; it is not, however, difficult to explain. Simply put, the very idea of "urban studies" is alien to Japanese scholars, for it challenges traditional disciplinary divisions. The topical and methodological barriers dividing Japanese urbanists continue to inhibit the sort of interdisciplinary research that might one day transform the "city boom" into an "urban initiative."

Despite their divergent interests and approaches, these urbanists have evinced a common perspective—one of particular interest to the readers of this newsletter. Nearly all have looked to the past for clues to the urban ills of the present. Miyamoto and Shibata have themselves led the charge, launching major historical studies of prewar urban Japan. Not only have they identified parallels between today's urban problems and those of the 1910s and '20s, when modern Japanese cities first began to expand, they have located kindred spirits in several prewar urban reformers—men like Seki Hajime, the mayor of Osaka who strove to transform an industrial metropolis into a "livable city." Nor have scholars acted alone in giving urban studies a distinctly historical bent. They have frequently been joined by civic action groups and municipal governments committed to raising the historical consciousness of Japan's urban citizenry. Historical museums and archives have been opened in cities all over Japan, not to mention virtually every urban ward of Tokyo; and local historical exhibits and "events" have become a common feature of city life.

Yet, even as the current "city boom" has witnessed increasing interest in Japan's urban past, it has also generated a certain excess of enthusiasm in some urbanists. The self-styled "spatial anthropologist" Hidenobu Jinnai (an architect by training) is a good case in point. While "reading" the social spaces of historical Tokyo, as a "text" of Japan's transition from tradition to modernity, he so rhapsodically mourns the loss of neighborhood intimacy that one is tempted to retitile his work "Elegies for Edo." In all fairness, most such urbanists remain self-confessed novices in the field of urban history. But their presentism frequently blinds them to the complexities of the past, undermining their historical

credibility in the process. That few such urbanists have made any effort to acknowledge Japan's rich tradition of urban historical study has made matters worse. It has meant, among other things, that those tilling the field of urban history--amateurs, novices and professionals alike--frequently appear to be working at cross purposes.

Equally problematic is the fact that Japanese urban history has only recently been recognized as a distinct field of study. Over the past seventy years, Japan has witnessed the increasing popularity of "local studies" (*chiho-shi*). Any number of historians--including the redoubtable Takeo Yazaki, whose social history of the Japanese city has been translated into English--have chronicled the processes of urban development and detailed the changing character of city life in Japan. Their efforts have been echoed by teachers and archivists who, under municipal sponsorship, have laboriously compiled multi-volume histories of virtually every city and urban ward in Japan. Of late, local historical societies have also gotten into the act, issuing their own monthly magazines. But all such studies have been recognized within the rubric of local studies, not that of urban history.

There is, regrettably, little evidence of cooperation (no less mutual recognition) between these "old" urban historians and the new generation of urbanists. The old dismiss the new as interlopers, and the new disregard the old as antiquarians. Within the historical discipline, which has recently seen a surge in interest in urban topics, rivalry between the (old) chroniclers and the (new) interpreters of Japanese urban history has seriously divided the field. This said, there are signs as well that the walls between them have begun to crumble. In the July 1989 issue of the historical journal *Rekishi Hyoron*, for example, five pioneers of the new urban history openly challenged their colleagues to proceed with greater methodological self-awareness and to initiate meaningful dialogue with one another. Of comparable significance is the recent release of a three-volume "Introduction to Japanese Urban History" (*Toshi-shi nyumon*, Tokyo University Press, 1989-90). This work, which includes contributions from both the old and the new generation, gives us cause to be optimistic about the future of Japanese urban history as a diverse and challenging field of study.

Indeed, Japanese urban history has already been heralded as one of the "hottest" fields in the discipline. One need only glance at the work of Shun'ya Yoshimi or Shinzo Ogi to understand why it has generated such excitement. Yoshimi's "dramaturgical" interpretation of Tokyo's amusement quarters has placed him on the cutting edge of post-structural analysis, and Ogi's innovative interpretation of the Edo-Tokyo transition--in which he argues that Tokyoites asserted cultural autonomy in the years immediately following the Meiji Restoration--openly challenges the conventional chronology of modern Japanese history. If works such as these continue to characterize scholarship in the field, its future is assured.

To their credit, the non-historians among the new generation of urbanists have recently taken steps to "legitimize" Japanese urban history. Their efforts will be rewarded in October, when urbanists in several disciplines (including history) meet in Tokyo to form the Urban History Research Association (*Toshi-shi-Kenkyukai*). According to one of its founders, Toshio Kamo, this association will be the first of its kind in Japan. Its formation should send a powerful signal to all Japanese urbanists engaged in historical investigation: The time has come to define the field of Japanese urban history and to articulate its concerns and objectives.

Jeffrey E. Hanes
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Note: Two bibliographic essays in English detailing developments in the field of Japanese urban history have recently appeared. Ryuichi Narita, Kinichi Ogura, and Akio Yoshie, "Japan" in Christian Engeli and Horst Matzerath, eds., *Modern Urban History Research in Europe, USA and Japan: A Handbook* (New York, 1988) surveys the literature in Japanese. For a comprehensive assessment of Western literature in the field (which is beyond the scope of this essay), see Theodore C. Bestor, "Lifestyles and Popular Culture in Urban Japan" in Richard Gid Powers and Hidetoshi Kato, eds., *Handbook of Japanese Popular Culture* (New York, 1989).

JOURNALS FOR URBAN HISTORIANS

The newsletter is pleased to initiate a continuing series, prepared by Michael Ebner, about scholarly journals of interest to urban historians.

Design Book Review, a quarterly established in 1983 and now reaching 20,000 readers, is an international review of architecture and design publications. Coverage includes interviews, essays, and design criticism in the fields of architecture, urbanism, landscape architecture, and design. Of particular interest to urban historians, based on a sampling of its contents, are reviews of books by Rick Beard, Eugenie Ladner Birch, Robert Fishman, Richard E. Foglesong, Donald J. Olsen, and William H. Whyte, plus an essay entitled "Urban History in the 1980's: A Review of Periodicals." Annual individual subscription is \$24; Barbara Oldershaw, Managing Editor, *Design Book Review*, 1418 Spring Way, Berkeley, CA 94708.

Urban Studies, published since 1964 and now edited at the University of Glasgow, deals with every kind of urban and regional problem which is susceptible to social science or other relevant analysis. It publishes six issues annually. Topics range from housing, employment, race, politics, and crime, to regional investment and transport. Eric H. Monkkonen, U.C.L.A., has edited a special issue entitled "The History of Urban Policy;" contributors included Jeffrey M. Diefendorf, Harold L. Platt, Kenneth A. Scherzer, John C. Schneider, and Marc A. Weiss. Even more recently, Jameson W. Doig reassesses the role of Robert Moses in the regional development of New York City and in the process provides a pointed rejoinder to Robert A. Caro. For editorial information write to: Managing Editors, *Urban Studies*, University of Glasgow, Adam Smith Building, Glasgow G12 8RT, U.K. or Professor Ben Chinitz, Coordinating Editor for USA, c/o Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, 26 Trowbridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. For subscription information: Carfax Publishing Company, 85 Ash Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748 or P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE, U.K.

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Inquiries about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be directed to: Julia Spraul-Schmidt, Membership Secretary, 2830 Urwiler Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211 USA.

Inquiries about the activities of the Association should be directed to: Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The highlight of recent Association activities is the successful initiative of Sam Bass Warner, Jr. that culminated in our Syllabus Exchange. Administered and expertly compiled by Judy M. Harris and published by The Valentine Museum (thanks to the splendid cooperation of its director, Frank Jewell), it has fast become an indispensable tool for teachers of urban history in its many forms. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about how to order your copy.

Committees appointed by President Warner are busy attending to their responsibilities. The nominating committee consists of Josef W. Konvitz, Gail Radford, and Gilbert A. Stelter (chair). Its report is expected imminently and you will receive a ballot next month. The reports of our two prize committees will be made at the annual meeting. The dissertation prize committee consists of James R. Grossman (chair), David R. Johnson, and Mary Corbin Sies; the book committee consists of Carl Abbott (chair), Maureen Flanagan, and Richard Harris. Prize recipients will be announced on December 29.

I am pleased to report that our by-laws were adopted by the Association's membership, based on a mail ballot conducted by Blaine Brownell last spring. Currently the law firm of Fuchs & Roselli, Ltd., Chicago and Lake Forest, is of counsel to the Association. The requisite legal necessities that will place us in good stead (as a bonafide not-for-profit organization) with the state of Illinois and the Internal Revenue Service are now near completion.

Plans are proceeding for our second annual business meeting and dinner (co-sponsored by the Columbia University Seminar on the City), to be held this year in New York City (in conjunction with the convention of the American Historical Association). The former will be situated at on December 28th (Friday) at 4:45 PM (in the Senate Suite of the Sheraton Centre Hotel); the latter will begin on December 29th (Saturday) at 6:30 PM in the 7th Regiment Mess of the historic 7th Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street (thanks to the considerable efforts of Leonard Wallock). The title of President Warner's talk is, "When Urban History is at the Center of our Curriculum?" You will be receiving reservation information for the dinner very early in November. Materials pertaining to the business meeting will be mailed early in December.

You should also know the our annual O.A.H. luncheon is scheduled for April 12th (Friday) at 12:15 PM in The Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Our distinguished speaker is Roger Daniels, Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati, who has selected as his topic: "Chinese as Urban Americans: A Missing History." Professor Daniels, a prolific scholar of immigration and ethnicity whose work is well known to many urban historians, is most recently the author of *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States* (HarperCollins, 1990). Thanks to our president-elect, Zane L. Miller, for making these arrangements.

Annual dues statements for 1991 will be mailed on October 19th. Judith Spraul-Schmidt, who recently completed a dissertation in urban history at the University of Cincinnati, has graciously agreed to serve the Association as our membership secretary. She will be responsible for dues collection, record keeping, and membership development, and I am grateful to her for accepting this key assignment.

Michael H. Ebner
Lake Forest College



Sam Bass Warner, Jr., President, and Richard Wade, Past-President of the UHA, December 1989. (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Social Science Research Council administers a program of undergraduate, dissertation, and postdoctoral awards for research on the urban underclass. Funding is provided by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development. Application deadline for the next round of awards is January 10, 1991. For further information: SSRC, Research on the Urban Underclass, 605 Third Avenue, NY, NY 10158.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States offers fellowships for research that seeks to improve understand of significant contemporary economic, political, and social developments involving the United States and Europe. The program does not support preparation for any degree. Projects may focus on either comparative domestic or international issues. Junior and senior scholars are encouraged to make application, due on November 15, 1990. Maximum award is \$30,000. For further information: The German Marshall Fund of the United States, 11 DuPont Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036 or 202-745-3950.

The University of Iowa's Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry, directed by Donald N. McCloskey, is funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities. Of particular interest to urban historians is the 2-week workshop scheduled for June 21-July 2, 1992, co-directed by Jeffrey Cox, Shelton Stromquist, and Linda K. Kerber. It will examine the ways through which social historians address, cultivate, engage, and seek to persuade their audiences. Deadline for fellowship application is March 1, 1991. For further information: POROI, W700 SSH, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. 319-335-2290.

Syllabus Exchange

The Urban History Association has published a Syllabus Exchange. It is inspired by Sam Bass Warner, Jr.'s conviction that it is essential to foster imagination and energy in the teaching of urban history in its varied shapes and forms. The bound volume exceeds 400-pages in length and includes nearly 70 syllabi. To purchase send \$25 to: U.H.A. Syllabus Exchange, c/o The Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1590 (Please make check or money order payable to The Valentine Museum). Purchasers outside USA must make payment in US dollars.

Teaching Urban History at Leuven

During the fall of 1989, I taught European urban history at the Catholic University of Leuven as part of an on-going faculty exchange between Penn and the oldest university in Belgium. Lecturing on early modern European cities to students who walked to class on streets clearly visible on seventeenth century maps and who registered for classes in the towns's medieval cloth hall brought on strong, but unnecessary feelings of redundancy. My students were upper-level undergraduates, all majoring in early modern European social and economic history. They knew enormous amounts about the Low Countries between 1500 and 1800, but were far less well informed about other places and periods; in any case they had had little experience in thinking about cities in any systematic way. Most were native speakers of Flemish, although a few were Francophone. I lectured in English, but was required to give them the option of taking exams and writing their papers in Flemish. (Most were competent and kind enough not to use that option!) The language politics of the university were complex, but currently stable since the university and its library were split into two autonomous halves during the 1960s.

I taught two courses: European urbanization from the early medieval period to the twentieth century and a seminar on the economic and social history of early modern towns. In the former, I lectured two hours a week, presenting a broadly comparative treatment of the evolution of towns in the various regions from the Elbe to the Shannon and from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. Regular slide lectures helped them visualize changes in city structures and planning decisions -- as well as tempted them to travel on future vacations. My second course was a discussion seminar, in which students read a variety of articles on topics such as migration, social conflict, and economic decline. My biggest contribution was to force comparisons and to introduce students to historians interested in the other social sciences. In fact, many found American styles of research and writing uncongenial and superficial. They were used to narrowly defined topics exhaustively researched in local archives and were suspicious of their methods and wider parameters. In comparison to classes at Penn, the students did little reading and to be encouraged to generalize. Since history students spend virtually all their time either in lecture classes taking notes (c. 20 hours a week!) or in an archive, they have limited opportunities for wider inquiry. Nevertheless, the better Leuven students were articulate, boisterous defenders of their history and styles of thought, and we learned from one another. By exam time, they were clearly at ease with the concept of urbanization and with the use of tools from other disciplines for analyzing cities in past times.

Lynn Hollen Lees
University of Pennsylvania

U.S. Urban Myths at French Conference

An International conference on "Urban and Rural Myths in American History, Literature and Culture" took place from March 2-4, 1989 at the University of Provence, France. Organized by the Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes Nord-Américaines (GRENA), the conference included participants from Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and North America. The twelve papers presented included "From Main Street to Lake Wobegon and Half-Way Back: The Ambiguous Myth of the Small Town in Recent American Literature" (Walter Holbling, University of Graz, Austria), "Mythe urbain et mythe rural: les stéréotypes racistes" (Sylvia Ullmo, University of Paris X), and "The Myth of the Master Builder: Robert

Moses and New York in the Decades Following World War II" (Leonard Wallock, Hunter College, CUNY). The conference papers will be published in December of 1990 and may be obtained by writing to Serge Ricard, GRENA Chairman, Centre des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Université de Provence, 29 avenue Robert Schuman, 13621 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1, France.

A City Comes of Age: An Exhibition

On October 24, the Chicago Historical Society will open a major exhibition presenting urban history concepts for the general public. "A City Comes of Age: Chicago in the 1890's" examines the formative decade in the city's history when "a million strangers" converged in Chicago, creating industries, ethnic neighborhoods and great cultural institutions. The exhibition asks visitors to compare the problems and visions of the 1890's with those of the 1990's and to consider what resources we bring to urban life at the beginning of the 21st century.

"A City Comes of Age" is the first in a series of five biennial exhibitions, entitled "Chicago History: Prologue for the New Century". Each exhibition will examine an aspect of the city's history and discuss ramifications for the future. Each exhibition will be the work of a team of CHS staff and academic historians. Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Professor of History at Boston University and Susan E. Hirsch, Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University have worked closely with Robert I. Goler, Curator of Decorative and Industrial Arts, Susan Page Tillett, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Andrew Leo, Director of Design to combine ideas and artifacts successfully in this first exhibition. "A City Comes of Age" continues through July 15, 1991 and is accompanied by a publication by Warner, Hirsch and Goler.

UHA CO-SPONSORS PLANNING HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Fourth National Conference on American Planning History and Fifth International Conference: Planning History Group will take place November 7-10, 1991 at the Jefferson-Sheraton Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The Urban History Association is a co-sponsors of this conference, along with The Society for American City and Regional Planning History, the Planning History Group (United Kingdom), and Virginia Commonwealth University: Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and Department of Art History.

The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Gordon Cherry, Planning History Group, with a presidential address by Genie Birch, Hunter College, New York. Other highlights of the conference will include tours of Colonial Williamsburg and Historic Richmond.

Papers are solicited on all aspects of the history of planning and development of communities. Each paper will be presented in a 40-minute session including a brief introduction, a 25-minute presentation by the author, and a 10-minute critique. A 700-800 word abstract, a tentative title, and a one-page author vita (ending with identification of the author's membership in SACRPH, UHA and/or PHG). Four copies of all materials should be sent by March 1, 1991 to: Professor Christopher Silver, Program Chair, Planning History Conference, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 2008, Richmond, Virginia 23284; (804)367-1134.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Program Committee and authors will be notified by April 15, 1991 of acceptance or rejection. Final papers must be submitted by October 1, 1991.

Mary Corbin Sies, University of Maryland, serves as the Urban History Association liaison for this conference.

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. Contributors to this issue include: Mark Cortiula, University of Guelph (Canada); Daniel Mattern, University of North Carolina (Europe); Alan Mayne, University of Melbourne (Australia); Constantine N. Vapouris, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Japan); Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); and Ronald Dale Karr, University of Lowell (U.S. articles).

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Mohl, Raymond A. "Florida's Changing Demography: Population Growth, Urbanization, and Latinization." *Environmental and Social Issues* 17 (Winter 1990): 22-30.

Mohl, Raymond A. "Shadows in the Sunshine: Race and Ethnicity in Miami." *Tequesta* 49 (1989): 63-80.

Orser, W. Edward. "Secondhand Suburbs: Black Pioneers in Baltimore's Edmondson Village, 1955-1980." *Journal of Urban History* 16 (May 1990): 227-62.

Parsons, K. C. "Clarence Stein and the Greenbelt Towns: Settling for Less." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 56 (Spring 1990): 161-83.

Posadas, Barbara M., and Roland L. Guyotte. "Unintentional Immigrants: Chicago's Filipino Foreign Students Become Settlers, 1900-1941." *Journal of American Ethnic History* 9 (Spring 1990): 26-48.

MILESTONES

Choice, the librarians' selection journal, has issued its 1989-90 list of outstanding academic books; it numbers 612, selected from the more than 6,000 titles reviewed annually. Four books by members of the Association are included: DONNA GABACCIA, *Militants and Migrants: Rural Sicilians Become American Workers* (Rutgers Univ. Press, 1988); JAMES R. GROSSMAN, *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1989); THOMAS KESSNER, *Fiorello LaGuardia and the Making of Modern New York* (McGraw-Hill, 1989); and BRADFORD LUCKINGHAM, *Phoenix: The History of a Southwestern Metropolis* (Univ. of Arizona Press, 1989).

THEODORE C. BESTOR, East Asian Institute of Columbia University, is the recipient of two major books prizes. *Neighborhood Tokyo* (Stanford Univ. Press, 1989) has received the Robert E. Park Award of the American Sociological Association's Urban and Community Studies Section and the first Hiromi Arisawa Memorial Award for excellence in scholarship on Japan. Professor Bestor is also the recipient of a research fellowship from The National Science Foundation for 1990-91, enabling him to conduct further ethnographic field work on Tokyo's gigantic central fish market.

HENRY C. BINFORD, Northwestern University, is a fellow at The National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina, during 1990-91. He is working on a comparative project entitled "The Invention of the Slum in America, 1840-1900."

BLAINE A. BROWNELL has been appointed as the provost of the University of North Texas. He previously served as dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

MICHAEL H. EBNER, Lake Forest College, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Chicago Historical Society.

ESTELLE FEINSTEIN, who recently retired from the University of Connecticut at Stamford, was honored on May 17th at a conference held to mark the occasion entitled "Connecticut and the Nation: Urban and Suburban." The author of two scholarly volumes on the community, Professor Feinstein has been appointed Municipal Historian of Stamford.

DAVID R. GOLDFIELD, who is the Robert L. Bailey Professor of History at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is the new editor of *Journal of Urban History*.

JAMES R. GROSSMAN is the recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's Award of Superior Achievement for 1989 for *Land of Hope, Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1989). It is given annually to the best best written on an aspect of the state's history. Grossman is the new director of The Center for Family and Community History at The Newberry Library.

KENNETH T. JACKSON has been appointed Jacques Barzun Professor of History and Social Science at Columbia University. He is the first recipient of this chair, endowed to honor the historian and cultural critic who taught at the university for many years prior to his retirement. Previously Jackson occupied the Andrew Mellon Chair of History and Social Science.

ALAN MAYNE, University of Melbourne, Australia, is a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., during 1990-91. He is writing a social and cultural history of maritime quarantine in the United States, 1830-1930.

GAIL RADFORD is the Charles Phelps Taft Postdoctoral Fellow during 1990-91 at the University of Cincinnati. She recently completed her Ph.D at Columbia University.

MARK H. ROSE, previously on the faculty of Michigan Technological University, has been appointed associate professor of

ELLIOT WILLENSKY in memorium

The officers, directors, and membership mark, with sorrow, the untimely passing of Elliot Willensky, age 56, on May 25, 1990 in Brooklyn Heights. He made distinguished contributions as an inspired scholar as well as a devoted public official. He was the co-author of the acclaimed *AIA Guide to New York City*, 3rd edition (1988), and the author of the popular *When Brooklyn Was the World, 1920-1957* (1986). He served as vice-chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and was the Official Borough Historian of Brooklyn. Elliot Willensky was an active participant in The Columbia University Seminar on the City and was a charter member of The Urban History Association.

history at Florida Atlantic University.

MINGZHENG SHI, a graduate student at Columbia University, is the recipient of a Fellowship In Chinese Studies from the American Council of Learned Societies for a dissertation on urbanization and social change in Beijing, 1898-1928.

STANLEY K. SCHULTZ, University of Wisconsin at Madison, is the 1990 recipient of the Public Works Historical Society's Abel Wolman Book Award for *Constructing Urban Culture: American Cities and City Planning, 1800-1920* (Temple Univ. Press, 1989).

PATRICIA BURGESS STACH, University of Texas at Arlington, is the first winner of the John Reys Prize, awarded by the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, for the best dissertation (1986-89). The dissertation, completed at Ohio State University in 1988, is entitled: "Planning for the Private Interest: Land Use Controls and Residential Development in Columbus, Ohio, 1900-1970."

ALAN STEINBERG, previously on the faculty at Harvard University, has joined the department of history at Bowdoin College. He is the recipient of a Littleton-Griswold Grant in American Legal History from the American Historical Association for a study entitled "The Origins of Public Authority in American Cities, 1790-1880."

THOMAS J. SUGRUE, doctoral candidate in American history at Harvard University, is spending 1990-91 at The Brookings Institution, working on a dissertation entitled "The Origins of the Urban Underclass: Race, Industrial Decline, and Poverty in Detroit, 1940-90." Simultaneously, with a grant from the Social Science Research Council, he is preparing a chapter for a volume of essays edited by Michael B. Katz entitled *The Historical Origins of the Urban Underclass*.

JOEL A. TARR has been designated as the Richard S. Callguri Professor of Urban Affairs at Carnegie-Mellon University. The chair memorializes the late mayor of Pittsburgh.

CHARLES H. TROUT, who has been provost of Colgate University, has been elected president of Washington College, Chestertown Maryland.

BRUCE TUCKER, University of Windsor, Ontario, is the new editor of the Canadian Review of American Studies.

Co-chairs of The Columbia University Seminar on the City for 1990-91 are LEONARD WALLOCK, Hunter College, C.U.N.Y., and MARC A. WEISS, Columbia University. ALANA J. ERICKSON, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, is the secretary.

The next issue of *The Urban History Newsletter* will feature reports on the two major urban history conferences--Modes of Inquiry and Venues of Inquiry--scheduled for October 25-30, 1990 at The Chicago Historical Society.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

ALLAN MAYNE, University of Melbourne (Woodrow Wilson Center to June 1991), writes: "My research interests span Australia, North America, and Britain during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They focus on public health, immigration, representation, and heritage conservation. In public-health history, I am exploring marine-quarantine in the port cities of the United States and Australia from the 1830s to the 1930s. This work builds upon a chapter contained in the 1988 publication edited by Roy MacLeod and Milton Lewis, *Disease, Medicine, and Empire*. In immigration history, I am collaborating with Ms. Jackeline Templeton at the University of Melbourne to analyze Italian consular dispatches from Australia, and with Dr. Piero Arriotti in San Diego on a study of Italian visitors' descriptions of nineteenth-century Australia. In the area of representation, I am preparing a comparative study of slumland sensationalism in the daily press of Sydney, San Francisco, and Birmingham, England. This will elaborate my arguments in "Representing the Slum" in the 1990 edition of the *Urban History Yearbook*. In the same vein, I am preparing a study of the genres of "booster" and "muck raker" in depictions of Australian cities. In the area of heritage studies, I am supervising students who are using the Apple Macintosh to prepare data bases of socio-spatial change in Melbourne since the 1870s."

WILLIAM SHARPE, Barnard College, Columbia University, notes: "I have just completed *Unreal Cities: Urban Figuration in Wordsworth, Baudelaire, Whitman, Eliot, and Williams*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The study examines how the major poets of the modern city have structured their views of London, Paris, and New York around a ubiquitous urban incident, the poet's revelatory encounter with an unknown stranger on the street. This sudden meeting links the surreal turbulence of the crowded streets to the 'unreal' symbolic cities of the Bible. I am now working on a book that examines representations of cities at night in poetry, painting, and photography, 1850-1920."

PATRICIA MOONEY-MELVIN, Loyola University of Chicago, writes: "My current research focuses on the role played by settlement house workers in the identification of the neighborhoods and the development of techniques for community organization between 1886 and 1920 and grows out of a brief presentation I gave in 1986 at the Midwest American Settlement House Centennial Conference. Although studies of the settlement house movement in America often make reference to the neighborhood, few of them look beyond the neighborhood as a 'container' for settlement house activities. The thrust of most examinations of American settlements has been on the settlement's role in service delivery to neighborhood residents, the part played by the settlement in the professionalization of social work, the settlement as an example of Progressivism in action, and the settlement's americanization activities. Given this orientation, the efforts of settlement house workers to understand the new city of the late nineteenth century in which they worked, to develop a useful theory of urban organization, and to devise strategies for organizing neighborhoods have been lost or, at best, minimized. I contend that despite the fact that most settlements experienced only limited success in these areas, they nonetheless contributed to our understanding of overall urban structure as the modern city took shape and to the creation of organizing techniques still in use in today's neighborhoods. To argue my case I am focusing primarily on settlement house workers in New York City, Boston, and Chicago."

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

THE DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY HISTORY FORUM is scheduled for October 24-26 in Pittsburgh. Among its 47 scheduled sessions are: Women Teachers and the Immigrant Experience in Urban American Schools, Visions of the Metropolis, and Africans-Americans and the City. Among those presenting papers are: Daniel S. Mattern, Rob Ruck, Judith Spraul-Schmidt, and Catherine Sardo Weidner. Direct inquiries to: Jean Hunter, 412-434-6470.

THE SOUTHERN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION will conduct its 56th annual meeting, October 31-November 3, in New Orleans at the Clarion Hotel. Among its 54 scheduled sessions are: Rural Appalachians and Urban America, Black Industrial Workers and Worker Activism in Richmond, VA, and New Orleans Expansionism and Latin America. For additional information contact Professor William F. Holmes, Secretary-Treasurer, SHA, c/o Dept. of History, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES will meet in Montreal, November 1-3. This year's focus is "The City." Sessions include Urban Landscapes, Urban Photography, Sexual and Gender in the Urban Landscape, Poverty and the City, and Urban Policy. Among those presenting papers include: James T. Lemon, Harold L. Platt, William Sharpe, Bruce Tucker, Rudolph J. Vecoli, and Leonard Wallock. The program chair is Robert K. Martin, Department of English, Concordia University, Loyola Campus, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H4B 1R6, Canada.

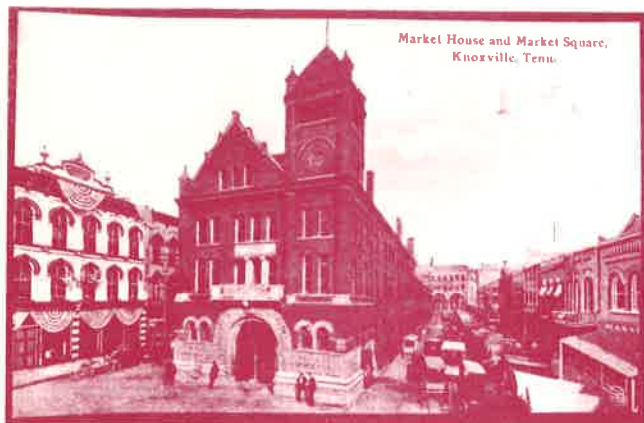
THE HUMANITIES CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD, an N.E.H.-funded project devoted to fostering interdisciplinary perspectives, will conduct its 1990-91 lecture series on the American city. For more information: Professor Bernard deNouden, Director, Humanities Center, University of Hartford, W. Hartford, CT 06117.

THE SEMINAR ON METROPOLITAN HISTORY, sponsored by the University of London's Centre for Historical Research, has announced its 1990-91 themes as "Entertainments in the Metropolis" and "Metropolitan Trade and Industry." For additional information on the seminar and related conferences as well as research, contact: Ms. Heather Creaton, Deputy Director, Centre for Metropolitan History, 34 Tavistock Street, London WC1H 9EZ, U.K., or phone 071-636-0272.

THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON THE CITY meets monthly (September-June). Speakers for 1990-91 (the list is still in formation) include: Michele Bogart; Donna Gabaccia; Herbert Gans; Charles Hamilton; and Sam Bass Warner, Jr. Scholars visiting New York City who wish to attend occasional sessions of the seminar are always welcomed. For additional information write to: Alana Erickson, 113 W. 113th Street, #75, NY, NY 10025.

THE URBAN HISTORY SEMINAR OF THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets monthly (September-May). Speakers for 1990-91 are: John Archer; Henry C. Binford; Robert I. Goler and Susan E. Hirsch; James Gilbert; Jeffrey E. Hanes; Suellen Hoy; Earl Lewis; Carol A. O'Connor; and Karen Sawislak. Scholars visiting Chicago who wish to attend occasional sessions of the seminar are always warmly welcomed. For further information: Russell Lewis, The Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 (312-642-5035).

THE MISSOURI VALLEY HISTORY CONFERENCE will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, March 14-16, 1991. Proposals for papers and sessions in all areas of history are welcomed. Such proposals, accompanied with abstracts and vitae, should be sent by November 1 to: William C. Pratt, Program Coordinator, MVHC, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NB 68182.



Knoxville, ca. 1907. From the Curt Teich Postcard Archives.

Urban Photo Archive

A new source of photographic documentation for urban historians is available in the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, a department of the Lake County Museum in the north suburban Chicago area. The materials now housed at the museum are composed of the industrial archives of the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, which operated from 1898 through 1974 as the world's largest volume printer of view and advertising postcards. The archives was created through the company's policy of saving examples of every image printed. They also saved the production materials for the images, which include large format negatives, photographic prints, layout drawings, client letters (detailing if and how a view should be altered), and physical artifacts such as carpet, linoleum or wallpaper which had been set the the company to serve as color samples. All of this material came to the museum in 1982 and has been organizedd for research use since 1985.

The materials in the Teich Archives are computer indexed by date, subject, and location. Views may be searched in any of these categories. Combination searches are also possible; for example, all views of courthouses in the state of Nebraska or all views of market squares in the state of Pennsylvania. Approximately 320,000 of the estimated 400,000 image records in the archives have been catalogued. A reproduction service is available through which photographic prints or transparencies (for either projection or publication) may be ordered. Mail and telephone requests are encouraged; it is not necessary to visit the archives in order to use its holdings. In-person research is by appointment only.

The Teich Company printed views of towns and cities throughout the United States and Canada. A relatively small number of views of other areas, including Mexico, Central and South America, the South Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and China, also exist in the Archives, but the collection is primarily North American. The potential of the Teich Archives for urban history studies is vast. The postcard was one of the earliest commercial uses of photography and its rise in popularity after 1900 mirrored the concurrent growth and exponential change in the built environment. The Teich Archives holdings of original photographic materials is of extraordinary value.

The archives publishes the quarterly journal *Image File*, which seeks to provide a forum for discussions of North American twentieth century culture. Special interest is given to articles related to popular culture, the built environment, photography, and mass distribution formats of visual information such as postcards. For information please contact the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, Lake County Museum, Lakewood Forest Preserve, Wacounda, IL 60084 (708)526-8638, weekdays 8:30 to 4:30.

The Grand Rapids City Historian

In 1976 as a part of its celebration of the Bicentennial of American Independence and the Sesquicentennial of the arrival of the fur trader, Louis Campau in what is now Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission decided to create the position of City Historian. I was hired as the city's first historian in February, 1979, and since that time the Historical Commission, the Public Library and I have been partners in the effort to preserve and promote the city's heritage.

The Grand Rapids City Historian's job description is a broad statement of an historian's role in an urban setting. The work includes collecting documentary materials relating to the history of Grand Rapids; advising city officials and providing background information for policy decisions; advising local schools about community history curriculum materials and encouraging them to adopt city history courses and activities; publishing popular and scholarly articles and books; and "general contact with public officials, the press and citizens and other inquirers regarding the history of Grand Rapids and Kent County."

Specific project undertaken thus far reflect an effort to work with many different elements in the community and to cultivate a high visibility and accessibility, while providing useful, accurate, and objective information. A group called Urban Concern Inc. proposed a series of what came to be called "Town Meetings" titled "Grand Rapids: Past, Present, Future." Using the City Historian's position as part of their matching support, they secured a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities. In three evening gatherings, panels of area professionals: two historians, an archaeologist, city planner and the superintendent of public schools, business persons; and elected officials presented their views on the past and future direction of the city.

Perhaps the most important work undertaken since the City Historian position was created is the project to inventory, appraise, and organize the records of all city departments and to create a city archives. Undertaken in conjunction with the City Clerk's office, and with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and several local sources, archivist William Cunningham has completed this essential first step toward a comprehensive city records program.

With a program for ordering the care of current and historic city records in place, attention was turned to the significant collections of manuscripts, photographs, maps and similar material in the historical collections of the Public Library and Public Museum.

At this point, the position is stable and many different types of enterprises have been undertaken. They are not unique, or even unusual, examples of community history work. What sets them apart is the fact that they have all been done in one city, by the same historian, and that there has been continuity from one project to the next. Historians working as consultants on special assignments, or those who secure grant funding for a project they wish to pursue, do not establish the same kinds of relationships or the same degree of credibility that has been achieved here.

Gordon Olson, City Historian
City of Grand Rapids

The 2nd annual business meeting of The Urban History Association is scheduled for 4:45 PM, Friday, December 28th, in the Senate Suite of the Sheraton Centre Hotel, 811 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street, NYC. Presiding will be President Sam Bass Warner, Jr. Information pertaining to the meeting will be distributed to the membership during the second week of December.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

The Canadian Industry in 1871 (CANIND71) project, based at the University of Guelph since 1982, has made machine-readable all the manuscript data for all over 45,000 industrial establishments recorded in the first Census in Canada in 1871. The work has been partly supported by funds from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. For more information: Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield, Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1.

The POLIS Research Center at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, is preparing the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, a multi-disciplinary volume intended to cover all aspects of the city's history and culture. Please send suggested topics, a brief explanation of their significance, expressions of interest in preparing entries, and a summary of qualifications to: *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, Cavanaugh Hall 301, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5140 (317)274-2455.

The New York Irish, the first attempt to treat comprehensively the role of this ethnic group in this city from the seventeenth century to the present, will shortly be commissioning essays. The book will be structured in the following chronological sections: 1625-1783; 1783-1844; 1844-1877; 1877-1914; 1914-1945; 1945-1990. Each section will have a substantial introduction that reviews the major themes relevant to the period, followed by essays reporting the results of new research in the areas of cultural, demographic, economic, political and social history. Editors are Ronald H. Bayor and Timothy J. Meagher. Proposals are now being solicited for both introductions and essays. Send materials (including resume) to: Ronald H. Bayor, School of Social Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332.

Leicester University Press, a leading British publisher of urban history, has reached a North American distribution agreement with Columbia University Press. Along with nine or ten new titles, Columbia will also distribute the *Urban History Yearbook*.

The Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota, now marking its 25th anniversary, has an extensive list of publications (e.g., bibliographic, conference proceedings, record guide surveys, etc.). To obtain the 1990 publications list, write to: Immigration History Research Center, 826 Berry Street, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Middletown Revisited by Dwight W. Hoover is Ball State University Monograph Number 34. It was published earlier this year. Chapters titles include "The Lynds," "The Middletown Film Series," and "The Future of Community Studies." For a free copy: Director, Center for Middletown Studies, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

Urban Politics, New York Style, Eds., Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, includes fifteen chapters centered upon answering the question, "Who is running New York?" Contributors include Blanche Blank, Charles V. Hamilton, David Rogers, and Richard C. Wade. It is available in hardcover and paperback. For more information: M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 80 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY 10504 (914-273-1800).

Newark: The Durable City, Ed., Stanley B. Winters (Honors Program and Department of Humanities, New Jersey Institute of Technology, 1990) [pp. iii + 68] consists of nine chapter-length essay written by undergraduate students in an honors seminar entitled "Modern Newark: Rise and Fall of an American City" taught in the fall semester of 1988. Among the topics covered: police relations with the African-American community, streetcar transportation, white activism in North Ward, housing, and the Portuguese community. Stanley Winters, the instructor, is Distinguished Professor of History at NJIT. To obtain a single copy

please send \$1.50 (payable to NJIT) to: Professor Stanley B. Winters, Dept. of Humanities, NJIT, Newark, NJ 07012.

The Center for Urban Policy Research Press is situated at Rutgers University. For more than two decades it has been associated with prolific scholarship of George Sternlieb and his colleagues. Among the members of the newly constituted board of editors for the press are: Eugenie L. Birch, Peter Hall, and John H. Mollenkopf. For a current catalogue of new titles and the back list write to: Director of Sales, CUPR Press, Rutgers University, P.O. Box 489, Piscataway, NJ 08855-0489.

Journal of Planning Education and Research, 8:3 (Winter 1989): 206-07, includes a review of the *Journal of Urban History*, dating to its inception in 1974, written by Eugenie Ladner Birch.

St. Martin's Press is the American and Canadian distributor for the English translation of Christian Englei and Horst Matzerath (Eds.), *Modern Urban History in Europe, USA, and Japan, A Handbook* (London: Berg, 1989). It contains chapter-length essays, historiographical and methodological, assessing urban history scholarship in Austria (Renate Banik-Schweitzer & Gerhard Meißl), Czechoslovakia (Jan Havranek & Jiri Pesek), Federal Republic of Germany (Jurgen Reulecke), France (Francols Bedarida & Gilles Jeannot), Great Britain (Anthony Sutcliffe), Hungary (Sandor Gyimesi), Italy (Alberto Caracciolo), Japan (Ryuichi Narita, Kinichi Ogura, & Akio Yoshie), The Netherlands (Herman A. Diederiks), Spain (Fernando de Teran & Martin Bassols), Sweden (Lars Nilson), Switzerland (Bruno Fritzsche), and the United States (Kathleen Neils Conzen & Michael H. Ebner). Englei and Matzerath have also contributed a chapter entitled "International Modern Urban History Research." The volume was commissioned by the German Institute for Urban Studies in Stuttgart, with support from the Volkswagenwerk Foundation.

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Frank Jewell/The Valentine Museum, Richmond, VA

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