



The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
October 1994, Number 12

Curating with the Community

by Russell Lewis, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs and Research, Chicago Historical Society. This article is reprinted, with permission from *Museum News* (April/May 1994).

In the late 1980s, the Chicago Historical Society, like many other cultural and educational institutions, embarked upon a journey of self-reflection to craft a new mission that responded to the needs of a changing American society. Adopted in 1989, the new mission boldly declared the Society as the "historian of metropolitan Chicago" and pledged "to interpret and present the history of Chicago to the city's diverse public groups...and respond to their identified needs."

With this mission as its guide, the Society's staff embraced the challenge of telling a more inclusive history of Chicago that would encompass the city's diverse urban population. How this ambitious undertaking would be accomplished was not immediately clear. Yet during the last five years, through collaborations with scholars, community and neighborhood leaders, and average citizens, the Society has taken important steps toward meeting its goal. Although every member of the institution has been involved in this effort, the evolution of the Society into a scholarly, community-based center for the study of urban history can be traced most clearly through changes in exhibition conceptualization and development.

The seeds of this transformation, however, were planted well before the mission was adopted. In the 1980's the Society engaged a group of nationally prominent academic historians to redefine its collecting scope, to develop an exhibition program, and to interpret Chicago's and the nation's histories. It was a period of internal tension as curators saw the primacy of the artifact as the locus of research and interpretation diminish in favor of broad historical themes. Their traditional roles of connoisseur and caretaker came under scrutiny. It became clear, however, that neither the museum curator nor the academic historian alone could achieve the Society's goal of making the most current historical scholarship accessible to the public through its exhibitions. Both roles and both perspectives were needed to create exhibitions of substance and popular appeal. To achieve this, the Society paired one of its museum curators with an academic historian, a partnership that became the core element of a team approach to exhibition development and implementation. The American history exhibitions "We The People: Creating A New Nation, 1760-1820" and "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln" are the results of two successful collaborations.

The team approach to exhibition work changed the traditional role of the curator in fundamental ways. Most important, it demanded that the curator relinquish the sole voice of authority he or she had typically exercised to the multiple voices of the team--historians, designers, editors, and
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NEH Support for Exhibitions

by Fredric Miller, Program Officer in the Division of Public Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Urban history has assumed a prominent place among exhibitions supported in recent years by the Museums Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment has funded a wide range of projects, encompassing large and small cities, suburbs, city-building processes, work and domestic life, and issues of ethnicity and race. The Museums Program is part of NEH's Division of Public Programs, and these projects often include public and school programs and publications as well as exhibitions and site interpretations. Many urban historians have served as consultants and even guest curators in NEH-supported projects. The following brief overview of projects supported over the past five years is intended both to describe the national scope of the effort to present urban history and suggest ideas and contacts to readers interested in becoming more involved in that effort.

Several museums in major cities are attempting to convey their history in one or more long term core exhibitions. The Atlanta History Center opened "Metropolitan Frontiers: Atlanta, 1835-2000" at its expanded facility in October 1993. In Pittsburgh, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was recently awarded an implementation grant for its core exhibition on the Pittsburgh region since the late eighteenth century. The Baltimore City Life Museums broke ground this summer for its new history center, which will contain a long term exhibition funded by NEH. The Rochester Museum and Science Center has used a planning grant to develop a core presentation on the city since 1812. A different approach has been taken by the Valentine Museum in Richmond. Using a common interpretive document, the museum has created at two different sites several exhibitions dealing with various aspects of local history, such as antebellum race relations and historical geography.

In other cities, exhibitions have focused on discrete time periods. The Missouri Historical Society presented "St. Louis in the Gilded Age," and the Chicago Historical Society had an exhibition on the city in World War II. Memphis' Pink Palace Museum received planning funds for an exhibition on the era of Boss Crump, from 1910 to 1954. The Bostonian Society is currently planning an exhibition on Boston in the post-war years from 1945 to 1952, and Washington's Octagon and Anacostia Museums are planning a collaborative exhibition entitled "Washington Becomes Urban, 1800-1860."

Smaller cities have also received support for exhibitions. "Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier" tells the story of that
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Harlan Davidson, Inc.

is pleased to announce that it will serve
as the exclusive underwriter of
the Urban History Association's
6th annual dinner on January 7, 1995,
at the Chicago Historical Society.

We are proud to mention that our current list of
history titles includes works by the following members of
the Urban History Association:

Carl J. Abbott

Urban America in the Modern Age, 1920 to the Present

Ronald H. Bayor

Fiorello La Guardia: Ethnicity and Reform

David R. Goldfield

Promised Land: The South since 1945

Alan M. Kraut

The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921

Raymond A. Mohl

The New City: Urban America in the Industrial Age, 1860-1920

Howard N. Rabinowitz

The First New South, 1865-1920

Steven A. Riess

Sport in Industrial America, 1850-1920

These and other selected titles will be displayed during the cocktail hour
preceding the dinner.

For more information about the above or any of our titles, or for a complete
history catalog, please contact Harlan Davidson, Inc., directly.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

As the pages of this newsletter convey, activity abounds.

Harlan Davidson Publishers, Inc. has agreed to serve as exclusive underwriter for our sixth annual dinner scheduled for January 7th at the Chicago Historical Society. A result the price per ticket will remain below \$30; without this generosity the price per ticket would have exceeded \$35! Douglas Greenberg, president and director of the Chicago Historical Society, also has worked closely with the Association to enable us to hold the line on cost, for which I am grateful. Without such cooperation it would have been prohibitive to return to CHS, location of our memorable dinner in 1991 and the nation's premier big-city historical society. (Reservation forms will be mailed on November 4th.)

At the annual meeting last January a committee was appointed by then-President Lynn Hollen Lees to work with the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences to organize an August '95 international conference in Beijing. Chaired by Bruce M. Stave, the committee has devoted a substantial amount of time to formulating plans. Elsewhere in the newsletter readers will find an announcement (distributed to our members during the spring and summer) about submitting paper proposals for this meeting.

Once again the Association's officers and directors have voted to renew our relationship with the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH). They have approved the U.H.A.'s co-sponsorship of the Sixth National Conference on American Planning History, scheduled for Knoxville, Tennessee for October 12-15, 1995. This continues a tradition which began with the U.H.A. co-sponsorship of SACRPH conferences at Richmond (1991) and Chicago (1993). The relationship has proved beneficial for all concerned. You will find the call for paper published in this issue of the newsletter.

I am also pleased that three scholarly journals--*Journal of Urban History*, *Planning History* (U.K.), and *Urban History* (U.K.)--continue discounted subscriptions to our membership.

The committee on nominations appointed by President Jackson is fast completing its assignment. It is chaired by Louise Carroll Wade. Serving with her are Lizabeth Cohen and Blanche Linden. Ballots will be distributed next month and the results will be announced at our sixth annual meeting on January 6th in Chicago.

Our annual luncheon during the '95 meeting of the O.A.H. is scheduled for April 2 (Saturday) in Washington, D.C. President-elect Carl Abbott has arranged a fine program featuring a talk by David Rusk entitled "Cities Without Suburbs." Mr. Rusk is the former mayor of Albuquerque, NM (1977-81).

I am able to report, once again, good news about our numbers. As of September 1 the roster of members was slightly in excess of 500. Dues renewal statements for 1995 will be in your mail next week; by replying promptly, you save the Association the time and expense entailed in sending out reminder notices.

Michael H. Ebner

U.H.A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Association's annual business meeting will be held at 4:45 PM on Friday, January 6, 1995 in Conference Room # 4C of the Hilton Hotel and Towers in Chicago. Members wishing to place items on the agenda must submit them in writing by November 30, 1994 to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Agendas will be distributed to the membership during the second week of December.

CLIFTON HOOD APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Clifton Hood, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, assumed the position of U.H.A. membership secretary, effective May 1, 1994, upon the invitation of President Kenneth T. Jackson. He succeeds Judith Spraul-Schmidt who asked to stand down after more than three years of devoted service during which time the Association's roster grew to more than 500 paid members. Judy's decision will enable her to devote further time to her mounting responsibilities as a member of the Cincinnati Historic Preservation Commission.

BEIJING CONFERENCE: FINAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Urban History Association and the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences will jointly sponsor an International Symposium on Chinese-American Urban History in Beijing on August 1-4, 1995. (This represents a change from the previously announced date of August 16-20).

The Conference will focus upon Historical Experiences of Urbanization: Chinese and American Patterns in Social and Cultural Development. Papers are welcomed dealing with any aspect of the theme broadly defined. Papers can be of comparative nature, or can be case studies that lead to potential comparisons between Chinese and American urban history. The Urban History Association is actively seeking funding for the conference to support scholars who are invited to deliver papers. Further information on travel support will be provided as it becomes available. One page abstracts and single page curriculum vitae must accompany all proposals, which must be received by October 31, 1994. Send submissions to: Professor Bruce M. Stave, Chair, ISCAUH Organizing Committee, c/o Department of History, University of Connecticut, 241 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269-2103 USA.

BOOKSTORES IN MANHATTAN

This month Columbia University Press will publish a unique volume by Susan Barile entitled *The Bookworm's Big Apple, A Guide to the Bookstores of Manhattan*, to be released both in hardcover and paperback editions. The book is divided into four sections, encompassing Manhattan's more than 380 bookstores: general; specialty; used; and antiquarian. To obtain further information call the publisher at 1-800-944-8648.

Curating with the Community

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educators—who frequently had competing or conflicting perspectives. At the same time, the introduction of exhibition learning objectives—common goals developed to guide the team—required curators to think more like educators.

In response to its newly defined mission, the Society inaugurated the biennial exhibition series, "Prologue for the New Century," to examine aspects of the city's history during the last 100 years and ask visitors to consider ramifications of that history for the 21st century. Using the team approach once again, the first exhibition in the series, "A City Comes of Age: Chicago in the 1890's," opened in fall 1990. The central question the exhibition team faced was: Whose history do we tell? Recent historical scholarship on class, race, gender, and ethnicity offered some answers and allowed the exhibition team to interpret 1890s Chicago more broadly than ever before. But the Society's collections, though rich in material related to elite, white businessmen, did not reflect the breadth and diversity of Chicago's 1890s citizenry and its alternative visions of the city.

To overcome this problem, the exhibition team looked outside the institution to neighborhoods and communities for help. Many ethnic museums and centers in the city provided valuable assistance, but the greatest help came from forging relationships with a group of individuals who have taken personal responsibility for preserving their community's or neighborhood's history. These "keepers of culture," frequently but not always associated with a school, church, or activity center, shared their historical knowledge and provided important artifacts to tell a broader history of 1890s Chicago. The staff learned two important lessons from this exhibition: the Society's collections did not document a broadly defined history of the city, and many neighborhoods and communities had their own collections of historical artifacts and other resources and were eager to work with the Society.

In developing the second biennial exhibition, "Chicago Goes to War, 1941-45," the exhibition team found even less in the Society's collections to document the history of the city's homefront experience. To remedy this shortcoming, the Society issued a public call to all Chicagoans for homefront artifacts, the first large-scale, exhibition-related collection drive in the institution's history. The response was overwhelming. Some 2,500 family mementos, business records, and industrial products related to the war years were collected; equally important, almost every artifact came with a story. These homefront narratives were astonishingly vivid and rich in perspectives and details that were not found in any history of the period. Though compelling, memories raised a fundamental question for the exhibition team, what role do they play in the exhibition?

With relatively little scholarship on the urban war experience available, the team chose to rely extensively on the collected memories and to incorporate them throughout the exhibition. A centerpiece of the exhibition was a seven-station video installation, which featured some of the most fascinating recollections of different aspects of the war experience. Remembrances were also critical to conveying the important stories of Chicago's African-American and Japanese-American

communities, two groups who overcame segregation and racism in order to contribute to the war effort. To capture more memories, the exhibition included memory cards for visitors to record their homefront experiences. "Chicago Goes to War" offered additional valuable lessons for the staff. It taught them to understand the value of everyday citizens' memories as historical perspective and to recognize their power as bridges from the past to the present and the future. The exhibition also made it clear that the most pressing dilemma facing the staff in its future work was deciding who tells the story, not whose story is told.

When the Joyce Foundation of Chicago asked the Society in April 1992 to develop a project that dealt directly with issues of pluralism and accessibility of cultural resources for nontraditional audiences, it saw an opportunity to build on its recent exhibition experiences and thus further its mission-driven efforts. Specifically, the Society wanted to move staff outside the museum into the public arena and the diverse communities and neighborhoods that constitute Chicago so that it could add new material to broaden its collections, further integrate public memory into its exhibitions and other programs, and identify additional keepers of culture and share historical authority in a more structured and deliberate fashion.

"Neighborhoods: Keepers of Culture" will link the Society with the residents of four Chicago neighborhoods: Rogers Park-West Ridge, Near West Side, Lower West Side, and Douglas-Grand Boulevard. The project has four major goals: first, to establish rapport with Chicago neighborhoods that will further appreciation of local history and the evolution of specific neighborhoods, including the social, economic, and political factors that have influenced their development to the present; second, to provide neighborhood residents with the "tools of the historian" by training them to collect, document, and interpret their own histories; third, to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue among different neighborhoods about their histories with special emphasis on social change in the past and the present; and fourth, to develop a long-standing relationship with neighborhoods as an avenue for enhancing and broadening future exhibitions, public and educational programs, and collecting efforts.

With these common goals in mind, each neighborhood history will take its own course, guided by a team of several Society staff and a small number of neighborhood residents. Together, they will share responsibility for organizing the collecting and documentation efforts and interpreting the evidence. Enlisting the help of neighborhood youth and others to record residents' memories, as well as their perceptions and definitions of history, neighborhood, and community, the team will seek an understanding of how the neighborhood came to be and help build an appreciation of what they share with other neighborhoods and how and why they differ. The final results, scheduled for 1995, will be presented in a series of exhibitions that will be on view in the Society's galleries and in neighborhood locales, as well as in videos or catalogs.

"Keepers of Culture" will establish a new level of partnership with Chicagoans and chart new directions for the Society to follow in the years ahead. Like other history museums that have developed similar projects, such as the Minnesota Historical Society's "A Common Ground: Minnesota Communities" and the Historical Society of

Pennsylvania's Common Ground: Philadelphia's Neighborhoods," "Keepers of Culture" promises to reshape museum professionals' and the public's understanding and appreciation of local history as a crucial community resource.

NEH Support for Exhibits

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Arizona community from 1877 to 1917. In 1992, the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire, Wisconsin opened its long term exhibition, "Settlement and Survival: Building Towns in the Chippewa Valley, 1850-1925." Portsmouth, New Hampshire's Strawberry Banke Museum recently created a new site interpretation and exhibition on one neighborhood during World War II. Considerably longer time spans are covered by the grants to the Newport Historical Society and the Concord (MA) Museum for their local history installations. One recent project, at the Johnson County (Kansas) Museum focuses on an area near Kansas City which is now almost entirely suburban.

Some exhibitions concentrate on central aspects of the local economy or infrastructure rather than attempting a comprehensive overview. Two important examples of long term installations with this approach are "Furniture City" at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, which opens in November 1994, and "Home Port Philadelphia" at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, scheduled to open next year. The role of the port is also the subject of planning grant awarded to the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City. The Cincinnati Historical Society planned an exhibition on four key local industries from 1850-1920 with NEH support, and the Detroit Historical Museum conducted a similar project on the automobile industry and its role in shaping that city. The crucial issue of post-war urban redevelopment was addressed in an exhibition at the Bostonian Society on "The Last Tenement: Community and Urban Renewal in Boston's West End," which will become a permanent installation at the Lowell Square Visitors Center. Three exhibitions in the New York area have recently or will soon deal with different aspects of city services. The Hudson River Museum in Yonkers presented an exhibition on the building of the Old Croton Aqueduct between 1837 and 1842. The Brooklyn Historical Society has received funding to implement an exhibition on nineteenth century volunteer fire fighters, while the New York City Transit Museum is planning "Steel, Stone and Backbone," an exhibition on the workers who built the subway system between 1900 and 1940. Across the country, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will install a long term exhibition entitled "More Power to You" on the history of electrification in Portland.

Not surprisingly, many of the urban history exhibitions supported by the Endowment address race and ethnicity. Presentations on African American communities have included "House Servant, Carpenter, Waterman, Smith: Enslaved African Americans in 18th Century Alexandria" at the Carlyle House Historic Park, "A History of African American Sports in Philadelphia" at the AfroAmerican Historical and Cultural Museum, and "The Herndons: Style and Substance of the Black Upper Class in Atlanta, 1880-1930" at the Atlanta Historical Society. "On the Line: The Heyday of Little

Rock's Ninth Street" is currently being planned by the Arkansas Museum of Science and History. In collaboration with a local African American historical organization, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin planned an exhibition on black workers in Milwaukee from 1900 to 1970. Taking a rare look at racial and ethnic interaction, "Bridges and Boundaries," explored the relations between African Americans and American Jews in the twentieth century, concentrating on their urban interactions. Starting at the Jewish Museum, this exhibition toured the country between 1992 and 1994.

Four different projects have explored New York City's different ethnic groups. While the Chinatown History Museum explored historical memory in its "Remembering New York Chinatown," the Brooklyn Historical Society mounted an exhibition the city's newest Chinese community, in the borough's Sunset Park area. The Lower East Side Tenement museum reconstructed the apartments of a Jewish family in the 1880s and an Italian family in the 1930s who had lived in the Orchard Street building, while the Museum of the City of New York is planning an exhibition and extensive public programs on the city's Irish community. Lesser known groups in smaller cities were also the subject of major exhibitions. The Worcester Historical Museum presented an exhibition in 1993 on the city's Swedish community, one of the largest urban Swedish concentrations in the country, and the Rhode Island Historical Society will install a long term exhibition on Woonsocket's French Canadians in that city's new visitor center. Finally, a recent planning award to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania will be used to interpret the Kins house, a Pittsburgh rowhouse inhabited by a Polish immigrant family from 1920 until 1977.

The staff of the Museums Program would be happy to provide more information about these or other projects. We can also make available our guidelines, samples of successful proposals, and *Exhibitions Today*, our listing of current installations. Our goal is to encourage increased collaboration between urban history's scholarly and museum communities, and we look forward to hearing from readers of this newsletter. Our telephone number is 202/606-8284; our fax number is 202/606-8557; and our e-mail address is nehpub@gwuvvm.gwu.edu.



Enjoying the UHA luncheon in Atlanta are Blanche Linden-Ward and Bruce M. Stave [credit: Michael Ebner]

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. Contributors to this issue include: Mark Cortiula, Nipissing University (Canada); Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); Ronald Dale Karr, University of Massachusetts, Lowell (U.S. articles); and Daniel Mattern, German Historical Institute (Europe).

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WARNER TO BE HONORED

Friends of Sam Bass Warner, Jr. will gather to honor him on the occasion of his recent retirement. A dinner is scheduled for (Friday) January 6, 1995 during the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. (The sixth annual U.H.A. dinner is scheduled for January 7th.) Urban historians are warmly encouraged to attend. Reservation information is available from: Professor Susan E. Hirsch, Department of History, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626.

Warner also will be the subject of a roundtable discussion, scheduled for the spring '95 meeting of the O.A.H. in Washington, D.C. Participants will include: Dolores Hayden, Richard Sennett, Charles Tilly, Robert Wiebe, and Sam Bass Warner, Jr.

CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Art Reference Quarterly, vol. 1, no. 3 (1993) is devoted to the theme "Cartographic Information for Architecture." Contributions of interest include: mapping; site documentation; fire insurance maps and real estate atlases; and geographical information systems. For order information contact The Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1590 or telephone 1-800-342-9678.

LOYOLA PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT

Guided by Patricia Mooney-Melvin, director of the program in public history at Loyola University of Chicago, eleven students enrolled in a course entitled Topics in Local History have researched and written *Reading Your Neighborhood: A History of East Rogers Park* for the East Rodgers Park Neighborhood History Project on the north side of Chicago. A model worth replicating in other urban neighborhoods, this deeply researched, richly illustrated and well produced booklet was recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society with its Certificate of Excellence for 1994. It is available (payment in advance only) for \$5.00 from: Mary Jo Doyle, Executive Director, Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, 2555 W. Farwell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645.

UHA SYLLABUS EXCHANGE II

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

To purchase copies send your check or money order (only in US dollars please) for \$25 within US, \$26 in Canada, or \$26.50 elsewhere. Checks must be made payable to: The Valentine Museum. Telephone, fax, e-mail, and C.O.D.

orders will not be accepted. Send prepaid order to: *Syllabus Exchange II*, c/o The Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1590 USA.

URBAN HISTORIANS MAKING NEWS

The New Yorker (July 25) included a talk-of-the-town essay about Kenneth T. Jackson's (Columbia University) forthcoming *Encyclopedia of New York City*, to be published next year by Yale University Press and the New-York Historical Society. A summertime C-SPAN telecast featuring the CSPAN School Bus, which traveled throughout the nation during 1993-94 visiting students and their teachers, included a Chicago-based sequence with Dominic Pacyga (Columbia College, Chicago). *The Wilson Quarterly* (Summer, 1994) included a discussion of the recent *American Quarterly* symposium on suburbs (vol. 46, no. 1 March '94), with particular emphasis on the co-authored centerpiece article by William Sharpe (Barnard College) and Leonard Wallock (University of California, Santa Barbara) and the rejoinder by Robert Fishman (Rutgers University, Camden). *The Sciences* (July/August, 1994) included extended coverage of Clifton Hood's (Hobart & William Smith College) new book entitled *722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York* (1993); Cliff also was interviewed extensively by a Brazilian public television network producing a documentary on the subways of New York City.

A reception held in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston preceded the publication of Alexander Von Hoffman's (Harvard University) new book entitled: *The Making of An Urban Neighborhood, 1850 to 1920* (1994). Over 300 people attended the reception, including the Mayor of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, and viewed an exhibit of historical artifacts from Jamaica Plain.

Readers who have made news that will interest urban historians should share the information with the newsletter editor; next deadline is January 15, 1995. (*If you don't send it, we can't report it!*)

The Urban History Newsletter (ISSN 1049-2887) is published twice yearly by The Urban History Association for members and subscribers. Copy deadlines are January 15 and September 1. Address editorial matters to: Ann Durkin Keating, Editor, c/o Department of History, North Central College, P.O. Box 3063, Naperville, IL 60566-7063 USA (FAX 708-420-4243).

Inquiries about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be sent to: Clifton Hood, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456-3397 USA.

Inquiries about the activities of the Association or about purchasing back issues of the newsletter (where available) should be sent to: Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA (FAX 708-735-6291; INTERNET ebner@lfmail.lfc.edu).



Kenneth T. Jackson and Michael Homel, mayor of Ypsilanti, MI [credit: Michael Ebner]

RICHARD J. DALEY FILM

The Illinois State Historical Society is the recipient of a research grants from the Media Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois Humanities Council that will enable Barak Goodman to produce a ninety-minute film about Richard J. Daley as mayor of Chicago, 1955-76. *Richard J. Daley: The Last Boss* will be based, in part, on extensive interviews with Daley contemporaries as well as scholars. Goodman is an Emmy-winning producer and director of documentaries (including *C. Edward Koop, M.D.*) that have been aired on PBS and elsewhere. The Daley film's premier is scheduled tentatively for next year. The project's advisors include James R. Grossman and Richard C. Wade. For further information: Illinois State Historical Society, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507.

GRANTS

The Rockefeller Archive Center awards grants of up to \$1,000 (up to \$2,000 for overseas grant recipients) annually to scholars in any discipline engaged in research that requires extensive use of its collections. Thirty-six such awards were made during 1994. UHA members Robin F. Bachin and Mark Rose have received grants in recent years. The annual deadline for applying for support is December 31; awards are announced the following March. For information: Rockefeller Archive Center, 15 Dayton Avenue, Pocantico Hills, N. Tarrytown, NY 10591-1598.

SEATTLE CONFERENCE ON WEST

The University of Washington's Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest will conduct its third annual symposium, November 3-5, in Seattle. Entitled *Power and Place in the North American West*, featured speakers will include David Gutierrez, William Cronon, Patricia Nelson Limerick, D. W. Meinig Virginia Scharff, and Richard White. Among twenty-

three scheduled sessions, five are explicitly devoted to themes in urban history: Urban Populism and City for in Seattle; Gender and Western Place; The Urban Experience during and after Mineral Booms; Race, Gender, and Development in Los Angeles; and Metropolitan Power and Hinterland Places. For further information: Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, c/o Department of History DP-2-, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 or telephone 206-543-8656/5790.

PLANNING HISTORY (U.K.)

This publication is the bulletin of the International Planning History Society, in which the Urban History Association holds affiliate status. Published three times per year, it is a forum for scholars interested in industrial and post-industrial cities; it draws upon such kindred disciplines as planning, architecture, economics, geography, sociology, and politics as well as history.

Stephen V. Ward, until recently its editor, offered this description in his farewell editorial: "... a medium through which people . . . can, with a minimum of fuss, talk usefully and sensibly to each other about planning history." Recent articles include: "Gender, Design, and Ideology in Council Housing: Urban Scotland, 1917-1944" by Louise Christie; "Which Historic Centre? The Case of Lujan, in the Province of Buenos Aires" by Giorgio Piccinato; and "Social and Co-operative Housing in Lodz, Poland" by Jacek Wesolowski and Marek Koter. For editorial matters: Dr. Michael Harrison, Editor, *Planning History*, University of Central England, Corporation Street, Birmingham, B4 7DX, UK. For subscriptions: Dr. David W. Massey, Secretary-Treasurer IPHS, c/o Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX UK.

WASHINGTON HISTORY

Washington History, the magazine of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., seeks articles on all aspects of the city's history, including social, cultural, architectural, urban, and political history as well as historical geography. While manuscript on both the federal and local aspects of Washington's history are welcome, those articles treating federal history must relate the subject matter in some significant ways to the life of the residential and commercial city. Please address questions or requests for editorial guidelines to: Howard Gillette, Editor, *Washington History*, c/o The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036-1507 USA.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate its 150 anniversary, the Archdiocese of Chicago commissioned a book entitled *Catholicism Chicago Style*, co-authored by historians Ellen Skerrett, Edward R. Kantowicz, and Steven M. Avella. Published by Loyola University Press and available in cloth or paperback edition, orders may be placed by phoning 1-800-621-1008 (in Illinois 312-281-1818) or by writing to Loyola University Press, 3441 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657 USA.

WADE RETIREMENT CONFERENCE

A conference to honor the retirement of Richard C. Wade will be held October 27, 1994 at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. Kenneth Jackson, Zane Miller, Carl Abbott, Leslie Wilson, John Hope Franklin, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Sam Roberts, Frances D. Horowitz, Jeffrey Kroessler, Cynthia Whittaker, and George McGovern are all scheduled to participate.

STUDENTS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

A group of Latin American historians interested in the concept of neighborhood identity, activity, and significance to residents would like to contact other historians or scholars in related field studying urban neighborhoods in Latin America, Europe, or North America. Please write: Dr. Stephanie Bower, Department of History, Indiana University Southeast, 4201 Grant Line Road, New Albany, IN 47150 or Dr. James Baer, Division of Social Science, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311.

L.A RIOTS OF 1992: A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Los Angeles--A City in Stress is the title of a bibliography compiled by Anthony E. Anderson, a government documents librarian at the University of Southern California. It represents an effort to collect a wide variety of materials, totalling nearly 125 boxes, stemming from the Los Angeles riots of 1992. To request a copy: Anthony E. Anderson, Government Documents Department, Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA 90089-0182 or Anthonya@uscvm.bitnet.

MILESTONES

Robin F. Bachin, doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, is the recipient of a research grant from the Rockefeller Archive Center.

John F. Bauman, California University of Pennsylvania, is serving as president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association during 1994.

David T. Beito has been appointed assistant professor of history at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Previously he taught at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Martha Bianco has been appointed assistant professor of urban studies at Portland State University. She previously taught at Lewis & Clark University.

William Cronon, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College, has been appointed A.B. Dick professor of history.

Jessica Ivy Elfenbein, University of Delaware, is the recipient of a dissertation fellowship from the Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism.

Maureen A. Flanagan has been appointed assistant professor of history at Michigan State University.

Michael W. Homel, Eastern Michigan University, has been elected mayor of Ypsilanti. Previously he served several terms on the municipal council.

Ann Durkin Keating, North Central College, and Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University of Chicago, have been elected to the advisory board of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Russell Lewis, Chicago Historical Society, has been promoted to assistant director for research and curatorial affairs.

Allen R. Steinberg, University of Iowa, is the recipient of a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

Richard Stott, George Washington University, is the recipient of a fellowship from the Henry Huntington Library.

David O. Stowell has been appointed assistant professor of history at Keene State College.

Mark T. Tebeau, Carnegie Mellon University, has received one of the 1994 Reserach Fellowships of the Missouri Historical Society for his project "Eating Smoke: Masculinity, Technology and Urban Politics, 1850-1950."

Joe William Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University, has been elected to the executive boards of The Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association.

Leonard Wallock has been appointed associate director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Institute of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Previously he taught at Hunter College, C.U.N.Y.

1994 U.H.A. PRIZE COMMITTEES

BEST DISSERTATION COMPLETED IN 1993 (\$300 award): Ronald Dale Karr (University of Massachusetts at Lowell); (chair) Carol A. O'Connor (Utah State University); and Roderick N. Ryon (Towson State University).

BEST SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 1993 (\$250 award): (chair) Jeffrey S. Adler (University of Florida); Maureen Ogle (University of South Alabama); and Richard Stott (George Washington University).

BEST BOOK/NORTH AMERICAN TOPIC PUBLISHED IN 1993 (\$500 award): Paula Eldot (California State University, Sacramento); Peter C. Holloran (Pine Manor College); and (chair) Dominic Pacyga (Columbia College-Chicago).

Winners will be announced at the Association's sixth annual dinner, January 7, 1995, at the Chicago Historical Society. Announcements detailing the 1995 round of prize competitions (for the three preceding categories plus *Best Book/Non-North American Urban History published in 1992 or 1993*, will be distributed to members on or about February 1. Once again the deadline for submissions will be June 15.

SYLLABUS II REVIEW

Janet R. Daly Bednarek, University of Dayton, reviews *Syllabus Exchange II*, a joint project of the Urban History Association and The Valentine Museum.

Last summer I found myself completely reworking my urban history course. In my first semester at the University of Dayton, Fall 1992, I was assigned an upper level course on the history of urban America. Although trained as an urban historian, circumstances never had permitted me to teach a course in my specialty before. So I did what I suspect many have done over the years--I dug out old class notes and used the courses in the subject I had taken as my model. For a variety of reasons, the course went over like a lead balloon. My students, very few of them history majors, took the course only because "they had to." They were criminal justice, sociology, education and political science majors and had a real hard time warming up to central place theory and the impact of technology on the built environment. Also the reading list which was accepted with no comment at my previous school was immediately deemed cruel and unusual. Hence I spent time--pre-Syllabus II--reworking my approach.

I tell this story primarily because I feel it shaped my reaction to Syllabus II and prompted the suggestions I have for future revisions. First, let me emphasize that I think Syllabus II is a valuable resource, especially for the beginning teacher. For anyone facing the issue of "what in the world do I talk about for sixteen weeks," the collection offers a wealth of suggestions. It not only provides a number of very good examples of what an urban history course can and should be about, but also presents a fairly good picture of the current "state of the subject."

On that last point, as Richard Harris stated in his introductory essay, it seems that urban historians are doing a good job at addressing the issue of inclusion. Women, African-Americans, and the poor all figure prominently in most general surveys and the first two take center stage in syllabi contributed by Kathleen Hulser and Gregory Mixon. Although this may be my particular bias, I have come to the conclusion that urban history courses perhaps offer one of the best ways to tell the stories of all the various peoples who have shaped our national heritage. If there is one place where many different people have had the opportunity to meet and interact with one another it is has been in our nation's cities.

I must also agree with Harris on another issue, that of the lack of a comparative approach in most of these courses. While I was impressed by Paula Eldot's inclusion of a section on "United States urbanization in comparative perspective" in her course outline, its inclusion jumped out at me first because of its uniqueness and second because of its mention of Canada, the United States' all-too-frequently ignored neighbor. My own graduate course work included a significant amount of reading in Canadian urban history. While, as Harris pointed out in his introduction, the similarities between Canadian and US cities are often striking, there are some important differences that might provide fruitful areas for comparative analysis.

On this issue of comparative history, I would wish to make

a pitch for more regional comparative work. Several course syllabi, including those of Elaine Abelson, Howard Chudacoff, Robert Fairbanks and Patricia Mooney-Melvin, included sections on the West and on the Sunbelt. With the expanding scholarship on cities of the West and the South, I think it is important that urban historians work to present a more comprehensive picture of the urban experience in the United States. So much is still based on the experience in larger, eastern cities. While New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, for example, have been important in the shaping of our urban culture, they do not tell the whole story. It seems to me that, at the least, it should be important to look at cities of the West in something other than the nineteenth-century context in which they are usually examined and at cities of the South before the twentieth century. As the syllabi on the history of Dallas showed, the "new cities" do indeed have a history.

Finally, I would like to return to my own recent experience and offer a few suggestions for improvement. As many of us many have found over the course of time, syllabi do not always speak for themselves. Frequently as I examined the various syllabi I found myself thinking that I would love to assign that reading list or I would really like to try that assignment. However, I frequently found myself backing off, knowing that what might work at Brown or Columbia would not necessarily work at the University of Dayton. Also, what might be appropriate for a first-year class would be inappropriate for an upper-divisional course, and so on. My point in all this is that after reading through some of the syllabi, before I could feel really comfortable adopting some of the ideas, I would like to know more about the classes and the students who normally take them. Is this a lower divisional course? (Course numbering systems vary enough that it was not always obvious.) Are the students history majors? What level are they? How many are normally in the class? (I was intrigued by a couple of Tim Gilfoyle's ideas, but my urban history class normally draws 35 to 40 students. If I took them on a midnight bike ride through Dayton, I'd need a parade permit.)

In any further editions of the exchange, I would like to see some instructor comments about the classes themselves. I assume that because these teachers are willing to share their syllabi that their courses are successful. But a little more information on the conditions under which those courses work would be extremely valuable. By knowing a little more about the kind of students the courses aimed at, it could help those using these syllabi as guides to better judge what may or may not work under the circumstances in which they find themselves. It also might be helpful if some of those who have been at this a little longer offered some insights into how they arrived at the final form taken by their syllabi.

As Harris notes in his introduction, the purpose behind the syllabus exchange was to prompt a dialogue among urban historians. As it stands, *Syllabus II* can communicate a tremendous amount of important information to readers. As I said, however, syllabi do not speak for themselves. With some more effort on the part of contributors and the editor the hoped for dialogue could become much fuller. I think the result would be worth the effort.

HISTORICAL URBAN STUDIES

Jean-Luc Pinol, Univeristy of Strasbourg, and Richard Rodger editor of *Urban History*, are general editors of a new series from Scholar Press entitled "Historical Urban Studies." They explain the rationale for the new series: "Research on towns and cities has come a long way in recent years. The volume and quality of research has been impressive and scholars in almost all European countries have contributed richly to the development of urban history from the medieval to the modern period." This new series will attempt to synthesize some of this new research, especially work which for language reasons has not been widely available. Titles on new research, as well as commissioned studies surveying particular topics will be included. Among the first titles in the series to appear in 1995 will be: European colonial cities; water and European cities; and land ownership in medieval and early modern northern Europe. If you are interested in writing or editing a book in the series please contact the general editors: Richard Rodger, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 1RH or Jean-Luc Pinol, Centre de Recherches Historiques sur la Ville, Universite des Sciences Humaines de Strasbourg, 32 Rue de l'Ail, 67000, Strasbourg.

1995 PLANNING HISTORY CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for American City and Regional Planning History presents the Sixth National Conference on American Planning History at the Radisson Summit Hill Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 12-15, 1995. The organizational co-sponsor is the Urban History Association and the institutional co-sponsor is The Graduate School of Planning, The University of Tennessee.

Papers are most cordially solicited on all aspects of the history of urban, regional, or community planning. Proposals are solicited for individual papers and are specifically encouraged for thematic sessions with two or three presenters. No more than three presenter will be permitted in each session.

In recognition of the centennial of the birth of Lewis Mumford (1895) and the location of the meeting, papers and session focusing on Mumford, the Tennessee Valley Authority, regionalism, and Earle Sumner Draper (director of land planning for TVA, who passed away 1 July 1994 at age 100) and other individuals associated with these themes are particularly encouraged.

Those submitting proposals should send five copies of a one-page abstract of each paper proposed, complete with a paper title (and session title, moderator's name, and commentator's name if a full session is proposed) and a one-page vita for each participant by January 1, 1995 to: David Schuyler, Program Committee Chair, Sixth National Conference on American Planning History, American Studies Program, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003, phone: 717/2914247; fax: 717/3994413.

NEW ENGLAND MEETINGS

The New England American Studies Association (NEASA) will hold its annual conference on April 29-30 at Babson College. The conference theme is "The Legacy of Margaret Fuller: Cultural Critique in America." Papers and panels may be proposed by writing to Fritz Fleschmann, Humanities Division, Babson College, Babson Park, MA 01257-0910; (617)239-4400.

The New England Historical Association (NEHA) holds its spring 1995 conference on April 29 at Mount Holyoke College. Papers or panels on any topic may be submitted (abstract and short cv) by November 30 to: Professor Patricia Herlihy, Brown University, Department of History, Providence, RI 02912. For membership information or sample copies of the NEHA newsletter contact: Peter Holloran, Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167; email: pch@world.std.com.

THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

NEW AT JUH

Received from David Goldfield, Editor, JUH:

The *Journal of Urban History* is pleased to announce our 20th anniversary issue. The issue will appear in mid-November and include a number of essays written especially for this anniversary number as well as a new feature. Stuart Blumin will open the issue with an essay on "Two Decades of Urban History in the *JUH*," analyzing what we have published over the past two decades and what that says about our field. Carl Abbott will follow with "Reading Urban History: Influential Books and Historians," the results of a survey Carl conducted to determine the leading works in the field. Sam Bass Warner, Jr. concludes the article section with a thought-provoking essay, "What to Do When No One Is Listening."

Our new feature follows. Urban historians use photographs and illustrations as important sources for understanding the development of cities. We want to share some of the insights derived from these sources with our readers. Accordingly, we have instituted a new feature, the photographic essay. Our first photographic essay, "Race Relations in Washington, D.C., 1878-1955," assembled by Fredric Miller and Howard Gillette, Jr., will appear in the anniversary issue. Bruce Stave will serve as special editor for this feature. If you have suggestions for future essays, please contact Bruce at the History Department; University of Connecticut; Storrs, CT 06268.

Following the photographic essay will be "A Conversation with Blaine A. Brownell, David Goldfield, and Raymond A. Mohl," an interview conducted by Bruce Stave of the three editors of the *JUH* since its beginning in 1974. We conclude the special issue with three review essays, one by Laura Marks on "Jewish Identity and the City;" Jessica Kross on "The Dutch and English and New York;" and Karen Sawislak on "Processes of Urban Construction."

Although our 20th anniversary issue will be out in mid-November, it will bear a January 1995 publication date. With the beginning of this issue, the *Journal of Urban History* will move from a quarterly to a bi-monthly format. With our backlog approaching two years, we felt that we were not serving our authors or our readers. Publishing six issues a year will enable us to introduce new features such as the photographic essay and, beginning next year, museum and film reviews. Leonard Wallock, Associate Director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at UC-Santa Barbara, 93106-9010, will be responsible for those reviews. Please send your suggestions to Leonard. Most important, we will be able to publish articles and review essays more expeditiously as we will have 33% more space. For those Urban History Association members who renew their subscriptions this summer or early fall, the subscription rate will remain the same for the coming year. After next year, the rate will increase from \$48 per year to \$59 per year. The 20 percent discount coupon all UHA members receive will remain in effect for this and subsequent years.

As the *Journal of Urban History* enters a new era, we look forward to our continued close cooperation and collaboration with the Urban History Association and its members.

Activities of the Urban History Association
during the annual meeting of
The American Historical Association (January 5-8, 1995)
Chicago, IL

Friday, January 6th

4:45 PM

Annual Business Meeting

Conference Room #4C/Hilton Hotel & Towers

Presiding: Kenneth T. Jackson

Saturday, January 7th

5:45 PM

Free guided tours of current exhibitions of
The Chicago Historical Society
Assemble in main lobby (Clark Street entrance):

Chicago Historical Society

Clark Street and North Avenue

There is *no* advance sign-up for these tours;
just show up at the appointed hour.

6:45 PM

Sixth Annual Dinner

Chicago Historical Society

Clark Street and North Avenue

Cocktails (cash bar), 6:45 PM/Dinner, 7:30 PM

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

*Death in the City: Personal Safety
in the American Metropolis*

Kenneth T. Jackson

Barzun Professor of History/Columbia University

PRESIDING: Carl Abbott

The Association is pleased to announce that
Harlan Davidson Publishers, Inc.
has agreed to serve as the
exclusive underwriter
of its sixth annual dinner.

Directions to Chicago Historical Society: Located at the south end of Lincoln Park, the society's main entrance is on Clark Avenue. CTA bus nos. 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156 stop nearby. Metered parking available in general vicinity. Public garages located west, on North Avenue at Wells Street. The Chicago Historical Society is a 10-minute cab ride, under ideal traffic and weather conditions, from the convention hotels.

The CHS bookstore, featuring books and ephemera on the history of Chicago, Illinois, the Midwest, and the Civil War, also will remain open from
5:45 PM until 7:00 PM.

Reservation information will be mailed to members on November 4th. Dinner by prepaid reservation only; *no tickets will be sold at the door.*

Non-member readers wishing to obtain a dinner reservation form should write (prior to December 1) to: Professor Timothy J. Gilfoyle, Department of History, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60026. Absolutely no tickets will be available at the door.
