

The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association
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The Imaginative Dimensions of Urban History

Carl Smith is professor of English and former director of the Program in American Culture at Northwestern University. He is the author of several books and articles on urban history and culture, including Chicago and the American Literary Imagination 1880-1920 (1984) and Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief: The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman (1995). This article is partly adapted from the introduction to the latter book.

The *Urban History Association Newsletter* has kindly offered me the opportunity to share with fellow members some thoughts on the place of literary study in urban history. I'm grateful for this opportunity to talk about my work and to reflect on its value in contributing to our understanding of urban life.

I should first point out that many would call what I do cultural history rather than literary criticism. It is something of a hybrid of the two, since I examine a greater number and variety of sources than do most literary scholars, at the same time placing greater emphasis on literary analysis and aesthetic considerations than do most historians. Similarly, as is the trend in literary scholarship nowadays, I explore materials that stretch the definition of literature while trying to bring to these materials the interpretive concerns--sensitivity to form, convention, and style in relation to tradition, creativity, and meaning--that have mainly been applied to the study of traditional literary genres. Although my sources include fiction and poetry from well-known classics to dime novels and doggerel, they encompass a wide range of non-fiction prose--memoirs, popular histories, journalism, topical publications (circulars, pamphlets, and government, corporate, or institutional reports) and spoken forms (speeches, trial testimony)--as well as visual materials (paintings, posters, illustrations, photography, political cartoons) and even certain kinds of both organized and spontaneous activities (parades and demonstrations, meetings and rallies, strikes and protests).

I see these all as historically significant forms of cultural thought and expression, revealing the imaginative dimensions of individual and social life in the city. While we sometimes tend to think of literature and ideas as "responses" to experience, they shape as well as are shaped by other sorts of individual and collective action. Almost all of my work in one way or another deals with the imaginative dimensions of large-scale social developments in American cities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

I have focused most recently on the way Americans thought, spoke, wrote, and acted in regard to what they saw as the recurrent--even constant--condition of urban disorder in this

period. My assumption is that the manner in which they conceptualized the idea of disorder offers important insights into how they understood the nature of city life in this country's major period of urbanization, and that this understanding itself profoundly influenced the course of social experience. I focus on Chicago as the exemplary American metropolis of this era, the site of the nation's most legendary urban fire, of its most notorious act of terrorist violence and retribution, and of one of its most hopeful industrial experiments that became the source of one of its most bitter labor disputes. My broader subject is the relationship between thought, expression, and action in urban history, including the question of how and why ideas and the ways in which they are expressed matter in this context.

Some events are more significant than others--i.e., they capture the public mind and affect subsequent events--since they at least appear to validate certain established intellectual and aesthetic conventions. The contemporary understanding of the fire, the bomb, the town of Pullman, and of Chicago itself derived from existing ideas, and ways of conveying these ideas, which were already in place and which affected how people integrated these events and this city into their lives. The fire, for instance, stands out among all the natural urban catastrophes of the nineteenth century not just because of the magnitude of its devastation but also because it took place in a setting already very much on the mind of an urbanizing and industrializing country. Its fascination lay in the ways it could be integrated into several prevailing understandings of the nature of experience, both reinforcing and modifying the ideas embedded within them.

The ideas that characterized how people "read" the fire derived from several sources: a Protestant evangelical outlook, often expressed in sentimental literary forms, eager to see purification and redemption in the flames; liberal education and secular refinement, which wished to view the destruction and the rebuilding of the city as an aesthetically satisfying and politically conservative drama; and an emerging professional consciousness that maintained that this disaster revealed the need for preparation, organization, and expertise. These cultural sources, which themselves were deeply influenced by the cultural memory of the Civil War, determined how the fire was reported and remembered, and thus how its "lessons" and its essential meanings were to define subsequent thought and action.

Certain events become "literary" in the way they are taken as apt metaphors through which to decipher the world and choose and how act within it. Both residents of Chicago and outsiders already felt, in a way that the fire seemed both to reveal and embody, that the development of the city, even

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apart from this particular disastrous event, had its own incendiary quality that was essential to its nature. Such stories as the legend of Mrs. O'Leary cow and unsubstantiated rumors of arsonists running loose spreading the flames further (partly inspired by news of the Paris Commune of 1871) indicate the extent to which many middle-class and native-born Chicagoans considered the social order of this sprawling city a tinder box that would burst into flame again and again if its unruly classes, not just its building code, were not strictly regulated.

Fifteen years later, at a time of terrible economic distress and open conflict between capital and labor, the Haymarket bomb offered an even more fearsome metaphorical handle on the nature of city life. Now the city was not just social kindling but an unstable explosive charge that might go off again and again if strong and swift measures were not taken. The design of Pullman itself, fatally flawed by its social assumptions (based partly in the founder's reading) was an attempt to "write" an alternative urban story--a task energetically bolstered by the Pullman Company's prodigious public relations efforts and all the positive journalistic response the model town received--whose setting avoided the perilous conditions of the disorderly city and, along with it, its tumultuous and conflict-ridden plot.

In addition to offering a richer understanding of individual events, the study of the imaginative dimensions of urban experience often reveals the connections between different historical developments such as the fire, Haymarket, and Pullman, which are part of one complicated sequence of thought and action. Besides sharing certain "characters" and a common locale, each had, and was perceived at the time as having, a powerful narrative form marked by multiple permutations and open to very different interpretations. These narratives were closely interwoven in all sorts of large and small ways, mutually shaping the recollection and anticipation of contemporary experience into a highly conflicted set of ideas and images in which the major theme was the relationship between the city, disorder, and modernity. The imaginary arsonists that ran through popular accounts of the fire, where they were captured and hanged by vigilantes, became after the Haymarket bombing the actual "social incendiaries" whom the public and civic leaders demanded be hunted out and hanged for a crime that they did not commit. The Haymarket trial and the execution of the anarchists were thus in a sense "written" even before the explosion even occurred.

Imaginative expression is an extraordinarily revealing site of historical evidence. A culture uses language and related forms to master experience by finding a way to think and talk about it in terms that are satisfying, convincing, and acceptable. Behind such forms, and the conventions into which they gather, are certain assumptions about the way things are and should be. Through the last three decades of the nineteenth century, Americans increasingly agreed that the modern American city--Chicago in particular--was the disorderly embodiment of instability, growth, and change. They also agreed that it was the center of political, social, and economic power in America, and, as such, was contested ground--

another reason why it seemed so unstable. In this context, being able to express in the most powerful manner whether and how this or that event was disorderly was an act of power in a struggle in which different people tried to enforce their often disputed vision of urban order as the one that was most normal, proper, desirable, progressive, and correct. The dispute was ultimately over the future of America, with which the rise of the city was so closely linked, and the matters at issue were the rules that formed the basis of this setting, from those relating to wages and working conditions to ones of fairness, truth, and, of course, order.

The passion that characterized the discussion of the meaning of urban life in this period reveals how important the establishing of imaginative control over the city was thought to be. The attempts to define the fluid and contested city in such moments of instability as the fire, the Haymarket trial, and the Pullman strike, were efforts to empower certain beliefs. Different individuals and groups insisted through their words that circumstances confirmed their view of the nature of urban reality, a view that they felt they could make real if they expressed themselves effectively.

I do not mean to imply that social reality, urban or otherwise, is wholly constructed or determined by the system of ideas and words through which it is expressed. But even if people cannot be said to wholly "imagine" their lives or to constitute experience entirely through language, they do live in the way that they discuss and interpret life. Meaning and experience are constantly intertwined, and imaginative expression is the primary source of meaning. As such, it is an especially important and promising field of inquiry for the urban historian.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This month the U.H.A. is co-sponsoring the Sixth National Conference on American Planning History of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH), scheduled for Knoxville, Tennessee for October, 12-15, that includes a major address by President Carl Abbott. Program chair David Schuyler has arranged an imaginative and enticing assortment of sessions. This continues a tradition which began with the U.H.A. co-sponsorship of SACRPH conferences at Richmond (1991) and Chicago (1993) that has proven salutary for all concerned.

For the first time in a three years our total membership has dipped to below 500, the precise figure being 470. (Elsewhere in this issue you will find tables providing a geographic breakdown.) This decline is part of a national trend among comparable learned societies, which experts attribute to the constricted economic conditions confronting American higher education. Dues renewal statements for 1996 will be in your mail around October 23rd; by replying promptly to Clifton Hood, our membership secretary, you save the Association time and expense.

With the foregoing in mind the Association has instituted two steps to control its expenses, both aimed at maintaining our prevailing dues structure. First, since July much of the mail you are receiving (save for those members residing at non-USA addresses) is dispatched at a not-for-profit bulk rate. Second, rather than having our newsletter printed at Lake Forest College (which was very convenient) we have gone to an outside shop (with issue # 13) and a new production process (beginning with issue # 14) to decrease our costs by nearly 25 percent without comprising the end result.

The committee on nominations appointed by President Abbott is fast completing its assignment. It is chaired by Lizabeth Cohen. Serving with her are Arnold R. Hirsch and Blanche Linden. Ballots will be distributed next month and the results will be announced at our eighty annual meeting on January 5th in Atlanta.

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

Our seventh annual dinner is scheduled for January 6th at the Atlanta History Center, a state-of-the-art facility in that city's Buckhead neighborhood. Thanks to underwriting from Houghton Mifflin Company and more than 50 members of the Urban History Association who requested anonymity, the price per ticket will remain below \$30 and free shuttle bus transportation will be provided between the convention hotel and the museum. Without the cooperation of Rick Beard, executive director of A.H.C., it would have been beyond the Association's means to hold our dinner at one of the nation's premier big-city historical society. (Reservation forms will be mailed on November 10th.)

Our annual luncheon during the '96 meeting of the O.A.H. is scheduled for March 29 (Friday) at the Chicago Historical Society. President-elect David R. Goldfield has arranged a fine program featuring a talk by Douglas Greenberg, president and director of the Chicago Historical Society.

Michael Ebner

IN MEMORIAM: ROY LUBOVE

Roy Lubove died after a long illness on February 17, 1995 in Pittsburgh at the age of 61. He taught at the University of Pittsburgh for 32 years as professor of social welfare and history in the School of Social Work with a joint appointment in the department of history. A native of Jackson Heights, Queens, and a graduate of Columbia University, he completed his advanced degrees working with David Brion Davis at Cornell University. Then he spent three years at the Center for the History of Liberty at Harvard University under the direction of Oscar Handlin, who in turn wrote introductions to two of his books.

Professor Lubove's wide range of interests are reflected in such books as *The Progressives and the Slums: Tenement House Reform in New York City, 1890-1917* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1963), *Community Planning in the 1920s: The Contribution of the Regional Plan Association in America* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1964), *Twentieth Century Pittsburgh: Government, Business, and Environmental Change* (John Wiley & Sons, 1969), *The Professional Altruist: The Emergence of Social Work as a Career, 1880-1930* (Harvard University Press, 1965), and *The Struggle for Social Security, 1900-1935* (Harvard University Press, 1986). He also edited several collections of documents. He spent his last months completing *Twentieth Century Pittsburgh: The Post-Steel Era*. A sequel of his 1969 book, it was published last month by the University of Pittsburgh Press as a two-volume set which returns the earlier volume to print.

Colleagues have organized a memorial symposium, scheduled for late winter of 1996, that will reexamine the scholarship of Roy Lubove. For additional information: Edward J. Muller, Chair, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-7403 USA.

IN MEMORIAM: PETER R. KNIGHTS

Peter R. Knights suddenly passed away, in his hometown of Harwichport, Massachusetts, on July 14 at the age of 56. He was professor of history at York University in Toronto and a charter member of the Urban History Association. He completed his graduate studies, working with Eric Lampard, at the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Knights was best known as the author of *The Plain People of Boston, 1830-1860: A Study in City Growth* (Oxford University Press, 1971) and *Yankee Destinies: The Lives of Ordinary Nineteenth-Century Bostonians* (University of North Carolina Press, 1991).

An obituary in the *Toronto Star* (7/15/95) noted: "His students will remember him for his generous giving of his time and experience in discussing both their plans and problems at the University and the care he took in teaching the art of essay writing. Friends, colleagues, and the staff in York's history department will also miss his generosity, his good-nature, and his delightful, quirky Yankee sense of humor."

U.H.A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Association's annual business meeting will be held at 4:45 PM on Friday, January 5, 1996 in Atlanta. Members wishing to place items on the agenda must submit them *in writing* by November 30, 1995 to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Agendas will be distributed in December.

Houghton Mifflin Company
publisher of
David R. Goldfield & Blaine A. Brownell
Urban America, A History
second edition (1990)

is assisting with underwriting
the 7th annual dinner of
THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION
in honor of
DAVID R. GOLDFIELD
seventh president of the UHA

For information about Houghton Mifflin titles: Jean Woy,
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ISLA: Information System for Los Angeles at USC

A team of researchers and librarians at the University of Southern California have launched a major project to create a spatially-structured digital analytical archive of Los Angeles materials in multiple information formats for the purpose of research, teaching, and public access. Its scope includes the widest variety of information from all historical periods. Texts, photographs, GIS data layers, scanned maps, demographic and scientific data, and other types of information, will be indexed and linked by spatial coordinates. Library retrieval will be possible by clicking and dragging a box on a map as well as by traditional retrieval methods such as title, author, and keyword searches.

The goal of the graphical user interface will be to allow patrons to easily construct a library search using any of a variety of spatially referenced digital data layers such as neighborhoods, census tracts, streets, orthophotography, zoning, land use, parcels, and so on. A range of dates can be chosen as well (although, for the prototype, only current and 1930's information will be included). Choosing a date will update the spatial themes to the available dates closest to the range chosen. Map location features such as pan, zoom, and center will be available, and a gazetteer will add the functionality of locating a given place on the map. Format (photography, text, scanned maps, sequential views, videos, etc.) may also be defined. Once the patron has defined a search area by "clicking and dragging" a box on the map, the software will search the database for items that have been indexed with inclusive coordinates. The bibliographic information will then be displayed with hypertext links to the

full-text, imagery, video, etc.

The ISLA project draws together researchers and teachers from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences, and several professional schools, all of whom see Los Angeles (defined as broadly as possible), as an ideal metropolis in which to study subject ranging from history, geography, art and architectural history, to urban planning, environmental and earth sciences, political science, education, health sciences research, and public policy and administration.

The prototype is expected to be available by mid-1996, at which time adaptation to the World Wide Web will have begun. The project invites collaboration, discussion, and exchange with other institutions. Enquiries may be directed to Philip J. Ethington, Director, ISLA Project, History Department, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0034, or e-mail to isla@calvin.usc.edu.

Institute of Cuban History Workshop

The Institute of Cuban History and the Cuban section of the Historians' Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (ADHILAC) announce an International Workshop on Theoretical and Practical Problems of Regional and Local History. The workshop will be held at the Instituto de Historia de Cuba in Havana. Papers are solicited on local history, especially: archives, concepts of regions, periodization in regional history, local and regional history in teaching, and case studies. Those interested in participating should send an one-page abstract by December 20, 1995 (with a February 15, 1996 deadline for the written paper) to: Dra. Lilian Vizcaino, Comision Organizadora del Taller Cientifico Internacional, Instituto de Historia de Cuba, Amistad #510 entre Reina y Estrella, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba.

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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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WHERE DO U.H.A. MEMBERS RESIDE?

Table A: 437 members living in USA

State	Number	% of all USA members
New York	79	18.1
Illinois	47	10.8
Cal.	37	8.5
Penn.	33	7.6
Ohio	30	6.9
Mass.	26	5.9
Maryland	19	4.3
NJ	13	3.0
DC	12	2.7
Wisconsin	12	2.7
Florida	11	2.5
Texas	11	2.5
Conn.	10	2.3
Virginia	10	2.3
Michigan	9	2.1
Indiana	8	1.8
Georgia	6	1.4
No. Car.	6	1.4
Iowa	5	1.1
Missouri	5	1.1
other*	48	22.0

*19 other states have less than 5 members each

Table B: 33 Members Living outside USA

Country	Number	Percentage
Canada	13	39
Australia	4	12
France	3	9
Israel	2	6
New Zealand	2	6
Argentina	1	3
Dom.Repub.	1	3
Germany	1	3
Guatemala	1	3
Greece	1	3
China	1	3
Saudia Arabia	1	3
Singapore	1	3
UK	1	3

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H-URBAN

H-Urban, the H-Net on-line forum on urban history, has achieved some significant milestones in 1995. Among the most important are the addition of two editors, Australian Mark Peel of Monash University in Melbourne and South African Keith Tankard of Rhodes University in East London, to the existing editorial staff of Martha Bianco, Alan Mayne, and Wendy Plotkin. Mark is a lecturer in the Department of History at Monash University whose book *Good Times, Hard Times: The Past and the Future in Elizabeth*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press was published in June. *Good Times, Hard Times* traces the history of Elizabeth, in South Australia, and is one of the first accounts of the Australia's postwar suburban working-class world.

Keith Tankard is lecturer-in-charge of the history department at the East London branch of Rhodes, and the author of *The Development of East London Through Four Decades of Municipal Control, 1873-1914* (Dissertation, 1991) and numerous articles. Keith has launched a series of scholarly essays on H-Urban with an overview of South African urban history, and also has abstracted papers he has presented on South African museums and "history vs. memory."

Overall, over 900 subscribers from 25 nations, including a majority from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa among the English-speaking, and many more from non-English-speaking nations, are a part of H-Urban. H-Urban subscribers include scholars, graduate students, and practitioners in a wide variety of disciplines, including history, geography, planning, political science, sociology, anthropology, ecology and environmental studies, library science, English and American studies, and journalism.

Another important addition to the H-Urban staff is Sara Cormeny, Assistant Editor, who is in charge of the H-Urban surveys submitted by all new subscribers. Thanks to Sara, a staff member of the Public Citizen Litigation Group in Washington D.C. and a B.A. in history from Brandeis University, H-Urban now has over 1,500 surveys on-line and available to all subscribers. The surveys include information on the research interests of its subscribers, and a substantial number of dissertation and thesis abstracts in urban history and studies.

European involvement in H-Urban was significantly enhanced with the formal affiliation of the journal *URBAN HISTORY* with H-Urban, thanks to the agreement of Richard Rodger, editor of the journal, to the arrangement. In addition, as a means of reaching out to areas less well-represented, Editorial Board member Eric Weiss-Altaner has acted as an emissary for H-Urban in his trips to Latin America.

All of the material on H-Urban is available from its archive, and we hope to announce the initiation of a Gopher and WWW server in the fall (staff shortages have delayed these). To assist in the development of the Gopher, H-Urban has added the valuable services of Assistant Editor Jackson Shea, a programmer at Oregon Health Sciences University, and is also drawing on the H-Net Central Staff. The awarding of \$100,000 to H-Net by the National Endowment for the

Humanities will allow H-Net to continue to offer Gopher and other services to H-Urban, including its Book Review office and general information on history and the Internet.

A WWW server for H-Urban is also in the works, and will be greatly aided by the award of \$36,426 by the Australian government to H-Urban co-Editor Alan Mayne of the University of Melbourne and Paul Turnbull of James Cook University of North Queensland (co-Editor with Mayne of H-NZ-Oz, the H-Net list on New Zealand and Australian history). The historians received the funds to consolidate and extend the delivery of Internet-based information services and allied resources by establishing an Information Server in History and the Humanities. The co-ordinating hub will be in Melbourne and will serve: * Australian & New Zealand Studies (H-NZ-OZ); * Urban Past, Urban Present (tied to H-URBAN); * Association for History & Computing. H-Urban is always in need of additional assistance, as it is a volunteer organization and its quality depends on the size of its staff.

If you are interested in subscribing to H-Urban or assisting it in a variety of ways, contact us at H-Urban@uicvm.uic.edu or by traditional means at any of the following locations: Wendy Plotkin, Department of History, UIC, 913 University Hall, Chicago, IL 60607 (Ph: 312-996-3141; Fax: 312-996-6377); Alan Mayne, Department of History, University of Melbourne, Parkville, 3052, Victoria, Australia (Ph: 61 3 344 5963; Fax: 61 3 344 7894) and Keith Tankard, Rhodes University, P.O Box 7426, 5200 East London South Africa (Ph: 0431-22539; Fax: 0431-438307).
Wendy Plotkin
H-Urban Co-Editor

CHINESE URBAN HISTORY

Wall and Market: Chinese Urban History News commenced publication with its first issue last month. This biannual newsletter will serve scholars of Chinese and comparative urban history by providing a forum in which information about research opportunities, newly-opened archives, and conferences related to Chinese urban history can be publicized and shared. *Wall and Market* will also publish short essays on urban history topics, descriptions of ongoing or recently completed work in Chinese urban history, book reviews, and other information of use to its subscribers. It will be available in both an English edition and a Chinese edition.

The first issue of *Wall and Market* includes an essay on new directions in Chinese urban history by David Strand, a survey by Mingzheng Shi of significant literature in urban history outside the China field, and descriptions of the holdings of several important municipal archives in China.

Editors of *Wall and Market* are Kristin Stapleton (University of Kentucky), Mingzheng Shi (University of Houston), and Lee McIsaac (University of Vermont). The newsletter will be available both via electronic mail and in hard copy. For information on subscriptions and submission of material for publication, please contact Kristin Stapleton, Department of History, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027 (e-mail: kestep01@ukcc.uky.edu)

URBAN HISTORY SEMINARS

Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Seminar on the City is an annual lecture series co-sponsored by the Cincinnati Historical Society, the University of Cincinnati Department of History, and the Center for Neighborhood and Community Studies meets monthly (October to May). Speakers for 1995-96 are Kenneth T. Jackson ("The Beginning of the End: WW II and the American City"); Bruce Levine ("Strangers in the City: The Meaning of Nativism, 1840-1860"); Robert C. Vitz ("Cultural Dreams, Urban Despair: Some Thoughts on 19th Century Cincinnati"); Kriste Kindenmeyer ("Children in the City"); Christine Anderson ("Responsibility for the City's Children: The Orphanage in Cincinnati's Past"); Anne Boylan ("Daughters of Abyssinia, Sisters of Zion: Black Women's Organizations in Antebellum Northern Cities"); Mark Stein ("The City of Sisterly and Brotherly Love: The Making of Lesbian and Gay Communities in Greater Philadelphia, 1945-1976"); and Rickie Solinger ("City Politics and Smutty Exposures in PostWar America: The Case of Abortion").

St. Louis

The St. Louis Urban Forum begins its seventh season on September 14, as journalist Bill McKibben discusses the ecological consequences of urbanization in South America.

This year's Urban Forum theme, "Sustaining the City," focuses on environmental interpretations of the city, past and present. As in the past, the monthly programs will feature both local and national speakers, from a variety of academic and professional disciplines. Programs are geared for a broad public audience.

Other highlights of the coming season include: Joel Tarr, of Carnegie Mellon University, discussing the political lessons of American smoke-abatement campaigns; William McDonough, Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, speaking on the state of so-called "green" architecture; and a "Trail of Trash" tour of St. Louis led by Kathy Corbett of the Missouri Historical Society and Andrew Hurley of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

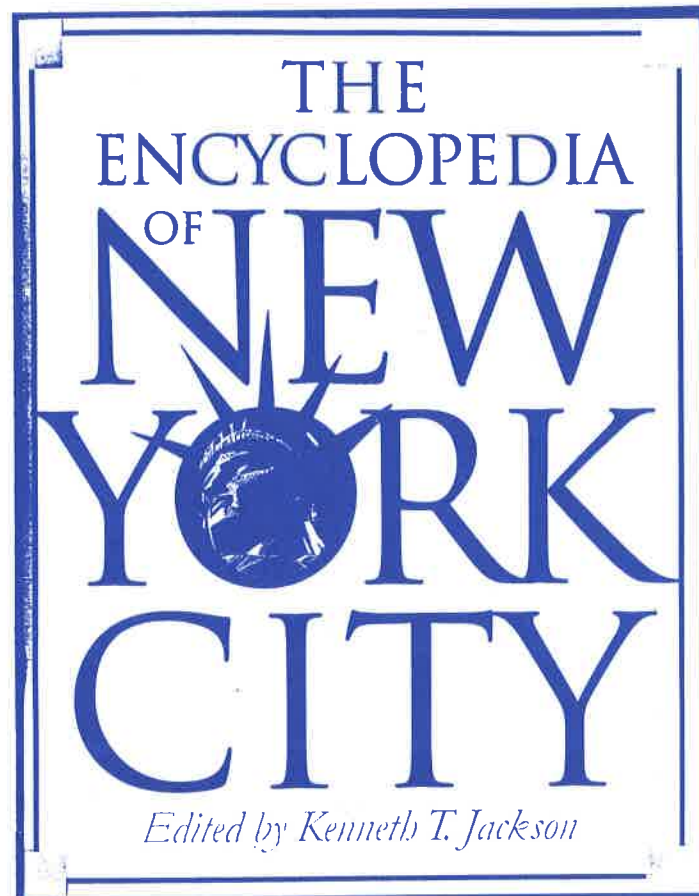
For more information on the Urban Forum, write Eric Sandweiss, Missouri Historical Society, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112. Or call (314) 746-4561.

Chicago

The Urban History Seminar of The Chicago Historical Society meets monthly (September-May). Speakers for 1995-96 are: Lewis Erenberg; Thomas W. Hanchett; Andrew Hurley; Susan Sessions Rugh; Marci Sortor; Timothy B. Spears; David Van Zanten; Marc A. Weiss; and Sharon Wood. Scholars wishing to add their name to the mailing list or who are visiting Chicago are always warmly welcomed. For further information: Russell Lewis, The Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 (312-642-5035 Ext. 270).

New York

Co-chairs for the 1995-96 Seminar on the City are Zeynep Celik and Tony Schuman of the New Jersey Institute of Technology. 1995-96 speakers: Jerrilyn Dodds, Christiane Collins, Thomas Angotti, Marcia Lyles, Steven Zeitlin, Susana Torre, Marta Gutman, Eve Balu, and Diane Favro.



[Credit: Yale University Press]

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW YORK CITY

This month Yale University Press and the New-York Historical Society will publish *The Encyclopedia of New York City* edited by Kenneth T. Jackson, U.H.A. founder and immediate past president.

This single volume book comprising 1,376 pages and enhanced by 688 illustrations, was thirteen years in the making. It contains 4,243 entries (e.g., Woody Allen, Bela Bartok, Yogi Berra, Captain Kidd, Mother Cabrini, John Gotti, Bille Holiday, Donna Karan, and Andy Warhol) written by 650 contributors, ranging from architecture, government, politics, business, religion, weather, the arts, education, transportation, law, science, medicine, and sports in all five boroughs.

Representative entries include: the late Arthur Ashe on tennis; Elizabeth Blackmar & Roy Rozenzweig on Central Park; Arnold Rampersand on the Harlem Renaissance; Martin Marty on religion; the late Harrison Salisbury on *The New York Times*; and Thomas Kessner on Fiorello LaGuardia.

U.H.A. members listed as editorial advisors include: Elaine Abelson; Eugenie Ladner Birch; Timothy J. Gilfoyle; Douglas Greenberg; Clifton Hood; Jon A. Peterson; Joel Schwartz; the late Bayrd Still; Richard C. Wade; the late Elliot Willensky; and Carol Willis.

For order information: Yale University Press, P.O. Box 209040, New Haven, CT 06520 USA (1-800-YUP-READ).

MILESTONES

Carl Abbott, Portland State University, is the recipient of his institution's annual Branford Price Millar Award for excellence in scholarship, teaching, and citizenship.

The Newberry Library has awarded research fellowships for 1995-96 to Henry C. Binford, Northwestern University, D. Scott Cormode, Yale University, and Laura Westhoff, Washington University.

Robert Barrows has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of History at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. He co-edited the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, published in November 1994 by Indiana University Press.

Richard M. Bernard has been appointed executive vice-president for academic affairs at Niagara University. Previously he served as vice-president for academic affairs at Simpson College.

Kathleen Neils Conzen received the University of Chicago's Quantrell Award, the nation's oldest prize for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Norman I. Fainstein has been appointed dean of the faculty at Vassar College. Previously he served as dean of liberal arts and sciences at Baruch College, CUNY.

Barbara Franco has been appointed executive director of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Previously she served as assistant director of the Minnesota State Historical Society.

Thomas W. Hanchett has been appointed assistant professor of history at Youngstown State University. Previously he held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Southern Studies at Emory University.

Steven Hoffman has been appointed assistant professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University.

Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University, has been elected to the board of trustees of the New-York Historical Society and to the nominating committee of the Organization of American Historians.

Dana S. Levantahl has been appointed director of development at the Historical Museums of Santa Barbara.

Blanche M. G. Linden has been appointed as visiting associate professor at Florida Atlantic University.

Alice O'Connor, formerly a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Chicago, will spend 1995-96 as a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. In September of 1996 she will begin an appointment as assistant professor of history at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Harold L. Platt, Loyola University of Chicago, is the recipient of the University of Manchester (U.K.) Simon Fellowship for 1995-96.

Steve Rosswurm, Lake Forest College, received a fellowship from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Nayan Shah, who recently completed his doctoral work at the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant professor of history at S.U.N.Y. Binghamton.

Carl Smith, Northwestern University, received the Illinois State Historical Society's Superior Achievement Award for best book in Illinois History for *Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief, The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman* (University of Chicago Press, 1995).

Kristin Stapleton, University of Kentucky, is the recipient of a summer stipend from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Bruce M. Stave, University of Connecticut, has been appointed as the editor of *The Oral History Review*.

Sharon Wood, who recently completed her doctoral degree at the University of Iowa, has joined the department of history at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

CITY WALLS CONFERENCE

The University of Minnesota's Center for Early Modern History sponsored a conference, October 5-8, providing a global perspective for a global phenomenon: how programs of city-wall building expressed diverse military threats, political capacities, and cultural norms; how walls once built structured city life in unexpected ways, both promoting solidarity and sharpening social conflict at the same time; and how representations of cities as walled have in various civilizations shaped the very idea of what it means to be a city. Twenty-two papers covered much of the globe. For details: John Tracy, Center for Early Modern History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE

The California American Studies Association will hold its annual meeting on April 26-28 in Los Angeles. The theme for the meeting is *Borders and Boundaries*. Deadline for submission of paper or session proposals is January 15. Contact: Arthe Anthony, American Studies, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041 (e-mail: anthony@oxy.edu).

GEOGRAPHICAL EXCURSIONS

Michael P. Conzen, a geographer at the University of Chicago, assembled *Geographical Excursions in the Chicago Region* in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (March 14-18, 1995) in Chicago. AAG has been issuing such volumes, oriented toward the city hosting its annual meeting, dating to 1974.

This 219 page paperback volume contains 34 chapters, the last of which is a bibliography entitled "Geographers Look at Metropolitan Chicago." To purchase, send \$8: AAG Publications, 1710 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

METROPOLIS AND REGION

Metropolis and Region comprises a series of monographs issued by Sage Publications under the imprimatur of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies at UCLA.

The series provides a forum for the full range of debates concerned with urban and regional change, including historical, contemporary, and comparative studies. It features the findings of original monograph-length studies along both disciplinary and interdisciplinary lines. Submissions from across the social sciences and related field are encouraged.

Prospective authors should contact: Professor Roger Waldinger, Director, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, Box 951467, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1567.

Atlanta History Center

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few subjects for too few people. Other initiatives in this campaign have included adopting Atlanta History Center as the name for the physical complex of buildings and grounds; aggressive marketing efforts aimed at the city's African American communities; broadened programming activities; and the opening, in 1988, of the Atlanta History Center Downtown. The History Center's rapid expansion since the mid-1980s has resulted in a doubling of its annual operating expenses -- to \$4.7 million in 1996 -- and growth of its fulltime staff to 65. Fortunately, rising costs have largely been offset by increased revenues from admissions, memberships, and aggressive annual fundraising as well as wise stewardship of endowment funds.

The completion of the Atlanta History Museum was both an end and a beginning. It brought an end to seven years of fundraising and planning. It also marked the beginning of self-conscious efforts to integrate the Center's component parts. A second capital campaign of \$11 million, nearing completion, will underwrite the installation of the two permanent exhibitions mentioned above, an expansion of the library/archives, and the realization of plans to improve the physical access to and the historical interpretation of the Center's gardens and grounds. Within the next five years extensive restoration work is also planned for both Tullie Smith Farm and the Swan House.

"Center" was deliberately chosen as a part of our new name five years ago to suggest the variety of resources available for inquiry into the history of Atlanta, its metropolitan region, the southeastern United States, and the American Civil War. The dangers of institutional chauvinism notwithstanding, the combination of museum exhibitions and collections, a library and archives of regional significance, two historic houses, and 33 acres of gardens and grounds together present a unique opportunity for the study of a complex, growing urban environment.

Rick Beard, The Atlanta History Center

1995 U.H.A. PRIZE COMMITTEES

BEST DISSERTATION COMPLETED IN 1994 (\$300 award): Roger Lane (Haverford College); Neil Larry Shumsky, chair (Virginia Tech); and Marci Sortor (Grinnell College).

BEST SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 1994 (\$250 award): Howard P. Chudacoff (Brown University); Donna R. Gabaccia, chair (University of North Carolina at Charlotte); and Carol Hoffecker (University of Delaware).

BEST BOOK/NON-NORTH AMERICAN TOPIC PUBLISHED IN 1993 OR 1994 (\$500 award): Ted W. Margadant, chair (University of California, Davis); Maureen Ogle (University of S. Alabama); and James F. Powers (Holy Cross College).

BEST BOOK/NORTH AMERICAN TOPIC PUBLISHED IN 1994 (\$500 award): Bill Issel (San Francisco State University); Julie Johnson-McGrath (Harvard University); and Gilbert Stelter, chair (University of Guelph).

Winners will be announced at the Association's seventh annual dinner, January 6, 1996, at the Atlanta History Center. Announcements detailing the 1996 round of prize competitions will be distributed to members on or about February 1. Once

again the deadline for submissions will be June 15.

Members wishing to serve on a prize committee during 1996 should make their preference known to the Executive Secretary by January 15, 1996.

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) for \$25 within US, \$26 in Canada, or \$26.50 elsewhere. Make checks payable to: **The Valentine Museum**. Send prepaid order to: *Syllabus Exchange II*, c/o The Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1590.



Caption: David Goldfield, U.H.A. president-elect, and John Hope Franklin.
CREDIT: National Humanities Center

URBAN CONFERENCE HONORS JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

The National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park North Carolina, with underwriting from the Ford Foundation, sponsored a conference entitled "The Changing American City" on April 20-22, 1995. The meeting honored John Hope Franklin for his distinguished service as a longtime center trustee. In addition to Professors Franklin and Goldfield, speakers included Paul Goldberger, Robin D. G. Kelley, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, David Rusk, Kurt L. Schmoke, Garry Wills, and William Julius Wilson. For further information: W. Robert Connor, Director, National Humanities Center, P. O. Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2256.

THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

The Atlanta History Center is one of the nation's newest and largest facilities devoted to interpreting the history of a city and its region. Located in a largely residential neighborhood in the northwestern quadrant of the city, the 33-acre complex includes a history museum, a library/archives, two historic houses, and a series of gardens and woodlands. The governing organization, the Atlanta Historical Society, Inc., was chartered in 1926 "to promote the preservation of sources of information concerning the history of Atlanta . . . and to arouse in the citizens and friends of Atlanta an interest in its history. . . ." Like many of its sister organizations around the United States, the Society was initially a volunteer organization that focused on collecting archival materials, held occasional meetings in members' homes, and published intermittent research bulletins. Not until 1936 did the Society employ its first professional, and another ten years passed before it purchased a permanent headquarters (on Peachtree Street, naturally).

Today's Atlanta History Center was shaped by a succession of events that began in 1966, when the Society purchased the twenty-three acre estate of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Inman, which was dominated by the Swan House. During the summer of 1967 the Society moved its headquarters to Swan House, converting the basement to storage for its archives, and housing members of the staff on the three floors above. The rooms on the first floor, containing many of the Inman's furnishings, were opened for visitors. Two years later the Society purchased and moved to its site the Tullie Smith House, a plantation-plain farmhouse that was one of the few antebellum structures left in the metropolitan area. First opened for visitors in 1972, the Tullie Smith Farm now includes a detached open-hearth kitchen, blacksmith shop, smokehouse, double corncrib, pioneer log cabin, and barn. Periodic demonstrations of traditional skills such as weaving, spinning, candle making, and cooking enhance the visitor's experience.

In order to utilize Swan House in its entirety as a house museum, the Society completed McElreath Hall in 1975 to house administrative offices, the library/archives, and temporary and permanent exhibition galleries. Further construction became necessary when, in 1986, the Society received the DuBose Civil War Collection, one of the nation's premier assemblages of Civil War objects. In the fall of 1993, the 83,000-square-foot Atlanta History Museum opened. Built on land acquired throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the museum features extensive collections storage as well as expanded exhibition and program spaces. Currently, the museum's one permanent exhibition, *Metropolitan Frontiers: Atlanta, 1835-2000* is accompanied by a regular schedule of temporary exhibitions, including *The Herndons: Style and Substance of the Black Upper Class in Atlanta, 1880-1930*. By the middle of 1996, two additional permanent installations will be in place: *Turning Point: The American Civil War* and *Shaping Traditions: Folk Arts in a Changing South*.

The creation of the new museum was the most significant step in the Atlanta Historical Society's campaign to recast its image as an organization perceived as narrowly focused on too
(continued on page 15)

Activities of the Urban History Association
during the annual meeting of
The American Historical Association (January 4-7, 1996)
Atlanta, GA

Friday, January 5th
4:45 PM

Annual Business Meeting
Embassy Room/Hilton Hotel & Towers
Presiding: Carl Abbott

Saturday, January 6th
5:45 PM

Free shuttle bus transportation
will depart from Hilton Hotel & Towers
(look for coaches marked UHA)

Beginning at 6:15 pm
free guided tours of current exhibitions of
Atlanta History Center
130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW

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

6:45 PM

Seventh Annual Dinner
Atlanta History Museum
130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW
Atlanta

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

"Thinking About Cities:
The Central Tradition in Urban History"
Carl Abbott
Portland State University
PRESIDING: David R. Goldfield

Free shuttle bus transportation will depart from
the A.H.C. immediately after the dinner.

The Association is pleased to announce that Houghton Mifflin Company and more than fifty anonymous members of the Urban History Association have provided underwriting for the seventh annual dinner.

Directions to Atlanta History Center: 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta. The Center may be reached by taxicab. It is located approximately seven miles north of downtown Atlanta in the heart of Buckhead, a neighborhood known for its beautiful homes, fine dining, nightlife, and unusual shops. Free parking available.

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 Ronald H. Bayor, Department of History, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 30322 USA. Dinner reservations must be prepaid; absolutely no tickets will be available at the door.
