



# The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association  
October 1996 Number 16

## URBAN HISTORY IN SOUTH AFRICA

by Keith Tankard of Rhodes University, Eastern Cape, South Africa, who is also a co-editor of *H-Urban*

Urban History in South Africa is still in a fledgling state. We have not yet got into the debates which occupied American and British historians of the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s concerning definitions of cities, theoretical frameworks or the difference between History as site or process. Indeed, in the South African context, such distinctions seem hardly relevant because there are few places which qualify as cities and those with historical significance are a rarity. Many of the towns which assumed an early importance (centres such as Graaf Reinet, Swellendam and Potchefstroom) lost their primacy when the economic focus of the sub-continent shifted first to the diamond fields of Kimberley and then to the gold reefs of the Witwatersr and during the late 19th century.

If one measures cities in terms of antiquity, few in South Africa are more than a hundred years old. In the Western Cape there is only Cape Town while the Eastern Cape has three (Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London). There are two in Kwazulu-Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg) and two in Gauteng (Pretoria and Johannesburg). The Free State and Northern Cape have one historical city each (Bloemfontein and Kimberley respectively). The rest are either very recent cities or old community towns whose histories are inextricably intertwined with their surrounding countryside.

Historians have therefore been forced to follow a traditional approach and those who have looked at the early market towns have usually widened their scope to include the adjacent agricultural districts as well, such as Ken Smith's work on Graaf Reinet.[1] Indeed, South Africa's only national Journal of Local History, *Contree*, was dedicated to both town and country until lack of finance and readership forced it to suspend publication at the end of 1995.

South African academics who have produced major works on towns and cities are also few in number. Only about 30 theses (mostly at Masters level) have been written with an urban flavour since 1918 and, of these, less than 20 would qualify as urban histories. None have followed the quantitative methods which seem to be preferred in America and it is doubtful whether many South African historians could be classified as urban historians in the mould of Britain's H. J. Dyos.

The most consistent early work on Urban History was done by Rhodes University (Eastern Cape), with its series of theses on Grahamstown. The initiative was taken by Keith Hunt in 1959 with his own master's study on the development of

municipal government in that settler city. Thereafter he supervised three more dissertations which further explored that topic.[2] Since then my own masters and doctoral theses has been produced on East London, also through Rhodes University.[3] Yet even Professor Hunt would hardly have classified himself as an urban historian because his wider interest focused on other aspects of South Africa and his lecturing encompassed themes in International History, especially Medieval and Early Modern Europe. Indeed, the demands made on our historians make little allowance for specialization. Even the existing sub-categories such as Economic History (of which few departments have survived at local universities) are losing ground as government subsidies shrink annually. Today it seems that History itself is an endangered species.

At most, therefore, South African historians can be said to have an interest in the urban but can neither devote their entire career to it, as in the Dyos definition, nor embark upon complex quantitative surveys, as in the American approach. The latter method would be difficult to adopt, in any case, because South Africa, like Australia, lacks the detailed archival census material. In short, Urban History in South Africa has followed another route or, to echo Britain's Derek Fraser, if it deepens the understanding of any historical process or situation, it hardly matters where the academic community places it.[4]

Urban History nevertheless has an important role in the South African context, indicated by the fact that more and more historians are dabbling in it even though few actually call themselves Urban Historians. The city is seen as functioning in two ways. First, it is a microcosm of social development in the region as a whole but it is also a major instrument in the development of the wider community. Furthermore, with the current stress on making History more relevant at all levels, Urban History takes on greater significance.

More people than ever before are living in urban areas and, with less working hours and consequently greater leisure time, there is an ever-increasing group of urban dwellers who are taking an interest in their History. Historical artifacts are all around them, in the ruins, the old buildings, the antique furniture and even the very lay-out of the town itself. People are asking questions but, without thorough research by properly trained historians, the answers tend to be either superficial or, as is often the case, erroneous. Urban historians are attempting the explanations, albeit on a part-time basis.

Another function of Urban History is currently being stressed. As South Africa moves away from the apartheid era, (see following page)

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(from page one)

historians are becoming increasingly interested in trying to explain how the draconian system of legal segregation came about in the first place. Scholars are therefore immersing themselves in research into the growth of the 'location' systems, as the townships set aside for the Black communities were called. They are trying to explain how attitudes of racism were formed, how it was influenced by such factors as disease, hygiene, or simple labour exploitation. Several Masters Theses on these topics are in the process of being researched at present.

As in South Africa's History proper, there are really three distinct schools of historiography. The Afrikaner Nationalist school (now a dying breed) used History as a means of fostering the development of the Afrikaner 'Volk'. Their emphasis was therefore on the History of the White Community in general and the Afrikaner Community in particular. The Black people would enter the picture only when they affected the White community, and especially the Afrikaner folk.

The Liberal historians, on the other hand, have been more interested in examining the growth of the towns and cities in a more holistic way, examining trade, economic development, physical growth of the urban areas, social forces, prostitution and crime. They would look at the History of the whole community, both Black and White, as a means of explaining the dynamics of the urban situation and it is from this group that most of our modern urban historians appear.

Our Radical (often Marxist) historians on the whole have not been particularly interested in Urban History as such but have concerned themselves rather with explaining the emergence of the apartheid system in the light of what they would call 'capitalist exploitation and domination'. Theirs has also been a History with a purpose, to aid in the 'liberation struggle' for the overthrow not only of the Apartheid Regime but of the Capitalist System generally.

Strangely enough, it is perhaps this latter group which triggered the present increasing research into the origins of segregation within the urban context. Because the Radical School is committed to the paradigm that Capitalism caused Apartheid, its scholars began examining the emergence of segregation within the early mining communities of Kimberley (1869) and Johannesburg (1886). They concluded that there was indeed a clear connection between the development of Mining Capital and the need for an exploitation of the proletariat through segregated Black compounds and 'locations'.

It was largely in response to this conclusion that new studies began to emerge which indicated that urban segregation did not necessarily have its origins in Industrial and Mining Capitalism. Maynard Swanson, for instance, points out that segregation at Cape Town at the turn of the century was due to a fear on the part of the White Community that the Black people harboured disease, especially during the bubonic plague pandemic.[5] Indeed, since Cape Town was a pre-industrial town, the Marxist paradigm just did not apply.

More recently Christopher Saunders of the University of Cape Town has reinterpreted Swanson's conclusions. The

concept of legal segregation was already forming in the minds of Capetonians during the latter half of the 1890s, he argues, and the bubonic plague pandemic merely galvanised government reaction. The idea of segregated locations did not, however, originate in Cape Town but was drawn from the example of the Eastern Cape where towns like Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London already had locations. The idea of legal segregation was therefore an import from the Eastern Cape.[6]

Vivian Bickford-Smith, in his recently published monograph on the rise of segregation in Victorian Cape Town, further clarifies the issue. Racist attitudes were already clearly discernable there by the late 1870s, were cemented during the recession years of the mid-1880s and were taking a clearly visible form during the 1890s. The stumbling block to the implementation of legal segregation was essentially the question of finance. Who would pay for the system: the Colonial Government or the Cape Town Municipality? The bubonic plague pandemic settled those questions.[7]

Saunders' idea that Cape Town was imitating a system already in vogue in the Eastern Cape would appear to have a great deal of truth. Professor AJ Christopher has consistently argued that 'locations' existed at towns like Port Elizabeth from at least the middle of the 19th century.[8] My own research into East London agrees with this finding.[9] In other words, urban segregation was alive in the Eastern Cape long before 'Capitalist Exploitation' of industrial South Africa found its way into the Cape Colony. Urban History is alive and well within this social context.

South Africa, however, is on the verge of a new era, particularly as it relates to museums which are totally dependent on government funding. Up until the late 1980s, with the Nationalist Party firmly in power, museums portrayed mostly White History. Now that Black Majority Rule has been established, however, radical change is being demanded: the displays must depict the life of the people as a whole and of the former politically 'disadvantaged' community in particular. Since most Museum History is specifically geared to the urban milieu, urban studies will probably soar. Most of our urban historians, however, are still 'dabblers' and most of their 'salaried' activities take place in other avenues.

Even as Urban History spreads its wings in the future, I doubt whether it will move in the way of the statistical approach simply because statistics are simply not readily available. The Black Community has been a phantom people as far as statistics are concerned and even the most recent census figures represent a hopelessly inadequate view of the situation. Urban History in South Africa will therefore probably remain a mixture of Social, Economic and Political History applied to the urban milieu, but incorporating anything else to help paint the whole picture.

### Notes

1. KW Smith, 'From Frontier to Midlands: A History of the Graaf-Reinet District' (Doctoral Thesis, Rhodes University, 1975).
2. KS Hunt, 'The Development of Municipal Government in the Eastern Province of the Cape of Good Hope, with Special Reference to Grahamstown, 1827-1862' (Masters Thesis, Rhodes University, 1959); M Gibbens, 'Two Decades in the Life of a City: Grahamstown 1862-1882'

(Masters Thesis, Rhodes University, 1982); R Sellick, 'A Study in Local History: Grahamstown 1883-1904' (Masters Thesis, Rhodes University, 1983); ND Southey, 'A Period of Transition: A History of Grahamstown, 1902-1918' (Masters Thesis, Rhodes University, 1984).

3. KPT Tankard, 'East London: The Creation and Development of a Frontier Community, 1835-1873' (Masters Thesis, Rhodes University, 1985); 'The Development of East London through Four Decades of Municipal Control, 1873-1914' (Doctoral Thesis, Rhodes University, 1991).
4. D Fraser, 'The Urban Masquerade: Recent Trends in the Study of English Urban History' in *The Historical Journal*, 27, 1, 1984, 254.
5. MW Swanson, 'The Sanitation Syndrome: Bubonic Plague and Urban Native Policy in the Cape Colony, 1900-1909' in *Journal of African History*, XVIII, 3 (1977), 387-410.
6. C Saunders, 'The Creation of Ndabeni: Urban Segregation and African Resistance in Cape Town' in *Studies in the History of Cape Town*, 1 (1984), 165-76.
7. V Bickford-Smith, *Ethnic Pride and Racial Prejudice in Victorian Cape Town* (Johannesburg, 1995).
8. AJ Christopher, 'Race and Residence in Colonial Port Elizabeth' in *South African Geographical Journal*, 69, 1 (1987), 3-20; 'Apartheid Planning in South Africa: The Case of Port Elizabeth' in *Geographical Journal*, 153 (1987), 195-204; 'Formal Segregation and Population Distribution in Port Elizabeth' in *Contree: Journal for South African Urban and Regional History*, 24 (1988), 5-12.
9. KPT Tankard, 'Urban Segregation: William Mvalo's Celebrated Stick Case' in *South African Historical Journal*, 35, 1996 (forthcoming issue).

## U.H.A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Association's annual business meeting will be held at 4:45 PM on Friday, January 3, 1997 in the Liberty Room 1&2 of the Sheraton New York in Manhattan (811 Seventh Avenue, corner of 52nd Street.) Members wishing to place items on the agenda must submit them *in writing* by November 28, 1996 to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Agendas will be distributed to the membership during the second week of December.

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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 630-420-4243) (e-mail axk@noctrl.edu).

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 (e-mail Hood@hws.edu).

Inquiries about the activities of the Association or about purchasing back issues of the newsletter (where available) should be sent to: Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA (FAX 847-735-6291; e-mail ebner@lfc.edu).

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

This issue of the newsletter is distinguished by its international flavor, affirming the ease with which Association members communicate via a global electronic network. Special thanks to our colleagues (themselves an international cast) who devote considerable segments of their valuable time to editing H-Urban, which enables us to realize this remarkable transformation in scholarly communication.

Indeed as I compose this message, during the first week in September, I can report a strong response to the Association's call for volunteers to create a homepage on the World Wide Web. If all goes as anticipated, we should be operational early in '97.

Also keep in mind the November 1 deadline for anyone who aspires to serve as editor of this newsletter or membership secretary. The vacancy notices will be found elsewhere in the newsletter. These two positions stand instrumental to the future of the Association.

The newsletter also seeks new bibliographers in Canadian and European history, replacing Mark Cortiula and Daniel Mattern. Each of them has stepped down after performing yeoman work, for which the Association is grateful. Please contact Ann Durkin Keating if you are interested.

Our membership remains below 500, the precise figure being 460. This represents a decline of 10 over 1995. As a cost saving measure, dues renewal statements for 1997 accompany this newsletter; by replying promptly to Clifton Hood, our membership secretary, you save the Association the time and expense entailed in sending out reminder notices.

Please remember that bona fide graduate students continued to be entitled to a single year of free membership, available for the asking. Send names and addresses to Clifton Hood, our membership secretary.

The committee on nominations appointed by President Goldfield is fast completing its assignment. It is chaired by Arnold R. Hirsch. Serving with him are Blanche Linden and Margaret Marsh. Ballots will be distributed next month and the results will be announced at our eighth annual meeting on January 3rd in Manhattan.

Our eighth annual dinner is scheduled for January 4th in the Leow's New York Hotel. To meet the challenge of conducting such an event in Manhattan, I am very pleased to acknowledge the generous sponsorship provided by Sage Publications, Inc. (publisher of the *Journal of Urban History*) and more than 50 members of the Urban History Association who requested anonymity. Reservation forms will be mailed on November 8th.)

Our annual luncheon during the '97 meeting of the O.A.H. is scheduled for April 19 (Saturday) in San Francisco. President-elect Raymond A. Mohl has arranged a fine program featuring Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California.

Michael Ebner



*New San Francisco Main Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO, FROM DIVERSITY TO INCLUSIVITY**

San Francisco's New Main Library, located in the city's Civic Center on the site of the City Hall destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, opened on April 18, 1996. The Library has invited historians Bill Issel and Glenna Matthews to serve as guest curators for a year-long urban history exhibition that will mark the inaugural year of the new Library.

The exhibition, entitled "San Francisco, from Diversity to Inclusivity," opens July 1 and is divided into two thematic parts, with each part including a public symposium designed to explore the issues addressed in the exhibits. The first part, "The Dimensions of Diversity," describes the social and cultural history of the city, including the world of work, family and neighborhood, religion, recreation, and the city's famous diverse culinary traditions. The second part examines "The Politics of Inclusion" and documents the city's rich tradition of social protest and political dissent to illustrate the ways in which San Franciscans have been at the forefront in working to make California and American political culture more inclusive and more responsive to human needs.

The exhibition has been designed to address several broad issues: the reasons for the contrast between the popular image of San Francisco as a tolerant and cosmopolitan haven of liberalism and the decidedly mixed character of the city's historical record; the particular ways in which San Franciscans have participated in the national contests over the practice of liberty, equality, and democracy; the lessons that can be drawn from past attempts by the city's social and political reformers to expand human rights and democratic freedoms; the prospect that ideas and principles derived from the historical legacy might facilitate the goal of a more tolerant, inclusive, and democratic civic culture in the future.

*(contributed by Bill Issel, Department of History, San Francisco State University, 510-841-3109, San Francisco, CA 94132, BI@FSU.EDU.*

## **H-URBAN UPDATE, VIA AUSTRALIA**

H-Urban, the internet forum on urban history that is maintained by H-Net: Humanities OnLine, continues vigorously to expand. The forum now embraces over 1,200 subscribers from 35 countries, two thirds of whom live in the United States, with another six percent each in Canada and Australia, followed by Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, South Africa, and Germany. A major challenge for H-Urban is to maintain its relevance to scholars in North America, while at the same time expanding its global network, and addressing the interests of scholars which it has thus far ill served: notably in the French speaking world, the Spanish New World, Africa and Asia. Established early in 1993, H-Urban is the oldest of the H-Net electronic discussion lists, and remains one of its largest groupings, notwithstanding the rapid expansion of H-Net activities (currently over 60 lists, which collectively maintain over 43,000 subscriptions from 70 countries).

H-Urban's editors and Editorial Board continually strive to enhance the scholarly rigour, the breadth of services, and the membership base of this internet network. Two innovations have been the launching of a Gopher and, more recently, a World Wide Web site. The extensive resources assembled on the Gopher site, and which include a substantial set of urban history syllabi, can be accessed (<gopher://h-net.msu.edu:70/11/lists/H-URBAN>) on WWW or by gopher ([h-net.msu.edu](http://h-net.msu.edu); select: H-Net E-Mail Discussion Groups/ H-Urban). These resources are currently being transferred to the newer Web homepage, which is maintained by linked servers in H-Net's hub at Michigan State University and at the University of Melbourne. It may be accessed by pointing your Web browser at

either the H-Net homepage (<http://h-net.msu.edu/>), or at the 'Urban Past. Urban Present' homepage within the Australian Information Server in History and Humanities (AISHH) at (<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/infoserv/index.urban.html>). This Melbourne site maintains a complete archive of postings and discussion strands to H-Urban, which can be sorted by date, author and subject, or searched by key words.

Important changes have taken place in H-Urban's editorial staff. Martha Bianco has resigned as co-editor, and will be sorely missed. Maureen Flanagan, Michigan State University, has become a co-editor, joining Alan Mayne, Mark Peel, Wendy Plotkin, and Keith Tankard. Bill Wright, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of North Carolina, and who works with the National Park Service, has also joined H-Urban as Contributing Editor for Teaching. Sara Cormeny has been replaced as Subscription Editor by Caroline Miller, Lecturer in the Resource and Environmental Planning Department at Massey University in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Ben Schrader, a Ph.D candidate in the Department of History at the University of Melbourne, has been joined as Survey Editor by Carrie Wilson, a Ph.D candidate in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan.

If you are interested in subscribing to H-Urban, or in joining its editorial staff, contact us via the Web, or by email to [H-Urban@uicvm.uic.edu](mailto:H-Urban@uicvm.uic.edu).

Alan Mayne, H-Urban Co-Editor

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Anyone interested in contributing to the bibliography is encouraged to contact the editor. We are currently seeking editors for Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Special thanks to Mark Cortiula and Daniel Matern for their contributions to past newsletters. Contributors to this issue include: Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College (U.S. books); and Ronald Dale Karr, University of Massachusetts, Lowell (U.S. articles).

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- Following is another installment from a comprehensive bibliography of Richard Spencer Childs compiled by Bernard Hirschhorn. Hirschhorn most recent article on Childs (Progressive Era reformer) appears in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (Supplement 10, 1995). Hirschhorn spoke last year at the Seminar on the City at Columbia University on "Richard Spencer Childs: Progressive Era Reformer-Linkages to the 1990s." The first section of this bibliography appeared in the March 1996 issue of the newsletter.
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## HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Hagley Museum and Library is one of America's pre-eminent research libraries in business, economic, and social history. Hagley holds the country's finest collection of business records and corporate archives, has a distinguished collection of trade catalogues and trade journals, and holds more than one million photographs. Hagley's office of advanced study, the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, sponsors a wide range of events and coordinates Hagley's research grant program.

Among the Center's activities are a monthly research seminar series and bi-annual conferences. On November 8, 1996 the Center will sponsor a symposium, "Conceptualizing Gender in American Business History," with speakers Kathy Peiss, Wendy Gamber, and Joan Scott. On April 4 and 5, 1997 the Center will hold a conference, "The Future of Business History," with paper proposals accepted until November 1, 1996.

Hagley's research grant program is open to scholars at any level. The grants support research in Hagley's collections for periods ranging from 2 weeks to 2 months. Applications must contain a full description of the research project and the materials to be used in Hagley's collections. Deadline for proposals are March 31, June 30, and October 31.

Hagley has issued several guides to its collections. Free publications now include: "Industrial and Commercial Architecture," "Business and the State," "Consumer Culture: Advertising, Design, & Public Relations," and "Women's History at Hagley." More extensive guides (available for a small fee) describe Hagley's trade catalog collection, its holdings of iron and steel photographs, and research materials on computers.

For more information, contact the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington DE 19807; phone 302-658-2400; fax 302-655-3188; email [crl@udel.edu](mailto:crl@udel.edu).

## HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF US: NEW EDITION

A major project to produce a thoroughly revised, updated, and expanded edition of the *Historical Statistics of the United States* which was last published in 1975 has been initiated. This will be an effort of the scholarly community with the partial support of the National Science Foundation. This project will be undertaken with the cooperation of the US Census Bureau, however Census Bureau staff will act only in an advisory capacity. The publication will be undertaken by Cambridge University Press. The editorial team for the project will be Susan Carter, Scott Gartner, Michael Haines, Alan Olmstead, Richard Sutch and Gavin Wright.

Our objective is to publish both a two-volume hard-cover edition and an electronic (probably CD-ROM) edition of *Historical Statistics* in the year 2000. Our aim is to produce a worthy successor to the Bicentennial Edition of *Historical Statistics*, an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the most important and reliable historical time series available including data produced by government statistical agencies, other institutions, and individual scholars.

This is a very important undertaking both for historical science and the general public. Previous editions of *Historical Statistics* have been among the half-dozen most widely-used and frequently-cited reference works available. To ensure the success of this project, CUP hopes to enlist the cooperation of scholars and experts throughout the United States.

Readers who have suggestions concerning the contents, scope, or format of the new edition are encouraged to respond to: Richard Sutch ([rsutch@econ.Berkeley.edu](mailto:rsutch@econ.Berkeley.edu)) or Frank Smith ([fsmith@cup.org](mailto:fsmith@cup.org)).

## CHICAGO HISTORY: CALL FOR ARTICLES

The quarterly journal of The Chicago Historical Society, *Chicago History*, is seeking fresh, provocative articles that illuminate new aspects of the city's history in an engaging, narrative style. The illustrated magazine covers all topics in the city's history but is especially interested during the coming year in submissions that interpret women's history. And in a new departure, articles *will* include footnotes!

To receive a copy of the authors' guidelines or to submit an article idea, contact: Rosemary K. Adams, Editor, *Chicago History*, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614 (e-mail: [adams@chicagohs.org](mailto:adams@chicagohs.org))

## '96 Election

*What key issues--urban, metropolitan, or suburban--should the American presidential candidates be addressing during the '96 campaign?*

The one key issue that presidential candidates should address is the redefinition of national policy toward urban, metropolitan, and suburban development. How should Federal legislation, funds, and programs be used to promote human settlements in the first third of the 21st century? The specific policy issues -- land use, public health and safety, transportation, housing, schooling, population, jobs -- depend on a redefined national policy, else current wasteful and inequitable patterns will continue at enormous social costs. Courageous and farsighted leadership is what we need, but don't count on seeing it in the campaign.

Stanley B. Winter

New Jersey Institute of Technology

## VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

The Vernacular Architectural Forum (VAF) solicits nominations for the Paul E. Buchanan Award, recognizing excellence in field work, public interpretation, and service. Eligible categories include architectural recording projects, historic structure reports, preservation plans, exhibitions, restorations, cultural resource surveys, historic designations, computer or technologies applications, film or video presentations. Projects must have been completed during 1994-1995.

Deadline for submission is January 31, 1997. The winner will be announced at the 1997 annual meeting of VAF in Portland, Oregon. For application: John C. Larson, Buchanan Award Committee, Old Salem, Inc, Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108, (910)721-7332.

## TAFT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for the Charles Phelps Taft Postdoctoral Fellowships intended to afford scholars who have demonstrated unusual ability for creative research the opportunity to enhance their education through additional study and research.

Each applicant must have been awarded the Ph.D. during the past five years, or have completed all requirements for the degree by September 1 of the year in which the tenure of the fellowship begins. History is among ten Taft departments that compete equally for the fellowships. Each application is judged on the basis of ability as evidenced by demonstrated scholarship, and letters of reference and on the compatibility of research interest with Graduate Faculty members on the University of Cincinnati campus.

The award carries an annual stipend of \$30,000, plus some benefits. The application must include a carefully developed plan of research at the postdoctoral level, a complete, up-to-date vita, three letters of reference, and the name of a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati, if known, with whom the applicant would like to study.

Applications may be sent to: Taft Postdoctoral Fellowships, University of Cincinnati, M.L. #0037, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0037, before January 15.

## CUBAN CONFERENCE

*Report on the International Workshop on Theoretical and Practical Problems concerning Regional and Local History held in Ciudad de la Habana in cooperation with the Cuban section of ADHILAC, April 13-15, 1996 provided by Dra. Lilian Vizcaino Gonzalez.*

Sixty papers were presented at the workshop, and about seventy delegates attended. Ten of the participants were foreign visitors coming from the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Argentina. Some institutions of the country were also represented at the workshop, such as the Instituto de Historia de Cuba; Universidad de la Habana; Universidad de Villalarga; Universidad de Oriente; the CENCREN; the Centro Cultural Juan Marinello; and the Institutos Superiores Pedagogicos.

Three commissions worked during the sessions of the workshops. The first commission dealt with analyses of the theoretical and methodological problems of local and regional history; the second was about the worth of experiences of teaching local history; and the third one covered studies of regions and locations. There was also a panel and two roundtables. The outstanding contribution of Juan Perez de la Riva, demographer and historian of Cuban regional history, was discussed at a panel marking the twentieth anniversary of his death. The current development and perspectives of the local and regional history of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the main practical and theoretical problems of this specialty were the topics analyzed in the roundtables.

Interesting urban works were presented, such as: Lohania Aruca's "Urban and Territorial Study of the West of the Cuban Island during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries"; "Carlos Venegas' and its Region, 1790-1810."

Likewise, the creation of the Group of Cuban Regional Studies was announced officially during the event; this group

was formed the past February 8 under the coordination of the Dra. Lilian Vizcaino Gonzalez, Sub-director of regional history. Such group, with a multi-disciplinary character, has the main purpose to face the integrated study of the Cuban regions in their historic evolutions since the integration of different disciplines.

The upcoming Scientific International Workshop of Local and Regional History, to be held April 1998, was also announced.

Ultimately, another workshop, this time on REGIONALIZATION, was called by the Group of Cuban Regional Studies to be held at the Instituto de Historia de Cuba. The main topic of the workshop was the debate of such regionalization. Six papers were discussed with the aim to analyze different proposals of regionalization coming from different disciplines, in order to accumulate criteria and expertise to allow a possible interdisciplinary integration when framing Cuban regions.

## Applications Invited: UHA Membership Secretary

The Urban History Association invites inquiries from its members who are interested in succeeding Clifton Hood as its Membership Secretary. Effective date for assumption of responsibilities, subject to mutual agreement, will be during the spring of 1997.

Working closely with the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the primary responsibility of the Membership Secretary involves the annual collection of dues from the Association's nearly 500 members. Ongoing solicitation of new members is another key dimension of this office.

This position is non-remunerative. It requires: broad familiarity with urban history; a microcomputer; strong organizational skills; and the ability to meet established deadlines. While institutional underwriting is not mandatory, it is highly desirable.

Expressions of interest--including a statement of goals, a curriculum vitae, and two letters of reference--must be submitted by November 1, 1996. Faxed and e-mailed final submissions will *not* be accepted.

**SUBMIT TO:** Professor Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, The Urban History Association, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to telephone Professor Ebner (847-735-5135) in advance of making application to discuss the position in more detail.

## NEWSLETTER BIBLIOGRAPHER NEEDED (IMMEDIATELY)!

The newsletter is seeking a replacement bibliographer for Europe. If interested, please contact the editor as soon as possible.

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

Contact: Ann Durkin Keating, Department of History, North Central College, P.O. Box 3063, Naperville, IL 60566-7063 USA (FAX 630-420-4243).

## CENTRE FOR METROPOLITAN HISTORY (University of London)

Papers from our successful conference "Archives and the Metropolis," held during July, are being edited for publication. Also due this autumn is Martha Carlin's list of "Extents for debt for London and Southwark, 1316-1615."

Our new seminar programme is available, the theme is "Metropolitan attractions." We plan another study day for graduate students in November, this time the topic is medieval food supply. Among our future plans is an exploration of London's role in the Atlantic world, under the heading 'London and the Americas, 1600-1900'. We envisage a range of projects, seminars, conferences and publications, and would be glad to hear from interested scholars.

Our existing projects, ranging from the Middle Ages to the mid-twentieth century, are making good progress.

Further details from: Olwen Myhill, Centre for Metropolitan History, Room 351, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (email: o-myhill@sas.ac.uk or internet: <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/cmh/cmh.main.html>).

## DEAD MACHINE!

Last March a Chicago resident received the following handwritten note (which was generously forwarded to the editor for inclusion, *without* editing, in our newsletter):

Dear neighbor:

This is to acknowledge your coming out to vote March 19th and thank you for your support. Alderman [Terry] Gabinski, and of course your section Representatives Rich Badtke and Bob Lewandoswski, are appreciative of it.

The very heavy majority of us voted as a unit and there but a few who seen things differently. Elected officials note this fact, so I assure you the 30th precinct will be serviced accordingly.

Norb Bonkowski  
Precinct Captain, 30th

## BALTIMORE HISTORY CONFERENCE

On November 15 and 16, the University of Baltimore and Coppin State College will host a major public conference entitled *Making Diversity Work: 250 Years of the History of Baltimore*. Drawing attention to Baltimore's experience as the city prepares for the bicentennial of its charter, the conference will showcase cutting-edge research on the struggle of Baltimoreans to come to terms with class differences and diversity--racial, ethnic, religious, gender, cultural--throughout their history. The conference is co-sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University Press, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Baltimore City Life Museums, and the B&O Railroad Museum. For more information, call (410) 837-5340 or e-mail [jelfenbein@ubmail.ubalt.edu](mailto:jelfenbein@ubmail.ubalt.edu). Hotel rooms have been reserved at The Clarion Hotel at \$85.00 per night. Call 800-292-5500 for reservations.

## PHILS: PHILADELPHIA INFORMATION LOCATOR SERVICES

The Philadelphia Department of Records and the Free Library of Philadelphia announce the availability of the Philadelphia Information Locator Service (PhILS), which they have been developing with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's "Library Services and Construction Act, Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation and Resource Sharing," administered through the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Libraries. The PhILS is available on the World Wide Web at <http://phila.gov/phils/phils.html>. "The immediate goal of the PhILS," according to Deputy Records Commissioner David M. Weinberg, "is to make City agency information and records more accessible using the regional telecommunications networks and the Internet." Barbara Ickes, Administrative Librarian at the Free Library elaborated: "PhILS will help users of government information determine what information is available on a particular topic or from a particular source, where that information is located, and how to access the information." The goal of the prototype project, begun by Project Archivist Anne Marie Makarenko in June 1995, is to address policy, management, navigational and resource issues necessary for design and development of an expandable information locator service that ultimately will provide a common directory to City government information regardless of its location.

The PhILS provides access to a variety of information about City government, including the history of all City and County agencies, information about agency records (active, inactive, archival) and about agency publications. It complements the government information being provided on the City web site (<http://phila.gov>) by all City government agencies in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Information Services.

Access to PhILS is available on the Internet, and public Internet access is provided in each Free Library branch. The PhILS is also accessible at the City Archives.

For further information: David M. Weinberg, Deputy Commissioner Department of Records, City of Philadelphia (tel: 215-686-2263; fax: 215-686-2273; e-mail: [weinberg@libertynet.org](mailto:weinberg@libertynet.org); or url: [www.phila.gov/city/departments/records.html](http://www.phila.gov/city/departments/records.html)).

## COBBLESTONE EXAMINES HISTORY OF DISTRICT

Cobblestone Publishing, Inc. publishes a history magazine for young readers. Its editorial advisory board includes Ken Burns and David Herbert Donald. The January '96 number focussed on the history of Washington, D.C.. Jane Freundel Levy, editor of *Washington History: The Magazine of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia*, served as a consulting editor on this issue. Articles included: "Alexander Robey Shepherd: A Man with a Plan;" "From Eyesore to Monument;" "Local History at the National Level;" and "Washington's Top Ten Attractions for Kids." For additional information about *Cobblestone*: Cobblestone Publishing, Inc., 7 School Street, Petersborough, NH 03458-1454.

## H-DCHIST

The George Washington University hosted an electronic list to facilitate queries about the history of the District of Columbia. Journalists, policy makers, and those generally interested in Washington's history are encouraged to either join the list or to forward questions for responses. Answering questions will be a network of knowledgeable experts.

To join H-DCHIST, call your name and e-mail address to Professor Howard Gillette (202-994-6071) or send the information via e-mail to [hfg@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu](mailto:hfg@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu) with the message add to DCHIST.

## SWEATSHOP FELLOWSHIPS

The Sweatshop Project, a historical study of the garment industry funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and sponsored by the East Side Tenement Museum in collaboration with UNITE!, seeks a full-time resident fellow. The study asks: what are the economic, political, and social factors which have and continue to either inhibit or encourage the worst abuses in the garment industry? Featuring four comparative case studies of both turn-of-the-century and contemporary sweatshops, the study will examine the gender and ethnic characteristics of the industry's work force and the transformation of the sweatshop from a local to a global phenomenon. The Museum will seek to publish the results of the study in both scholarly and popular journals, and will work with museum professionals, unionists, and artists to present aspects of the research in various public forums.

The stipend for this one-year fellowship is approximately \$25,000 plus benefits and a research allowance. ABD doctoral candidates, post-doctoral students and faculty are invited to apply. Fellows must be prepared to work with museum professionals and present their work to the general public. The Sweatshop Project is currently seeking a scholar to study turn-of-the-century garment shops employing primarily Italian workers. Fluency in Italian is required.

Send a two-page preliminary proposal stating compatible research and a C.V. by December 1, 1996 to: Michael Sant'Ambrogio, Project Director, The Sweatshop Project, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 66 Allen Street, New York, NY 10002.

## 1996 U.H.A. PRIZE COMMITTEES

**BEST DISSERTATION COMPLETED IN 1995** (\$300 award): Barbara E. Lacey (St. Joseph College); Carl McMichael Reese (Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities), chair; and Andrew Wiese (University of Kansas)

**BEST SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 1995** (\$250 award): Paul Gleye (Montana State University); Gail Radford (SUNY Buffalo), chair; and Sharon Wood (University of Chicago)

**BEST BOOK/NON-NORTH AMERICAN TOPIC PUBLISHED IN 1995 OR 1996** (\$500): next awarded in January of 1998

**BEST BOOK/NORTH AMERICAN TOPIC PUBLISHED IN 1995** (\$500 award): John J. Buckowczyk (Wayne State University); Patricia Burgess (Independent Scholar); and John C. Schneider (Tufts University)

Winners will be announced at the Association's eighth annual dinner, January 4, 1997, in New York City.

Announcements detailing the 1997 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 1997 should make their preference known to the Executive Secretary by January 15, 1997.

## PENNSYLVANIA SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission invites applications for its 1997-98 Scholars in Residence Program. The program provides support for full-time research and study at any Commission facility, including the State Archives, The State Museum and 26 historical sites and museums. Residencies are available for four to twelve consecutive weeks between May 1, 1997, and April 30, 1998, at the rate of \$1200 per month. The program is open to all who are conducting research on Pennsylvania history, including academic scholars, public sector professionals, independent scholars, graduate students, writers, filmmakers and others. For information: Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108; 717/787-3034. **Deadline 1/17/97.**

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## THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

**President:** David R. Goldfield/Univ. of N. Carolina, Charlotte

**President-elect:** Raymond A. Mohl/Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham

**Past president:** Carl Abbott/Portland State University

**Executive Secy.-Treasurer:** Michael H. Ebner/Lake Forest College

**Newsletter editor:** Ann Keating/North Central College

**Directors:**

**thru December 31, 1996:** Maureen Flanagan/Michigan State Univ.; David R. Johnson/Univ. of Texas at San Antonio; Roger Lane/Haverford College; Margaret Marsh/Temple University/Archie Motley/Chicago Historical Society; Richard Rodger/Univ. of Leicester; Joel Tarr/Carnegie Mellon Univ. **thru December 31, 1997:** Ronald H. Baylor/Georgia Tech; Katharine T. Corbett/Missouri Historical Soc.; Mary Lindemann/Carnegie Mellon Univ.; Jan Reiff/U.C.L.A.; Jon C. Teaford/Purdue Univ.; S. Ilan Troen/Ben-Gurion Univ. (Israel); and Joe William Trotter/Carnegie Mellon Univ.

**thru December 31, 1998:** Howard P. Chudacoff/Brown University; Barbara Franco/Historical Society of District of Columbia; Michael B. Katz/University of Pennsylvania; Richard Harris/McMaster University (Ontario); Gregory L. Mixon/Rutgers University; Deborah Dash Moore/Vassar College; and Barbara M. Posadas/Northern Illinois University.

**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); Lynn Hollen Lees/Univ. of Pennsylvania (1993); and Kenneth T. Jackson/Columbia University (1994).

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## PAPER CALL: CHICAGO IN THE CIVIL WAR

The American Civil War profoundly affected Chicago and the surrounding midwestern region. To explore the war's societal influences on the area, the National Archives-Great Lakes Region, the Chicago Historical Society, the Public History Program of Loyola University, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Civil War Roundtable are sponsoring a symposium on "Chicago and the Midwest in the Civil War Era" at the Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois, on September 26/27, 1997.

We invite proposals for panels, papers, or other presentations on aspects of Chicago and its surrounding region in the Civil War. This program will be broadly interdisciplinary, including topics in historical perspective as well as those of contemporary interest.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to) the Sectional Crisis; the Underground Railroad; military related topics; Chicago's ethnic contributions to the war effort; Lincoln and Douglas; women and minorities; economic, industrial, and political implications of the war; labor; the Copperhead Movement; postwar legacy; and the Civil War in popular culture.

Sessions will last 90 minutes. Papers will be limited to 20 minutes. Deadline for proposals is April 1, 1997.

Submit four copies of an abstract of your paper or session, along with a curriculum vitae, to: Civil War Program Committee, National Archives-Great Lakes Region, 7358 South Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60629 (Fax: 312 353-1294; E-Mail: archives@chicago.nara.gov

## MILESTONES

Carl Abbott, Portland State University, has assumed the co-editorship of the *Pacific Historical Review*.

Robin Bachin has been appointed as the Carlton Tebeau assistant professor of history at the University of Miami. Previously she served as assistant director of the Scholl Center for Family and Community History at The Newberry Library.

Roger Biles, East Carolina University, is the recipient of a research grant from the Eisenhower Presidential Library.

Michael Frisch, SUNY Buffalo, has been elected to the executive board of the Organization of American Historians.

Eric Fure-Slocum, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa, received a HUD research grant for his dissertation "Shaping the Postwar City: Reconceiving Urban Political Culture and Policy in the 1940s" and has been nominated to the graduate student position on the Council of the AHA.

Howard Gillette, The George Washington University, and Margaret Marsh, Temple University, were married June 15.

Clifton Hood, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, is the recipient of a research grant in aid from the Rockefeller Archive Center.

Ann Durkin Keating, North Central College, is the co-recipient (with Pierre Lebeau) of a Superior Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for *North Central College and Naperville: A Shared History, 1870-1995* (1995).

Russell Lewis, Chicago Historical Society, has been

promoted to Deputy Director for Research.

Margaret Marsh, Temple University, is the recipient of her institution's Paul W. Eberman Faculty Research Prize for 1996 in conjunction with her book (co-authored with Wanda Ronner) entitled *The Empty Cradle: Infertility in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

Frederic M. Miller, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Howard Gillette, The George Washington University, received an award of merit from the American Association for State & Local History for their book *Washington Seen: A Photographic History* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).

Raymond Mohl has been appointed professor of history and department head at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Previously he taught, for twenty-five years, at Florida Atlantic University.

Eric H. Monkkonen, UCLA, is the recipient of Best Book Award from the American Political Science Association's Urban Politics Section for *The Local State: Public Money and American Cities* (Stanford University Press, 1995.)

Max Page has been appointed as an assistant professor of history at Georgia State University. He recently received his doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Howard N. Rabinowitz, University of New Mexico, has been elected to the executive council of the Southern Historical Association.

Amanda I. Seligman, doctoral candidate at Northwestern University, has received a King V. Hostick Research Award from the Illinois Historical Society and the Illinois Preservation Agency.

Carl Smith, Northwestern University, is the recipient of an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship from the Center for the Study of New England History and the Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History from The Newberry Library.

S. Ilan Troen, Ben-Gurion University (Israel), is a visiting fellow during 1996-97 at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sharon Wood has been appointed visiting assistant professor of history at the University of Chicago. Previously she taught at the University of Nebraska--Lincoln.



Howard Gillette and Margaret Marsh at the annual UHA luncheon in Chicago (Photo: Michael Ebner).

## Remarks of Richard C. Wade The Occasion of his Retirement October 27, 1994

In 1945 I was appointed a tutor at Harvard, the lowest rung on the faculty ladder. When I retire in February, 1995, I will have been teaching for fifty years. That is longer than Kim IL Sung ran North Korea; its one year longer than Richard Nixon's appearance in national politics; and the same five decades that the Chicago Cubs went without a pennant.

It is clear I have put in my time. Actually, my decision to retire started a year ago when I tried to talk Arthur Schlesinger out of doing the same thing. I was disturbed not only because I was not persuasive, but because it turned me to thinking about myself. The clincher came six months later at a national convention on the future of cities in Richmond, Virginia. I was introduced by a student of one of my students who was herself about fifty years old. She began by saying how pleased she was to present "my grandfather." Then the final moment came when I was busily autographing copies of my books only to discover the autographed copies were selling at less than the listed price.

The first session of our conference today was devoted to the growth and development of urban history. The second was on the "duty of the scholar to his times." That title derived from the commencement address of George W. Curtis, Editor of Harper's Magazine, in 1856, to the graduating class of Wesleyan College when he contended that the issue of slavery should command the graduates first attention, transcending any private goals or career consideration. That speech was a reminder to me of the most important consideration of all -- that we are citizens first and whatever else we may be is second. I had myself already witnessed the way scholars in both Germany and Russia in the 1930's had put their standing as scholars above their responsibilities as citizens and how in the long run lost both.

When I started there were urban historians but no urban history. A handful of scholars laid the foundations under other labels, usually bootlegging urban history under the headings of social, economic or local history. The first national meeting of "The Urban History Group" included seven stalwarts. Today the Urban History Association boasts more than 500 members from over a dozen countries. Few conventions in several adjacent disciplines are without an urban history session. *The Journal of Urban History* is among the best edited and most widely read of any academic publication. Whatever role I might have played in that development is among the satisfactions of a half a century of teaching and writing.

One of my fields for the Ph.D. examination was ancient and medieval political theory. I was taken by the Roman period and particularly with the widespread use of the slogan, "Civis Roman Sum," which stated with pride, "I am a Roman Citizen." I know it sounds corny when I say I transformed that into "Civis Romanus Americanus," "I am an American Citizen," which I thought then and still do, is more important than being "Doctor," "Professor" or even "Distinguished Professor."

By accident of birth I was born into a democracy, an imperfect one, of course, but considering there were over a

billion people on this earth, at that time, I lucked out. And I have always believed I owed something for that good fortune. I never underestimated the failure of this country and have spent a lot of time trying to correct them. But, as an historian, I have always respected the redemptive power of democracy and its ability to improve matters. The constitution, after all, recognized slavery; but we rectified that, albeit with blood; women had not the right to vote; the 19th amendment rectified that; young people couldn't participate in electoral politics, the 26th amendment rectified that; in the 1960's the civil rights legislation rectified *de Jure* discrimination. Every generation of Americans is necessarily and happily restless, and anxious to finish the nation's democratic promise. It is that redemptive quality that has always sustained me, if you will permit some Irish sentiment, "in sunlight and in shadows."

But I am sophisticated about life after retirement. A few years ago, I went back to Chicago where I had taught for many years, had been chairman of the Model Cities program and a housing commissioner. I was getting on a bus. On the side it said "exact change only," but it didn't say what it was. I inquired and was fiddling for my change while people were pushing from behind, finally I said, with embarrassment, "I haven't been in Chicago for a few years." The driver replied: "Ain't missed you a bit, bud."

But I will be here right along, finishing dissertations under my direction and doing whatever the department thinks is useful. I am sharing an office with my senior retiree, Arthur Schlesinger, in Room 1549. As General McArthur might better have said; "old scholars never die, they first hang out in 'Codger's Corner.'"

I expect to continue by bifurcated life. I will finish up some essays for a compilation entitled "Concrete Roots; Toward an Urban Interpretation of American History." It will reverse some of the tentativeness and add new dimensions to my earlier essay, "Cities in American History." I had then asked the question "What is special about the American Experience?" The most obvious answers were the frontier, the institution of slavery, and the urban political machine. I did the first two of the trilogy but by the time I got to the boss system, a dozen scholars were already there. So, "Concrete Roots" will contain a broad interpretation and many assertions, without the usual scholarly apparatus, and with more than a little autobiography.

The other part of my life is going to be directed to doing something about his country's silent scandal -- adult illiteracy. To some degree this is a guilt trip. Three years ago Mario Cuomo appointed me Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Libraries. It was there I discovered what I should have known -- and still do not understand why I did not -- that one out of every five American adults cannot read or write. By that I mean, they cannot read a want-ad; cannot fill out a job application; cannot read simple medical directions; cannot read their children's report card. There are at least 27 million adults in this category (a new Princeton study places the figure at 40 million). Worse still, that number increases about a million a year. In 1990, President Bush and the Conference of Governors announced that they would eliminate adult illiteracy by the year 2000. Since that time 4 million more have been added to the list.

What are the consequences of this silent scandal?

I won't mention the obvious personal consequence to those who can never have a job commensurate with their intelligence, never know the joys of reading, never be a fully helpful parent. But the economic consequences are clear: 250 billion dollars lost every year in unemployment, underemployment, welfare, health, education and incarceration.

Not only is the annual cost spectacular but adult illiteracy also frustrates all our attempts to change society to meet contemporary problems.

Conservatives want to carpet bomb this country with vouchers to replace old federal entitlements.

A voucher for housing? A person who cannot read or write is supposed to enter the world's trickiest market--real estate-- handle the classified ads and then sign a lease.

Vouchers for schools? Someone who can't read and write is supposed to shop around for a school when their only real choice is the one that is nearest.

Vouchers for health insurance? A person who cannot read or write is supposed to choose a health program among a half dozen. I have a Ph.D. and don't want to do that.

Adult illiteracy is the bone in the throat of this society.

In 1900 we were the most literate country in the world. We are now, in U.N. listings, number 45.

How that happened and why and what to do about it is something I am going to spend a lot of time on -- and need plenty of help.

Finally a word to our students. All of you could make more money doing something else. The profession generally consigns one to a life of genteel poverty. But there are other compensations. Last year Arthur Schlesinger was on the road, carrying the lamp of learning into darkest East Lansing, Michigan, when a fellow came up with a card and asked him to give it to me. It read: "You are a great teacher. You are still an influence. Best wishes and thanks." Signed Jeff Smith, University of Rochester, Class of 1960. That was 35 years ago. That is a compensation that no other career or any amount of money can ever give.

### ***Applications Invited: UHA Newsletter Editor***

The Urban History Association invites inquiries from its members who are interested in succeeding Ann Durkin Keating as the editor of *The Urban History Newsletter*, which has been published twice yearly since 1989. Effective date for assumption of responsibilities, subject to mutual agreement, will be during the spring of 1997.

Issued in March and October to its nearly 500 members as well as additional subscribers, the sixteen-page newsletter features up-to-date bibliographic listings, international reports on research, conferences, teaching, museum exhibitions, and announcements of opportunities for awards or grants.

This position is non-remunerative. It requires: broad familiarity with urban history; a microcomputer; knowledge of desktop publishing techniques; strong organizational skills; a collaborative spirit; and the ability to meet established deadlines. While institutional underwriting is not mandatory, it is highly desirable.

Expressions of interest--including a statement of goals, a curriculum vitae, and at least two letters of reference--must be submitted by November 1, 1996. Faxed and e-mailed final submissions will not be accepted.

SUBMIT TO: Professor Michael H. Ebner, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, The Urban History Association, c/o Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045-2399 USA.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to telephone Professor Ebner (847-735-5135) in advance of making application to discuss the position in more detail.

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Activities of the Urban History Association  
during the annual meeting of  
The American Historical Association (January 2-5, 1997)  
New York City

Friday, January 3rd

4:45 PM

Annual Business Meeting

Liberty Room 1/2

Sheraton New York Hotel

811 Seventh Avenue (at 52nd Street)

[one block west of the Hilton]

Presiding: David R. Goldfield

Saturday, January 4th

6:30 PM

Eighth Annual Dinner

Loew's New York Hotel

569 Lexington Avenue

Cocktails (cash bar), 6:45 PM/Dinner, 7:15 PM

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:**

"The South Comes to Brooklyn in the 1950s"

David R. Goldfield

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**PRESIDING:** Raymond A. Mohl

University of Alabama at Birmingham

The Association is pleased to announce that major underwriting for this dinner has been provided by

Sage Publications.

More than fifty anonymous members of  
The Urban History Association  
have provided additional underwriting.

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 November 30) to: Professor Joel Schwartz, 375 Riverside Drive # 12E, NY, NY 10025 USA. Dinner reservations must be prepaid; absolutely no tickets will be available at the door.

**SAGE PUBLICATIONS, INC.**  
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***Journal of Urban History***

is sponsoring  
the Eighth Annual Dinner of the  
Urban History Association

January 4, 1997  
to honor

**David R. Goldfield,**  
U.H.A. president and editor of *J.U.H.*  
&  
**Raymond A. Mohl,**  
U.H.A. president-elect and founding  
editor of *J.U.H.*

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Road, Thousand Oaks, California, 91320 USA.

## **URBAN POLICY IN INDONESIA**

Beginning in March 1995, Christopher Silver (Virginia Commonwealth University) took academic leave to assume the position of Urban Development Advisor to Bappenas, Indonesia's National Development Planning Agency in Jakarta. He is one of five resident advisors under the Municipal Finance Project (MFP), a U.S. Agency for International Development technical assistance project that is being carried out by the Research Triangle Institute (NC). MFP provides support to central government ministries in urban policy formulation aimed at strengthening local government capabilities. Under the current Five-Year National Development Plan (Repelita VI), Indonesia is seeking to decentralize and privatize a wide array of urban responsibilities in service delivery and infrastructure provision. Bappenas is the central government ministry responsible for preparation of the national development policy framework, and serves as the lead agency in Indonesia regarding urban development policies.

While there is an abundant scholarly and technical study literature on contemporary urban development concerns in Indonesia, the same cannot be said about its past. Indonesia's

urban history is virtually unwritten, with only a few monographs and articles in English on a variety of topics, most notably related to patterns of urbanization and the independence struggles of the twentieth century. Jakarta is the only Indonesian city that has had any sort of systematic historical treatment, and even that is quite cursory. And, yet, urban Indonesia is so much more than Jakarta. The architectural gem of Bandung (2.5 million), the thriving commercial hubs of Surabaya (3.5 million) in east Java, Semarang (1.5 million) in Central Java, and Ujung Pandang (1 million) in south Sulawesi, and smaller cities such as Yogyakarta and Padang, contribute to the nation's diverse urban tapestry. Although Indonesia remains statistically a "rural nation," the role of cities in the regional and national development of the world's fourth most populous country offers tremendous opportunities for urban scholars.

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