



The Urban History Newsletter

The Urban History Association

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Chicago, Haymarket and the World Wide Web

Carl Smith, Northwestern University

On behalf of the Chicago Historical Society and Northwestern University, I am pleased to report to members of the Urban History Association the completion of a major new web exhibition for use in their teaching and scholarship. *The Dramas of Haymarket* (<http://www.chicagohistory.org/dramas>), which went online May 4, 2000, examines the Haymarket rally, bombing, trial, and executions of 1886-1887 in a broad historical and cultural context. The exhibition draws on the enormous collection of materials on Haymarket—including the transcript of the trial and many rare and unique publications, manuscripts, images, and objects—in the holdings of the Chicago Historical Society. Almost all of the Historical Society's primary source materials on Haymarket are now also available in the affiliated online archive, *The Haymarket Affair Digital Collection* (<http://www.chicagohistory.org/hadc>). The two sites are linked to each other.

The Dramas of Haymarket was produced as part of a continuing collaborative relationship between the Chicago Historical Society and Northwestern University, which includes numerous other activities and initiatives through which the two institutions share and combine resources. The Historical Society's staff photographed, scanned, and catalogued the materials in the exhibition, reviewed its contents as it neared completion, and mounted it on the Society's website (<http://www.chicagohistory.org>). The exhibition itself was constructed by technical experts at Northwestern's Academic Technologies group. As curator, I was responsible for conceiving of the theme and shape of the exhibition, choosing and arranging its contents, and writing its interpretive and descriptive text. This same collaboration created an earlier exhibition on the Chicago fire of 1871, *The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory* (<http://www.chicagohistory.org/fire>), which "opened" on Octo-



Drawing courtesy of Chicago Historical Society

ber 8, 1996, the 125th anniversary of this legendary event. *The Dramas of Haymarket* and *The Haymarket Affair Digital Collection* mark an important new development in historical web projects, however, in that they offer the browser both an interpretive site and an immensely rich and searchable archival site on which the interpretive site is based.

The Dramas of Haymarket, like *The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory*, is very large in its own right. It contains approximately 270 web pages, about eighty fewer than the exhibition on the fire, though *Dramas* is a far denser exhibition. It has 325 separate images, about 38 documents (most are bigger than even the biggest fire documents), eight essays that are twice as long as their counterparts on the fire site, and about 185 individual interpretive/descriptive entries, many of which are quite substantial.

While *The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory* is organized around the idea of cultural memory and, in addition to offering a narrative history, discusses the significance of the several ways the fire has been re-

membered at the time and since, *The Dramas of Haymarket* frames its subject through the concepts of cultural drama and performance. As the site's "Introduction" explains, the idea of drama applies to the inherently dramatic nature of the events of Haymarket themselves, the tumultuous historical backdrop against which these events took place, the conscious sense of what was happening as drama in the minds of numerous participants, and the figurative language used over the years to discuss and describe Haymarket.

With this in mind, the structure of the site itself invokes the trope of drama in numerous ways, the most obvious being the arrangement of its own different parts into a tragedy (a term often used in describing Haymarket) in five acts, with a prologue and epilogue, in a chronology extending from the 1870s to the present. Each of the "acts" consists of an essay and a group of smaller sections featuring items from the Chicago Historical Society's Haymarket holdings, each of which is described and analyzed. With the exception of the "Epilogue," every act concludes with a "From the Archive" section that contains the complete text of selected documents from *The Haymarket Affair*

Digital Collection that are relevant to the issues and events discussed in that act. For example, the act devoted to the trial includes significant testimony by witnesses for the prosecution and the defense. Instead of such texts, the "Epilogue" contains video clips of Haymarket recollections by Studs Terkel, who recalls hearing Haymarket widow Lucy Parsons speak during the 1930s; Leslie Orear, President of the Illinois Labor History Society; and descendants of both one of the anarchists convicted in the trial and of one of the policemen seriously wounded by the bomb.

Other special features include images of dozens of artifacts from the Chicago Historical Society's collections, from the baton carried by the officer who ordered the rally to disperse to a lapel pin the shape of a gallows worn by those who protested the verdict to the banner carried by police veterans of Haymarket in commemorative parades. Among the manuscripts are the autobiographies authored by defendants Albert Parsons and August Spies while on death row, as well as the remarks—prepared in pencil, with numerous cross-outs—that trial judge Joseph Gary read before pronouncing sentence.

The official verdict, which is handwritten and bears the signatures of the twelve members of the jury, is one of several items loaned by the Archives of the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court that are also on display. Like many other items in the exhibition, this can be viewed in a large and legible format in a separate frame. In many instances both an image and a transcription of a document are available.

Other special features include the use of contemporary maps and photographs to locate the events of Haymarket in 1880s Chicago. By means of an online "slide show" and the use of Apple QuickTime (which comes loaded with any up-to-date browser software), one can view the Haymarket neighborhood on Chicago's Near West Side then and now and even take a video virtual reality "tour" of Haymarket today from the spot where the bomb was thrown. There are a similar slide show and tour devoted to Waldheim Cemetery west of the city, where the monument to the anarchists is located. In addition, one can hear the anthem of the Eight-Hour movement ("Eight Hours For What We Will") and, as is the case with the fire exhibition, there is a Guest Book for comments. Browsers can download as PDF files the "Introduction"

and the essays that accompany each act, as well as see a site map of the entire exhibition. As noted, one can move easily between *The Dramas of Haymarket* and *The Haymarket Affair Digital Collection*.

These two sites, like *The Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory* and several other web resources on the Chicago Historical Society's site, are online indefinitely. They are meant to provide both free and complete access to these collections and a compelling framework in which to interpret them. At the same time they encourage the visitor to these sites to construct his or her own way of understanding the specific events they discuss and urban history in general.

The Dramas of Haymarket was made possible in part by support from the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern, and by a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation "Imagining America" Public Scholarship Grant. *The Haymarket Affair Digital Collection* was funded by a grant awarded by the Library of Congress National Digital Library Ameritech Competition, and is supported in part by funds from the Chicago Park District. It will also be accessible through the Library of Congress's web pages.



Lizabeth Cohen, President presenting plaque to outgoing President Gil Stelter at the annual UHA dinner in Boston.

(Editor's Note: The following piece is a synopsis of Presidential Address delivered at the annual dinner of the Urban History Association in Boston, Massachusetts on January 6, 2001. A synopsis of the presidential address will become a regular annual feature of the March issue of the newsletter.)

Does Urban History Need a Theory of the City?: Theory and Urban History

Gilbert Stelter, University of Guelph

While working on the Canadian version of the City Beautiful movement, I was struck by the way that the movement's leaders - architects, businessmen, journalists talked and wrote in terms of a particular theory of the city and this theory seemed to shape their proposals for re-planning the city. I began to wonder about other theories that have influenced city founding and building and about how the current academic urban theories relate to our practice of urban history. Are there different types of theories? Many urban historians take theory seriously and make good use of it in their special areas, such as Martin Melosi in his *The Sanitary City* (2000) and the various proponents of what is now usually referred to as the Los Angeles School. But when I tried to explain to my students the relevance of theory to urban history I realized that there was no conceptual framework to which I could refer.

What follows is a very preliminary, and some will say foolhardy, attempt to make some sense of the plethora of existing theories. It's an exploration into the possibility of organizing these into manageable groupings, a kind of taxonomy of theory. My guide is Kevin Lynch. In his seemingly forgotten *A Theory of Good Urban Form* (1981), Lynch makes a distinction between functional and normative theories, although the distinctions often seem rather blurred. In general, functional theory deals with how the city *works* and roughly corresponds to what is usually referred to as urban theory. Normative theory deals with what the city *is* and therefore could be called a theory of the city. In identifying the various approaches under each of the two categories, I will use symbolic and cognitive images, metaphors, and analogies as a kind of shorthand reminder of different versions of how a city works or what it is. I have not as yet developed another important distinction, that between the active and the passive city.

Functional theories (urban theories)

1. *The city as a system.* A standard approach is that of

Brian Berry. In his seminal article, "Cities as Systems within a System of Cities," he argues that cities are entities with interdependent parts and can be studied like any other system. Theorists who emphasize urbanization, like Eric Lampard, suggest we turn our attention away from individual cities and concentrate instead on the broad societal processes that result in cities.

2. *The city as an economic engine.* For a detailed theory of how cities generate growth, we can turn to the highly influential *The Economy of Cities* (1969) by Jane Jacobs. Urban historians have emphasized the role of city-building elites and the ways in which cities have effectively channelled the activities of other levels of government.

3. *The city as communications network.* These theories range from the images of physics- cities operate like magnetic or gravitational fields of force with humans as particles - to theories about the movement of goods, services, and people (transportation studies), to the question of symbolic interaction, ways of "reading" the city. The most exciting model of how social interaction can lead to cultural creativity, technological innovation, and effective organization of large populations has been developed by Peter Hall in his magisterial *Cities in Civilization* (1998).

4. *The city as contested space.* Theoreticians have moved away from notions of community based on homogeneity or sameness to concepts of community involving class, race and ethnicity, and gender. The leading theorists of the class-based city have been the neo-Marxists, David Harvey and Manuel Castells, but they have recently turned their attention away from the city to analyses of trends in capitalism and information technology. The tremendous outpouring of theoretical and historical literature on the question of African Americans and the city is exemplified by the two excellent special issues of the *Journal of Urban History* (1995). Some of the most dynamic new work challenging traditional conceptions of how a city works comes from those studying gender. As example from literature is Susan Squire, whose *Virginia Woolf and London: Sexual Politics and the City* (1985) shows how Woolf used a basic strategy of feminist revision, a decentered perspective, re-framing as central what was previously seen by men as marginal.

5. *The city as built environment.* This is a vast field of rapidly changing theories, including decision-making theory, new planning and architectural theories, and from economics at Stanford, path-dependence theory - the way past decisions affect or limit decisions in the present.

6. *The city as personality.* While not a full-blown theory, it has produced the most popular form of history, the urban biography. The community is seen as a whole, usually with a distinctive character. Excellent examples

include Edwin Burrows and Mike Wallace, *Gotham* (1999), in which New York is seen as a dynamic entity with deal driving and sharp practise in its genes, and Peter Ackroyd, *London* (2000), a city with theatricality and materialism at its core.

7. *The city as stage*. This is really an anti-theory but it represents much of what constitutes academic urban history. The city is merely a stage, a passive location for more interesting phenomena.

Normative theories (theories of the city)

While there are several collections of articles on various urban theories, I do not know of any major studies of normative theories. Theories of the city are closely related to prevailing cultural norms in any particular era and sometimes can be ascertained only by what we know was done in planning and building cities rather than by what was expressed in written form.

1. *Cosmic theory*. The idea that the city must reflect the order of the cosmos was the earliest and most widely held theory of the city in the ancient world. The most important guide to this kind of city is the late Paul Wheatley whose work on ancient Chinese, Japanese, and Indian cities emphasized the significance of religious purposes rather than trade or defence in city-building. Cosmic theory was most highly developed by the Chinese and was gradually codified into a Book of Rituals. Indian town planning of this kind was also spelled out in a series of texts. The Roman foundation of towns was based on divine laws with orthogonality and orientation determined by cosmological connections. This became the basis of town foundations throughout much of Europe and North Africa. In the ancient Americas, Teotihuacan's great regular grid was carefully oriented astronomically.

2. *The city as machine*. This appears to be the most widely held idea of the city throughout history, but it is the least developed theory conceptually. The city as machine is not a magical or sacred place, but a practical, secular place without any cosmic meaning. It is an artificial creation, the product of human agency, not natural growth. The development of mathematical physics in the seventeenth century and the ideas of Newton and Descartes provided the basis for a rational, orderly universe and cities reflected that particular notion of order. The idea of the city as a machine underlies much of the city building and rebuilding in the modern world, as in Haussmann's transformation of Paris, the planning of the nineteenth century grid in North America, the re-shaping of New York by Moses, and Le Corbusier's visions of the Cartesian city. The machine analogy continues to be the basis for most current urban practice, from land subdivision to zoning.

3. *The city as organism*. The most popular normative theory of the city in the twentieth century has been the city as organism. The city is a living thing, with definite boundaries, an optimum size, an indivisible internal structure. The idea is at least as old as Aristotle but the modern theory is based on the natural sciences, especially biology. The most elaborate academic expression of the theory came from the Chicago School of sociologists led by Robert Park and Ernest Burgess and many historians still find this approach useful in their study of a city's internal organization. The concept of symbiosis that Park emphasized also could be applied to an organism's external relations which has been developed as the metropolitan thesis. The fullest application of this latter approach, combined with environmentalism, is William Cronon's *Nature's Metropolis* (1991) where the city is seen as part of nature. Jane Jacobs takes this even further. In her *The Nature of Economies* (2000), she argues that cities and their economies are not only like an organism, but cities and their economies are subject to the master processes that also govern nature.

4. *The city as constellation*. None of the three traditional normative theories seem adequate for representing the uncharted terrain of modern urbanism, in which the relevance and even the existence of the traditional city is questioned. Several terms have been suggested for this new form including atom, urban field, cosmopolis, and nonplace urban realm. I prefer "constellation" which implies many centers rather than the old hierarchical solar system configuration.

Two elements of an emerging theory might be mentioned. The first comes from literary critic Christine Sizemore whose *A Female Vision of the City* (1989) explores the views of five women novelists who make London their setting and their main character. She concludes that it is possible to go beyond the current male-centered theories to one that is non-hierarchical, accepting of a variety of people, and accepting of fragmentation and change. She feels that a multidimensional matrix best symbolizes this kind of city.

A second is the well publicized series of attempts to conceptualize the decentralized form of the modern city. Much of the recent literature portrays Los Angeles as the harbinger of this new type of urbanism, with theorists seeing the Los Angeles School replacing the older Chicago School at the theoretical heart of urban studies. Much of this discussion ignores earlier forms of the dispersed city (going back to ancient times) or earlier examples like Tokyo. But Los Angeles does seem to be the most extreme version with its sprawl, its class and racial polarization, and a culture in which illusion often seems to usurp reality.

The shortcomings of the theories I have outlined are all too obvious to historians. Many are highly value-laden despite their apparent objectivity. Many are

time and culture bound even though they claim universality. And functional theories in particular are extremely presentist in orientation, lacking any serious historical dimension. Nevertheless, historians have amply demonstrated that these theories can be important organizing principles which help us to make sense of what often appears to be a chaotic and unreadable phenomena, the city.

[I welcome comments and suggestions on this preliminary version. I can be reached by e-mail at gstelster@uoguelph.ca or by mail at: Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1.]

Social History and the City (SHAC) at Cleveland State University

In 1993, CSU's History Department initiated its Social History and the City (SHAC) program. With an NEH planning grant, faculty instituted a programmatic focus leading to curricular revisions, online local history database, teaching resources and e-journal, as well as public programs. These produced closer community ties and partnering opportunities benefiting the participants and Cleveland history.

Social history is the key intellectual element that links faculty together in a shared focus. SHAC's "city" component is also critical; it includes a comparative urban history framework but focuses on Cleveland. Urbanist history faculty include: Tom Campbell (emeritus), Bob Wheeler, Jim Borchert, David Goldberg, Mark Tebeau and Karen Sotiropoulos. It also operationalizes the University's and Department's urban missions.

The NEH grant provided consultants to meet with SHAC faculty, critique our plan and give a public address. Peter Stearns, Liz Cohen, Zane Miller, Howard Gillette, Michael Conzen and Patricia Mooney-Melvin provided fresh ideas, important programmatic revisions and substantive challenges.

Curricular changes included the institution of a required undergraduate Local History Workshop course in which students write histories of specific Cleveland neighborhoods. Their papers appear in an electronic journal, *Crooked River: Exploring Social and Urban History* (<http://academic.csuohio.edu/clevelandhistory/CrookedRiver/index.htm>). Students also gain editing and website construction skills. Student collected data goes into the online database, Ohio Local History Archives, which includes artifacts, maps, documents, and photographs, (<http://academic.csuohio.edu/clevelandhistory/otha>).

SHAC also reshaped the M. A. graduate program providing greater focus, coherence and reduced the number of sections offered. Duplicate reading and research seminars on U. S. and European History are re-

duced to one each, freeing up faculty resources for other course offerings.

Teaching Resources provides on-line resources on Cleveland history for teachers and students. These also have links to other sites as the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History. (<http://academic.csuohio.edu/makelaa/history/exploring/teach.html>).

SHAC's public history components include undergraduate and graduate internships at area historical societies and city government. This summer three students interned as "artifact researchers" for the forthcoming Crawford Museum of Transportation and Industry (Western Reserve Historical Society); others worked at other historical societies. Public history conferences in 1996 and 1997, funded by Ohio Humanities Council grants, strengthened ties with local history groups and increased internship opportunities.

In 1996-97, SHAC introduced the Thomas F. Campbell Cleveland Seminar on the City. Now in its fifth year, supported by an Ohio Humanities Council grant, the lecture series reaches Clevelanders interested in urban life and history. For this year's program, see UH Newsletter (October, 2000) or http://academic.csuohio.edu/clevelandhistory/other_programs/campbell.htm.

CSU Library's Special Collections, headed by Department grad and SHAC member, William Barrow, has become a key center for Cleveland and urban research. It includes such important materials as the Cleveland Press clipping and photograph files, and the Great Lakes Industrial History Collections (<http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/SpecColl/> and the Cleveland Digital Library: <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/SpecColl/cdl/>).

SHAC's overlapping programs provide synergy among faculty, students and community that enhance our urban mission and Cleveland history. When the Harbor Heritage Society needed its operational records processed and preserved, they selected Special Collections. Their grant, supported by SHAC and financed by a local foundation, funded a student to process the collection and construct a website; she also earned credit as an intern. HHS's operational records returned to the society, but those of the Steamship William G. Mather, remain in Special Collections for researchers' use.

Jim Borchert
Cleveland State University

Kenneth Jackson, President of OAH



Kenneth Jackson
Photography courtesy
of Joe Pineiro,
Columbia University
Photography

Kenneth T. Jackson, Barzun professor of history at Columbia University and founder of the Urban History Association, will complete his service as president of the Organization of American Historians during its forthcoming annual meeting in Los Angeles (April 26-29).

He is the first urban historian ever elected to this position. Assaying Kenneth Jackson's achievements, Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz very recently

characterized "the multitudes of his multitudinous career." He also is the founder of The National Council for History Education, has served as president of the Society of American Historians and is a trustee of the New York Historical Society. He also served as the fifth president of the Urban History Association. At Columbia University he has been recognized, on multiple occasions, with honors marking distinguished teaching and service. A native of Memphis, he received his undergraduate degree at the University of Memphis and completed his graduate work—as a student of Richard C. Wade—at the University of Chicago. His major scholarly contribution, of course, are renown among urban historians. In a survey conducted some years ago by *The Journal of Urban History*, his book *Crabgrass Frontier, The Suburbanization of the United States* (Oxford, 1985), ranked first in its significance among researchers in the field. And *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (Yale, 1995), is said to be his publisher's single best-selling title ever!

Jackson will deliver his presidential address, entitled "The Power of History," at the annual meeting of the OAH in Los Angeles at 8:00 PM on April 27 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. He will be introduced by the incoming president, Darlene Clark Hine. A public reception in Jackson's honor will follow.

The theme of this year's annual meeting of the OAH, in recognition of Kenneth Jackson's multi-dimensional commitments and achievements, is "Connections: Rethinking our Audiences." The program encompasses more than 125 sessions and nearly 500 participants. Featured participants include: William Ferris, chair of The National Endowment for the Humanities; Arrianna Huffington, syndicated political columnist; Ric Burns, the filmmaker; David M. Kennedy, recipient of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for history, participating on a panel about

writing survey course textbooks; Stanley I. Kutler, discussing the history of baseball (instead of Nixon!); Michael Oriard, former National Football League player turned professor of English; and Sharon Robinson, director of educational programming for Major League Baseball who is the daughter of Rachel and Jackie Robinson. Several sessions will be devoted to the scholarship of leading historians, (i.e., Peter Novick, Kevin Starr, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, and Richard White.)

Appropriately, multiple sessions focus on topics in urban history. They will feature such scholars as (several of them former Jackson students): Carl Abbott, Becki Nicolaidis, Clark Davis, Sarah Deutsch, Timothy Gilfoyle, Howard Gillette, Evelyn Gonzalez, Owen Gutfreund, Arnold Hirsch, Greg Hise, Alison Isenberg, Margaret Marsh, Raymond Mohl, Leonard Pitt, Gail Radford, Mary Ryan, Saskia Sassen, Robert Self, Bruce Stave, and Thomas Sugrue.

Small Cities: Past, Present, Future **Ball State University** **Muncie, IN** **September 14-15, 2001** **Call for Papers**

The Center for Middletown Studies and Ball State University invite paper and panel proposals for a conference exploring the distinctive challenges that have confronted and still confront small cities. By small cities we mean municipalities with a population of roughly 40,000 to 100,000. Proposals for papers and sessions dealing with the historical, economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of the small city experience will be considered. Preference will be given to proposals that focus on small cities in North America. The conference organizers encourage submissions from social scientists, humanists, urban planners, and public officials.

Proposals for complete panels, including two or three papers, a chair, and a commentator, are encouraged. We will also consider proposals for single papers and for roundtable sessions. All proposals should include a one-page description of each paper and a brief c.v. for each participant. Proposals for complete sessions should also include a brief (no more than 500 words) discussion of the common issues raised in the panel. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2001. Send proposals to Bruce Geelhoed, Center for Middletown Studies, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Phone: (765) 285-8037. Fax: (765) 285-3571. Email: bgeelhoed@bsu.edu.

The conference will be held September 14-15 at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Accepted papers must be completed and received by August 24, 2001.

Announcement
SOUTHERN CROSSINGS

This is advanced notice of the 6th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference to be held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, from 13 - 16 February 2002.

The Conference theme reflects on the constellation of the Southern Cross which symbolises journeying in the Southern Hemisphere and appears in accounts of voyagers, celestial charts and legends as Taki o Autahi, cross, crosiers, crucero, and crux. Settlement in the Southern Hemisphere is characterised by the diverse imprints of indigenous peoples and by transformations arising from contact with, and settlement by, peoples from elsewhere. Colonisation by European nations is the dominant process behind the formation of the urban cultural landscapes in South America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, crossing the cultural landscapes of the colonised. Other crossings are equally significant, such as the ancient Arab trading routes across the Indian Ocean to East Africa, the extensive voyages undertaken by Polynesian mariners and the cultural exchanges between Southerners themselves.

Delegates from disciplines concerned with urban and planning history are invited to explore these themes at the next Australasian Conference under the overall theme of Southern Crossings.

Delegates may submit papers for refereeing and publication as conference proceedings, or choose to present unrefereed works in progress. A formal call for papers will be made in March 2001.

If you are interested in attending the conference and/or reading a paper, and would like to be added to the e-mailing list please e-mail the following details: name, e-mail address, physical address, fax number, any suggestions for a conference sub-theme to the Conference Convenors at: e.haarhoff@auckland.ac.nz Further information can also be view at the Conference Website at: www.southerncrossing.ac.nz.

*“Parallel Cities, Different Paths:
Cincinnati and Kharkiv (Khar’kov)
in the 19th and 20th Centuries”*

Miami University, October 13-15, 2000

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio provided a comfortable small-town setting for a three-day conference on two decidedly more urban sister cities – Cincinnati, Ohio and Kharkiv, Ukraine. David Thelen (Indiana University) offered an appropriate opening to the conference with “A Framework for Comparative and Transnational History.” Thelen called for historians to look at transnational movements and identities to connect with the everyday concerns of a public that often no

longer seems interested in nation-state centered histories. His model provided “food for thought” for the rest of the conference, which contained papers on Cincinnati and Kharkiv presented by both American and Ukrainian scholars.

Andrew Cayton (Miami University) and Yurii Shapoval (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences) each presented papers tracing the development of local and national identity in their subject cities. Cayton analyzed the development of national identity in Cincinnati as an outgrowth of the desire for federal patronage in the early years of the city, while Shapoval mapped the changes and continuities in local identity among Kharkivites in the twentieth century.

The development of Cincinnati and Kharkiv was the subject of papers by Robert Fairbanks (University of Texas – Arlington) and Sergei Posokhov (Kharkiv State University). Fairbanks took a case study approach, discussing nineteenth century tenement house reform in Cincinnati. He explained that tenement reform became an issue in the late nineteenth century because reformers began to see the city as a cohesive social unit in which inferior conditions for some could lead to deviant behavior for all in the inter-connected city. Sergei Posokhov looked broadly at Kharkiv’s development, offering a periodization for that city’s rise and relative decline among Ukrainian cities.

Immigration and in-migration was the subject of papers by Sergei Kudelko (Kharkiv State University) and Roger Daniels (University of Cincinnati). Both traced the course and role of in-migration and, in Daniels’ case, international immigration in the history of the respective cities and raised some interesting parallels. For instance, Cincinnati and Kharkiv each saw a great deal of immigration and/or in-migration during their nineteenth century industrializing period and both have witnessed declines in immigration and in-migration in recent years.

The last conference panel addressed questions of race and ethnicity. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr. (SUNY-Buffalo) analyzed housing development in Cincinnati in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. He showed that the pattern of African American slums and white suburbs began much earlier than is generally assumed because Progressive-era urban planners tended to use zoning laws to restrict African Americans to Cincinnati’s central basin. Vladimir Kravchenko (Kharkiv State University) returned to the idea of national identity in discussing attempts at national cultural revival in Kharkiv from the 1840s to 1917. He rounded out the papers nicely by reaffirming the persistence of national identity along with the usefulness of the comparing cities like Cincinnati and Kharkiv to understand how differing concepts of race and ethnicity forged very different historical experiences. Allan Winkler (Miami University) added some closing remarks on the confer-

ence, which organizers hope to continue in Kharkiv at a later date.

Overall, the conference generated a great deal of fascinating discussion between Ukrainian and American scholars and exemplified the utility of comparing histories.

Kevin Bower
University of Cincinnati

PITTSBURGH'S ENVIRONMENT- A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

On Sept. 16 and 17, a conference on the environmental history of Pittsburgh was held at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The ten papers delivered dealt with subjects ranging from the region's ecology over time to rivers and water quality, smoke, brownfield creation and renewal, and environmental activism and environmental improvements in Western Pennsylvania.

The conference began with Joel Tarr and biologist Sue Thompson setting the stage by providing an overview of the region's history as well as a discussion of the region's ecology. Three papers dealing with issues of smoke and air quality followed, all of which raised powerful questions about the implications of Pittsburgh's widely touted success at eliminating smoke. Angela Gugliotta of Notre Dame, for instance, presented a paper that probed the class and symbolic dimensions of the smoke problem in Pittsburgh. She argued that smoke functioned as an acceptable outlet for elite reform energies, providing a more "tractable problem" than did issues such as inadequate earnings, work hours, or matters of unionization. Sherie Mershon of Carnegie Mellon explored not only the origins and implementation of Pittsburgh's 1941 smoke control ordinance, but also the limitations of air pollution control (particularly in regard to industrial pollution), as conducted by the Allegheny County Air Pollution Control Board. And, Lynn Snyder of the U.S. Public Health Service explored the limitations and failures of the U.S. Public Health Service in reaction to the 1948 Donora smoke disaster.

Three papers focused on issues relating to water, water quality, and rivers. Ted Muller of the University of Pittsburgh discussed the commercial development of Pittsburgh's rivers and the manner in which transportation and industrial facilities denied Pittsburgh citizens access to the rivers. Today, he noted, the city's rivers were receiving renewed focus and being given a central place in the city's redevelopment activities. Nicholas Casner of Boise State University explored the attempts of environmental groups, industry, and the state and federal governments

to deal with mine acid drainage, still a leading cause of degraded quality in Pennsylvania's streams. And, Joel Tarr examined the four critical water supply and wastewater disposal decisions in Pittsburgh's history — decisions that have led to major problems in regard to water quality and waste disposal today.

Andrew McElwaine of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Samuel P. Hays, Emeritus Professor at the University of Pittsburgh delivered the last two papers. McElwaine provided a case study of the Nine Mile Run valley, a beautiful natural site that elite planners such as Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. were unable to protect from use as a slag dump. Today, however, the city has acquired the site and is developing it for new urbanism type housing and a green corridor to the Monongahela River. In the final talk, Sam Hays delivered a powerful critique of Pittsburgh environmental activities, especially since 1970. He noted that while there were significant environmental accomplishments in the pre-1970s period, there had been a loss of momentum since that time, with the environmental culture becoming "compliance" oriented. Hays argued that there was a strong environmental "counter-culture" in Pittsburgh, with the community possessing a tendency to "substitute celebration of mythology for achievement."

The conference was concluded by a lively panel discussion by Andrew Hurley, Anthony Penna, and Christine Rosen who discussed Pittsburgh Environmental History in Comparative Perspective. The panel concluded that while Pittsburgh bore similarities to other cities such as St. Louis, it differed because of its single industry focus. The papers from the conference are being edited for publication by the University of Pittsburgh Press and will join other volumes on urban-environmental history already published.

Joel A. Tarr
Carnegie Mellon University

Bibliographies

The bibliographers are Michael Ebner, Lake Forest College, and Timothy B. Neary, Loyola University, Chicago (U.S. books); Andrew Hurley, University of Missouri-St. Louis (U.S. articles); Anton Rosenthal, University of Kansas (Latin America); Lynn Laufenber, Sweet Briar College (Ancient and Medieval). The *Urban History Newsletter* seeks occasional bibliographers for Canada, Australia, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. If interested, please contact the editor:
Janet.Bednarek@notes.udayton.edu

United States Books

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Report of the Executive - Secretary

On January 5, 2000, at 4:45 P. M. President Gilbert Stelter convened the annual business meeting of the Urban History Association at the Westin Copley Plaza hotel in Boston. At that meeting I gave a full report on the affairs of the Urban History Association. I am pleased to report that the affairs of the Urban History Association are in very good shape. We currently have about 420 members. Though that does represent a decline of about fifteen members from last year at this time, we have had over twenty new members join the association recently, and the general decline in membership of the past several years seems to have bottomed out. As I have stated before, this decline is due to the same causes that have accounted for declines in memberships in other professional associations. The members of the Board of Directors and the President have decided that the association should focus on providing professional services to its members, rather than worrying too much about this decline. In addition, we have taken the first steps in trying to attract younger scholars and graduate students to the association and we will continue to broaden that effort in the coming year, now that some other transitional concerns have been addressed.

In addition to a strong membership base, our finances are sound. At the annual meeting I presented a tentative financial statement for the year 2000. My primary strategy is to fund new initiatives - such as the web site, new brochures, new membership renewal forms, advertisements for *The Journal of Urban History*, and framed certificates for the award winners — while keeping total costs at the same level. In order to do this, I cut clerical and mailing costs as much as possible and raised the price of a ticket to the annual dinner by three dollars (which really means I reduced the percentage of the dinner cost defrayed by the Urban History Association). As a result of this strategy, expenses in 2000 declined slightly. A slight increase in revenues and generous support from the College of Arts and Sciences at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, enabled the association to increase its capital base by nearly two thousand dollars in 2000. Our capital "cushion" is now around ten thousand dollars. Such modest support from a variety of institutions must play an increasingly important role in supporting association finances. At present, however, a careful management of finances, combined with external support, has maintained the Urban History Association's sound financial condition. It is important that I clarify our financial condition to assure members that as the association launches biennial conferences beginning in 2002, it is in good shape. But given the real limitations on how much of the expenses of a conference the association can bear, each of these conferences will have to be supported by a combination of registrations and outside support. As always, the association is delighted by an increase in Life

or Six year memberships. During the current membership renewal process, one new member and six renewing members of the Association have joined the ranks of our Life Members. In addition, two new members and ten renewing members have become Six Year members. The Urban History Association thanks the new Life and Six Year members of the association for their generous support.

On January 7, 2000, at the eleventh annual business meeting in Chicago, I spelled out three areas of concern that faced the association. Each of these were related to our declining membership base and concerns about the vitality of the association. They were 1) the relationship between the Urban History Association and the *Journal of Urban History* and H-Urban. 2) whether or not the association should have a conference and 3) whether or not the association should develop a website. To initiate and advance a discussion and the formulation of a series of motions to present to the membership, a motion was made at the annual business meeting to form a committee. In January, President Gil Stelter invited seven members of the association to be members on an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The call of the committee was to discuss each of these issues, with a special emphasis placed initially on discussing the issue of a conference. The seven members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee were: Timothy R. Mahoney and Gil Stelter, ex officio; Blaine Brownell, chair; Barbara Posadas, Thomas Sugrue, Georgina Hickey, and Clifton Hood. The committee discussed these various issues and made its report to the President of the Urban History Association in March. President Gil Stelter then presented the report to Board of Directors. On the basis of this report, the board encouraged the association officers to pursue progress on each of these initiatives in 2000.

First of all, we clarified the relationship between the Urban History Association and the *Journal of Urban History*. On December 5, 2000 the Urban History Association and Sage Publications, Inc. signed a five-year contract that spells out a new relationship between the Urban History Association and *The Journal of Urban History*. The agreement combines our membership renewal process and the subscriptions of Urban History Association members to *The Journal of Urban History* into a single process. Subscribing to *The Journal of Urban History* is now an option only of Urban History Association membership and, like other associations, members must subscribe through the membership renewal process to get their membership discount on *The Journal of Urban History*. The green cards and coupons are no more. So far, the process has worked smoothly. The subscription funds are remitted to the association. The Executive-Secretary then draws up an electronic list, and sends it, with copies of the renewal forms and a single check for the total amount due, to Sage Publications. No renewal notices will be sent to subscribing members. New subscribers

will receive their first issue within ninety days. Sage Publications will work with individual members whose subscriptions did not coincide with the timing of the membership renewal process to assure that in a year or two all Urban History Association subscribers will subscribe to *The Journal of Urban History* at the same time. For Sage Publications this is clearly an efficient and cost effective way to manage subscriptions. Sage Publications is also delighted that, at last count, four new members and seventeen renewing members have begun new subscriptions to *The Journal of Urban History* during the recent membership renewal process. In return, the Urban History Association is now a sponsor of *The Journal of Urban History* and will place two advertisements free of charge per year in the journal (the first should appear in the May, 2001 issue). This will increase our visibility to a broader urban history readership. *The Journal of Urban History* will also be given a half-page advertisement per issue of *The Urban History Newsletter*. In addition the editor of *The Journal of Urban History* was named an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Urban History Association. This motion was made at the Board of Directors meeting and approved at the business meeting in Boston. Finally, it is apparent that the new relationship, as articulated on the new renewal form, has not affected membership.

The relationship between the Urban History Association and the H-Urban did not change in 2000. After much discussion at last year's meeting, H-Urban was able to assemble a full staff for this past year. As a result, discussion of a closer relationship, or even "adopting" H-Urban was put on hold. The Urban History Association has neither the funds nor staff to provide financial or clerical support. We have linked our new web site to H-Urban and, in time, as H-Urban expands its web link site, it can be expected that H-Urban will gradually absorb our more modest web site "links" section. In the meantime, The Urban History Association strongly encourages officers and members to write reviews, review essays, and engage in H-Urban thread discussions to support H-Urban through a strong Urban History Association presence. Any further suggestions or ideas are welcome.

A central concern of the ad hoc planning committee was whether or not to launch a biennial Urban History Conference. President Gil Stelter made a motion that was approved to launch a conference. After much discussion the committee decided on Pittsburgh as the venue for the September 26-28, 2002 conference. It will be held at the John Heinz Regional History Center in Pittsburgh with hotel accommodations nearby. The center has graciously allowed us use of their facility for out of pocket costs only in return for sponsoring the event. A conference committee has been formed. Its current members are: Timothy R. Mahoney (Executive Secretary), Gil Stelter (Past President), Joel Tarr (Past Presi-

dent), Mark Rose, Cliff Hood, Barbara Posadas, Alan Lessoff, Wendy Plotkin, Kristin Stapleton, Anton Rosenthal and Eric Schneider. Liz Cohen as President and Ann Durkin Keating as President Elect serve as ex-officio members of the committee. The committee has begun to plan the conference and expects to put out a preliminary call for papers this summer. If you have any thoughts on conference themes and organization, do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members. If you would like to join the committee, please contact the Executive Secretary. The official call for papers will be announced in the fall 2001. For updated information on the conference, please check the Conference section of the web site. This section will eventually include announcements and a bulletin board of panel ideas and queries.

On September 1, 2000 the new Urban History Association web site went on line. I want to thank Karen Caruso, web site designer in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for her work in constructing the site. The web site has increased the association's visibility, improved the dissemination of information about the association to interested parties, as well as facilitated communication among officers and members. The web site will be updated about every two to three months as warranted. I encourage members who are interested in adding links, news, or announcements to enhance the bulletin board aspect of the announcements section by e-mailing information you have to the Executive Secretary. As the web site's bulletin board function broadens, the *Urban History Newsletter* will be able to run more articles and reports. We will connect to the new H-Urban link site as well and they will do the same for us. This year we will link the site reciprocally to many more sites of other professional associations, which will increase our visibility. We also plan to deepen the back issues of the newsletter section, but as there are no electronic files of older issues, that project will take most of the year. If you are interested in helping the association facilitate its web site development, please contact the Executive-Secretary.

On May 25, 2000 the Urban History Association applied for "Affiliate" status with the American Historical Association. "Affiliate" status assures an association access to meeting space at the annual American Historical Association meeting. We also would be listed in the Affiliated section of the AHA annual meeting brochure, as well as in the annual AHA *Directory of Affiliated Societies*, and be given

the opportunity to place announcements and news about the association in the "Affiliates" column in the AHA monthly newsletter *Perspectives*. I am delighted to inform the membership that the American Historical Association Council unanimously approved our application at the recent annual meeting in Boston and that, as of January 22, 2001, the Urban History Association is officially affiliated with the American Historical Association. An announcement of our new status and a profile of the Urban History Association will be in an upcoming *Perspectives*.

I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for their three years of service to the association that ended on December 31 2000. They are John Bukowczyk; Liz Cohen; Ann Keating; Ted W. Margadant; Glenna Matthews; Eric Schneider, and Henry Louis Taylor, Jr. In particular, I want to thank outgoing president Gil Stelter. Gil has been the driving force behind many of the new initiatives. He also instituted a new practice that will become a part of the culture of the association: meetings of the Board of Directors. Meetings of the board of directors will now be scheduled on Friday morning at the both the American Historical Association and Organization of American Historians annual meetings. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place at 8:30 - 9:45 A. M., Friday, April 27, 2001, in the Los Feliz Room, in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles. Though it is not expected that board members will attend either annual meeting just

to attend the Urban History Association board of directors' meeting, it is hoped that those directors attending these annual meetings, as well as those who live nearby to the meeting location, will attend the board of directors' meeting to discuss association policy and provide input and advice to the officers. The president will also maintain discussion with the board through e-mail throughout the year. In this way, the board of directors will become more active in providing advice and support in managing the affairs of the association.

The twelfth annual Urban History Association dinner at 6:30 in the Press Room at the Parker House Hotel on January 6, 2001 was a great success. About sixty members of the association and friends and spouses were present on a snowy winter evening in historic downtown Boston. I want to thank John Schneider of Tufts University for arranging a suitably historic location for our dinner. Our new president Liz Cohen presided and introduced Gil Stelter, outgoing president who delivered



Anne Durkin Keating, President Elect, Gilbert Stelter, Past President, and Lizbeth Cohen, President of the Urban History Association (l to r) at the UHA annual dinner in Boston.

a wonderful presidential address “Does Urban History Need a Theory of the City?” (see article on page 3). Liz Cohen then presented the Urban History Association awards for scholarly distinction for 2000 to Peter Baldwin, Andrew Wiese (in abstentia), and Michael Lerner (see announcements following this report). Each of the winners were presented with a framed certificate.

I invite members and friends of association to the Urban History Association luncheon at the meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Los Angeles on Friday, April at 11:15 A. M. in the Santa Anita A Room in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Tickets for the luncheon are available only through the OAH registration process. Professor Greg Hise of the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at the University of Southern California and author of *Magnetic Los Angeles: planning the twentieth-century metropolis* (Johns Hopkins, 1997) and, with William Deverell, *Eden by Design: The 1930 Olmsted-Bartholomew Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (University of California Press, 2000) will deliver a talk on his recent collaborative book entitled “Eden by Design: Power, Politics, and Planning in Los Angeles.” I hope to see you there.

Timothy R. Mahoney

Annual Urban History Association Prizes

Best Dissertation in Urban History

Michael Lerner, “Dry Manhattan: Class, Culture, and Politics in Prohibition-Era New York City, 1919-1933” (New York University, 1999)

“Dry Manhattan” is a brilliant case study of the ways in which prohibition became “the issue that defined the era” (p.4) between the Progressive Age and the New Deal. Michael Lerner demonstrates that New York City represented the key urban battleground of the national political and ideological contest over the “Noble Experiment.” Following in the path-breaking footsteps of his mentor, Lizabeth Cohen, he shows in fine grain detail how a moral crusade helped transform divisive ethno-cultural struggles into a powerful issue of parti-



Michael Lerner (l) and Peter C. Baldwin (r) winners of the 2000 UHA awards for best dissertation and best book in North American urban history at the annual UHA dinner in Boston.

san identification and working class solidarity during the ‘tribal twenties.’ In New York, the daily struggle to gain compliance at street level with various federal and state prohibition acts threw racial, religious, and ethnic conflict between the dries and the wets into sharp relief. Lerner makes effective use of criminal court records to substantiate bitter charges of discrimination in law enforcement in the city’s different neighborhoods and night life districts. He is also sensitive to the speakeasy as urban space where the middle classes and especially young women acted out their own cultural rebellion against Victorian morality. By 1923, New York’s wide-open revolt against prohibition was spawning scandalous images of ‘Flapper Jane’ in the nation’s fashion magazines and turning new style leaders such as Al Smith, Jimmy Walker, and Fiorello LaGuardia into icons of the national conflict. This well written and researched dissertation makes a fine contribution to our understanding of the cultural and political processes of party realignment that ultimately gave rise to the presidency of F.D.R. and the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

Best Article in Urban History

Andrew Wiese, “The Other Suburbanites: African American Suburbanization in the North before 1950,” *Journal of American History*, 85, no. 4 (March, 1999), pp. 1495-1524.

This article is one of the few articles that deals with the topic of African American suburbanization. While there has been some investigation of African American urbanization, and that subject has been studied to some degree, there has been almost nothing written about the topic of African American suburbanization. This article has even larger significance and begins to point to a modified interpretation of suburbanization in general. While the widely held stereotype is that suburbanization has largely been a movement of whites, especially the middle class, out of cities, especially as a response to the presence of African Americans, Wiese demonstrates that there was clearly a counter movement of African Americans, especially of the working class, into suburbs as well. This insight requires a rethinking and a reconceptualization of suburbanization as a process.

Best Book in North American Urban History

Peter C. Baldwin, *Domesticating the Street: The Reform of Public Space in Hartford, 1850-1930* (Ohio State University Press).

The transformation of public space around the turn of the twentieth century has long been associated with the rise of the modern American city. The noise, congestion, diversity, and apparent disorder characteristic of early Progressive era streets gave way, within a seeming few years, to the need to facilitate the efficient flow of traffic. What had been an artery of commerce for peddlers, a school for children, a recreational facility for people of all ages, and a vehicle for the socialization of newcomers became a target for those intent upon instilling a public discipline consonant with the emergent values of the middle class home. Peter C. Baldwin's *Domesticating the Street: The Reform of Public Space in Hartford, 1850-1930* provides an innovative look at that process in one city while successfully arguing that key changes antedated the advent of the automobile; that they manifested themselves unevenly in different neighborhoods; and that intellectual and local reform traditions proved at least as determinative as novel technologies in casting the new city. Ideas, in short, counted. Baldwin details the competing ideologies of the moralists who failed to "purify" the streets by ridding them of litter, prostitutes, peddlers, and working children, and the more commercially-oriented interests that ultimately succeeded in segmenting urban space by function. Vice and criminal activity could not be eliminated, but they could — to a considerable extent — be segregated and isolated. Thoroughfares, boulevards, side streets, landscaped parks, and playgrounds were woven together in a layered system that displaced and marginalized inappropriate uses, presaging the widespread use of zoning ordinances, and forever changing the face of the city. Effectively grounded in an impressive array of primary sources, and written in an engaging and accessible style, *Domesticating the Street* sets a high standard by blending social, cultural, and institutional history in an original and revealing analysis.



The Urban History Association

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Timothy R. Mahoney/University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Newsletter Editor: Janet Bednarek/ University of Dayton

Directors:

(ex-officio) Editor of the *Journal of Urban History*:
David Goldfield/ University of North Carolina-Charlotte

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(thru 2003) David Contosta/ Chestnut Hill College; Kenneth Goings / The University of Memphis; Amy Greenberg /The Pennsylvania State University; Katherine Lynch/ Carnegie Mellon University; Anton Rosenthal/ University of Kansas; Judith Smith/ University of Massachusetts Boston; Andrew Wiese/San Diego State University.

Announcement

Conference on New York City History

Ken Jackson and Mike Wallace are co-chairing the first general Conference on New York City History in anyone's memory. It will be put on under the auspices of The Gotham Center for New York City History and held at the CUNY Graduate Center, in the old Altman's Building, on October 5, 6 and 7, 2001.

Any topic, any era, is fair game. Traditional papers and panels, workshops, dialogues or media presentations are all great. We're going to have a mixed audience of scholars and members of the general public, so we're striving for clarity and accessibility. We also hope to have some sessions specifically about current public policy issues that set contemporary debates in historical context. We've set up a Program Committee, chaired by Pat Bonomi and Ron Grele, to handle proposals.

The easiest way to submit a proposal is to go to our web site (www.gothamcenter.org) and click on the Gotham History Festival (the Conference will be followed by a Festival Week, with events planned all around the town). Or write us at: Gotham Center for New York City History, The Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue Room 6103, New York, NY 10016-4309. Or fax us at: 212 817-2987. Or phone 212-817-8460 for more info.



The Urban History Association



Announcing

the web site of

The Urban History Association

on line now at

<http://www.unl.edu/uha/UHA.html>

Please bookmark the web site and refer to it for news and future announcements from the association. If you would like to add a link or correct information on the site, email your message to TMAHONEY1@unl.edu

Photo credit: Berenice Abbott, "City Arabesque," 1938.
Courtesy of the Photography collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints, and Photographs, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

**Activities of the
Urban History Association
at the annual meeting of the
Organization of American Historians**

April 26 - 29, 2001
Westin Bonaventure Hotel
404 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California

Board of Directors Meeting
8:30 - 9:45 A. M.
Friday, April 27, 2001
Los Feliz Room
Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles

Urban History Association Luncheon
Friday, April 27, 2001 at 11:15 A. M.
Santa Anita A Room
Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles.

Professor Greg Hise
School of Policy, Planning, and Development at
the University of Southern California
will deliver a talk
“Eden by Design: Power, Politics, and Planning in
Los Angeles.”

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