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A Fulbrighter in Korea

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After receiving tenure four years ago, I rewarded myself with a trip to China and Japan. I'd long wanted to go to Asia and I figured this was my opportunity. Though I've studied cities all my adult life and have traveled in the U.S. and Europe, nothing prepared me for what I saw in Asia. Put New York City in China, and it'd be that country's third or fourth-largest city. "Medium-sized" Chinese cities had populations of over a million. I thought I knew something about walled cities from London and Quebec City until I reached Xi-an and tried to walk around its perimeter. My guide gave me a look — and said that the walls were nine miles long. Tokyo takes sprawl and multi-nucleation to extremes. There was a striking juxtaposition between the modernity of public works such as bridges and airports and the immensity of urban problems such as the gap between rich and poor (in China), the severity of traffic jams (in Japan), and economic development's effects on memory and community (in both countries). On the plane home, I found myself wondering if the urban future might not be unfolding in Asia.

Three weeks wasn't enough to answer that question, but I knew that I wanted to live in a major Asian city. What my trip taught me was that while I'd tried to put American cities in a larger context and even taught a senior seminar on global cities, I automatically took Europe as my normative standard for comparisons. I realized that I couldn't confine myself to a European measuring stick.

Bill Atwell, a colleague who's an historian of China, suggested that the best way of getting somebody to pay for me to be in Asia was to apply for a Fulbright. I looked into it, and discovered that the Fulbright programs in China, Japan, and South Korea had teaching fellowships at the senior lectureship level for American historians. I decided that Korea was my best bet. By going to Korea, I could pick my own location and ensure that I'd be in a metropolis — Seoul. Fulbrighters in China, I'd been told, were placed by the Chinese government and sometimes wound up in the provinces. The Korean-American Educational Commission (KAEC), which administers Fulbright grants in Korea, accepts lecturers for a single semester, while its Japanese counterpart insists on a full year. That made a huge difference. I doubt that I could have justi-



Photo courtesy of Clifton Hood

fied a year's absence in terms of my research or my responsibilities as department chair. My real concern, though, was personal. Going to Asia alone would mean stepping out of my world and into the unknown, and I didn't want to risk the possibility of being miserable for an entire year. Five or six months — that I thought I could handle.

As it turned out, the Fulbright was among the best experiences of my life. I was in Korea from February to July 2001. I had a flat in KAEC's office building — a small, L-shaped unit with a bedroom/office at one end and a living room/kitchen at the other. The apartment was clean and comfortable. My favorite feature was its undol heating — a Korean heating system that sends hot water from a furnace through pipes that are located below the floor. Staying in the Fulbright building gave me a community of American grantees and staffers and of Korean staffers. It became a neighborhood as well as a base for forays into the city and the country.

Moving around was easy because Korea's public transit is superb. The Seoul subway is slow but extensive and well-designed. The neighborhood, city, and intercity buses may be the best in the world. Service was so frequent that I rarely had to wait more than ten minutes for the next bus, even on cross-country trips. I speak almost no Korean, but I could usually find help when I needed it. English is widely spoken because Koreans put so much emphasis on learning it (a matter of great resentment because of the cost and time involved) and because there are so many Americans on the peninsula (a subject of extraordinarily complicated nationalist and cosmopolitan reactions). Most of the Koreans I met were

direct, earthy, and friendly.

I spent much of my free time getting to know Seoul — visiting museums and historic sites, wandering around various neighborhoods, taking walking tours, going to Korean movies and musical performances, meeting friends at restaurants and bars. I soon learned that the popular view that Japanese colonization and the Korean War had destroyed all vestiges of old Seoul is wrong. Many remnants of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century city are left downtown. Though most residential neighborhoods are just a few decades old, they're filled with houses that wouldn't look out of place in the countryside. Still, Seoul is a cosmopolitan metropolis that is sustaining phenomenal urban growth. Traffic is worse than in Houston or Atlanta, and the quality of the air is poor as a result of all the cars and the "yellow rain" caused by desertification in China. People prefer to live in apartment towers, which are going up almost everywhere.

The best part was the teaching. At the suggestion of Horace Underwood, KAEC's executive director, I taught in two different academic settings. One class was at Seoul National University (SNU), a public institution that's considered to be Korea's best, and the other was at Yonsei University, a private institution that's probably its second-best. SNU's Department of Western History has an academic culture typical of the humanities, while the academic culture at Yonsei's Graduate School of International Studies is that of a business or public administration school. All twelve of my SNU students were Korean, while my sixteen Yonsei students included a Korean-German, a Chilean diplomat, an Egyptian diplomat, and three Americans.

Although I'd proposed several specialized courses, my department chairs both wanted me to offer a survey of the United States since 1865. That turned out to be a good idea. It afforded me latitude in themes and analytical approaches and let me respond to students' needs and interests. I wrote the syllabi to be general B something I never do at home B so that I could alter lectures and assignments. Flexibility was essential since I didn't know what to expect. Before leaving home, I'd consulted many people about Korean students. Nearly all the information I received proved to be inaccurate — not because my consultants were poorly intentioned, but because Korea is undergoing such rapid and wrenching social changes that this generation of students is not at all like the ones my informants had known. Even so, my Korean students were radically different from American students — in their relationships with each other and with me, in the gendering of the classroom, in the assignments they're accustomed to doing, in their work ethic, in the low priority attached to extracurricular activities and sports. The teaching challenges were exciting. Having to adjust my teaching to another culture, having an opportunity to teach my country's history to foreign students who are critical of the United States, and having a chance to learn about Korea from Koreans was invigorating. The SNU class was the best I've ever taught. The classroom atmosphere had a crackling intellectuality that was a delight, especially when we talked about Korea and the United States.

My biggest disappointment was the poor quality of two Fulbright-supported conferences I attended and gave papers at in East Asia. One was vapid and the other was incoher-

ent. As a friend pointed out, Fulbright has a reputation for failing to connect grantees to relevant scholarly associations in the host countries. Fortunately, before going to Korea, I'd made contacts with two Korean urbanists B Yi Tae-jin, an historian of Seoul who teaches in the Department of Korean History at SNU, and Kim Won-bae, an urban planner who's a senior fellow at the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements. Both were generous with their time and insights. I met them several times and gave talks at their seminars about my research on New York City. These sessions were lively, informative, and engaging.

Most of the scholars I met who study Korean cities do so as political historians or as historians of technology. There's little urban history as we know it. Few Korean historians address urban issues, and those who do generally follow the nationalistic approach that dominates Korean historiography. A major scholarly issue, for instance, is whether Korean officials or Japanese colonial administrators were responsible for the modernization of Seoul in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Though scholarship on Korean cities could profit from more cross-fertilization — here as in so many other areas Koreans look primarily to the United States and scant the experiences of other countries that they may have more in common with — I was glad to learn about another way of studying cities.

Five months was hardly enough for me to acquire expertise about Korea. That was never in the offing. What I did achieve, though, was a richer understanding of Korea and of Asia generally. Though Korea takes a back seat to China and Japan in East Asia, and though I wound up in Korea almost by accident, I'm glad I went there. Korea is a good place for a non-specialist to start coming to terms with Asia. Few countries have endured what Korea has in the last century: colonization, war and Cold War, partition, economic growth, democratization. And few countries have had more complicated relationships with the United States. My cultural map of Asia will never be as detailed as my cultural map of Europe is, but it's much denser than it was. My Fulbright experience was better than I imagined it would be, and I gained intellectual capital and emotional energy that I'm applying to my teaching and scholarship. I strongly recommend the program to other urban historians.

Is There An Urban History of Consumption?

Presidential Address, Urban History Association,
Annual Dinner, Saturday, January 6, 2002

By Elizabeth Cohen, Outgoing President and Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies, Department of History, Harvard University

I began by stating that consumption may not at first take seem like such a new lens through which to view changes in the cityscape—the physical look of cities—but in fact produc-

tion has deeply infiltrated the language and conceptualization of urban history. We speak most often of the “preindustrial” city, the “industrial” city, the “corporate city, the “service” city, the “postindustrial” city, and so forth, implying that the crucial engine generating urban change has been the production side of the economy. Without discounting the influence of the changing nature of production on the shape of the city, I argued that by focusing on it exclusively we may miss the significance of consumption trends and choices in the making of the city, particularly the city of the twentieth-century. The history of consumption, moreover, has focused primarily on consumers’ social identity. Often left out is how consumer behavior has shaped the nation’s landscape and its political culture.

The ideas I would be sharing tonight, I told the audience, were drawn from the book I am now finishing, “A Consumers’ Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America,” to be published by Alfred A. Knopf in January 2003. What may not be fully fleshed out in the talk in most cases is more developed in the book. I built my lecture around slides, so this summary will necessarily suffer from the absence of those images.

To get us launched, I showed the audience a series of posters that illustrate the changes in an imaginary, but representative, downtown of New Providence, America. Produced by the Townscape Institute in 1993 for use in community education, each shows downtown New Providence on a different day from 1875 to 1990. In the interests of time I shared only four posters: 1910, 1955, 1970, and 1990. Together, they convey the strong connection between the viability of downtown and the vitality of commerce and consumption underway there. We see over these eighty years the rise of a dynamic commercial district built around accessible public space until the 1950s, when the development of new suburbs is clearly having an effect on downtown commerce. By 1970, downtown New Providence is in a major crisis. Struggling to compete with the suburban shopping centers, New Providence replicates them within the city, building more parking lots and garages and turning streets into pedestrian malls and parks into vast plazas, both of which are soon avoided by people. By 1990, the central city is in recovery, thanks to the removal of the pedestrian mall, the recirculation of vehicular traffic, the return of public transportation, and the revitalization of downtown stores and their surrounding public space. Not all central cities, of course, have been as fortunate in real life.

I then turned to my own work on the national metropolitan landscape after World War II, with a focus on Northern New Jersey, particularly the Newark area. Not only was New Jersey a quintessential suburban state, but it also had an activist State Supreme Court that grappled with many of the social issues that arose from the restructuring of the postwar American landscape., providing me with rich source material. My examination of the changing metropolitan landscape is part of a larger project to analyze how the American economy and culture were reconceptualized in the aftermath of World War II, as what I call a “Consumers’ Republic.” This new ideal held that an economy built around mass consumption could deliver not only greater material prosperity, but also, through that, the long-sought political goal of a more democratic and

egalitarian American society. I then suggested that the Consumers’ Republic had far-reaching implications for the physical character of postwar America, and that I would focus tonight on two of them: first, how the importance of housing construction to the economy of the Consumers’ Republic shaped the character of postwar metropolitan development, and second, how the building of new centers of consumption in suburbia redefined the nature of public space and public life there and in turn affected American cities.

I cannot here go into the details of my arguments. You can learn more either from the text of my talk, which will be published in the January 2003 issue of the *Journal of Urban History*, or in my book, due out about the same time. Very briefly, I conclude that the commitment to building a “mass suburbia” of millions of private, single-family homes to improve the lives of the mass of Americans led to quite the opposite: a postwar metropolitan reality of economic and social segmentation, and in many cases, inequality. In addition, the restructuring of commerce in the “Consumers’ Republic” around suburban shopping centers created greater commercialization and privatization of public space. In time, moreover, cities, struggling to cope with population decline, the flight of retail trade, and the public’s fear for its safety on increasingly unfamiliar urban streets renovated urban public space on the suburban model. Urban downtowns, too, became more commercialized and privatized, through self-taxing Building Improvement Districts and downtown shopping malls, where suburban shoppers drove directly into parking garages and from there entered privately owned and policed, enclosed centers. I closed on a description by Monsignor James Linder, a Roman Catholic Priest, of downtown Newark in 1997: “Prime office space is that with garage parking, and they are all built like fortresses, with their lobbies up on the second floor and retail space in atriums and courts. They were all built with the riots in mind, and it’s not very pedestrian-friendly and inviting. The result is you have two cities downtown: the one in and around the offices, and the one on the streets where people are.” (“In Riots’ Shadow: A City Stumbles On,” *New York Times*, July 14, 1997)

In conclusion, I hoped that I had convinced my audience that there indeed is an urban history of consumption worthy of investigation, and that we can learn a great deal about both metropolitan America and consumption by looking at their mutual influences on each other.

Get to Know Pittsburgh Site of 2002 Urban History Conference

The city of Pittsburgh sits astride the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers at the mouth of the Ohio River. The city today occupies an area of 55 square miles. It is the seat of Allegheny County and the center of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area, a six county region. The population of Pittsburgh in 2000 was 334,563 persons, down from a high of 676,806 in 1950. The population of the metropolitan area was 2,358,695 in 2000, down from 2,406,452 in 1990. It was

the nation's only metropolitan area to lose population. In 1990 the median age of Pittsburgh residents was 34.6 years, giving it the distinction of having the 2nd oldest population of any city in the nation.

Pittsburgh had heavy immigration from Great Britain, Ireland and Germany through its first century or so followed by immigrants from Poland, Hungary, Serbia, and Italy, as well as a large number of Russian Jews. Many city neighborhoods maintain clear ethnic identifications. Pittsburgh, however, has failed to attract new immigrants in the last several decades and it has very small Hispanic and Asian populations. Pittsburgh's African American population dates far back in the city's history but grew largely through migration from the South during the World War I and II periods. Today African Americans compose about 27.1 per cent of the city's population and about 11 per cent of the county's. Serious disparities exist, however, between the socio-economic status of the city's black and white populations.

Pittsburgh and its contiguous suburbs form the center of the region. The Pittsburgh Central Business District or Golden Triangle is 440 acres, and provides employment for approximately 140,000 people. The CBD has a rich inventory of old and new structures, most noted of which are Henry Hobson Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail (1888), the PPG World Headquarters (1984), and the 64 story U.S. Steel Building (1971). It also possesses a new "cultural district," featuring redesigned movie palaces as locations for symphony, dance, and opera as well as a new Pittsburgh Public Theatre (the O'Reilly).

The city has undergone striking changes in identity over its history. The Shawnee and Delaware tribes originally occupied the site, but in the late 18th century it became the location for both British and French frontier forts. Pittsburgh developed initially as a commercial city in the nineteenth century but became one of the nation's greatest industrial cities, most notable for its steel production. Cheap energy in the form of high quality bituminous coal from the Pittsburgh Seam played a major role in its rise as did rail and river transportation.

Pittsburgh's industrial expansion produced vast fortunes for entrepreneurs such as Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick. Like other industrial cities, Pittsburgh suffered from strife between workers and industrialists, experiencing massive strikes and sometimes accompanying civic disturbances. By the time of the Great Depression, steel markets and production had shifted westward and Pittsburgh had declined as an industrial leader. While wartime demands boosted Pittsburgh industry temporarily, at the end of the war the city suffered from heavy smoke pollution, poor services, and deteriorating housing.

In 1945 business and political leaders, led by banker Richard King Mellon and Democratic Mayor David L. Lawrence, launched what became known as the Pittsburgh "Renaissance," the world's first attempt to renew a major industrial city. The Renaissance was the product of a unique public-private partnership that combined public power with private funding. The Renaissance focused on the goals of environmental improvement, downtown renewal, and transportation revitalization.

The city conducted significant urban renewal projects in the Lower Hill, removing slums but also causing major social dislocations.

Renaissance I lasted approximately two decades, followed by a period of limited development, as the public-private coalition fell apart. In 1977, however, newly elected Mayor Richard S. Caliguiri restored the partnership and launched Renaissance II, which focused on the neighborhoods as well as on downtown renewal. Even though the steel industry collapsed during Caliguiri's administration wiping out many thousands of manufacturing jobs, Pittsburgh's downtown remained viable and service employment grew.

Since Richard Caliguiri's death in office in 1988, public and private leadership has struggled to reduce urban decline and to revitalize both city and region. Especially critical are old mill sites or brownfields along the rivers, which are being developed for various purposes including shopping malls, technology parks, and combined commercial/retail/residential districts. Especially notable are Washington's Landing, a redeveloped industrial island with residential and commercial clusters and excellent public spaces, and Nine Mile Run ("Summerset"), a New Urbanism type development (710 units) being built on an old slag heap.

Today's Mayor, Tom Murphy (1994-), has focused his efforts on revitalization of the river banks, creation of a trails network, new stadiums, and expansion and redesign of the convention center. Revitalization of downtown, however, proceeds sporadically, marked by conflicting plans. Pittsburgh in 2002 presents a dual image of being both a modern post-industrial city with a high quality of life and a city that retains problematic remnants of its industrial past.

Joel A. Tarr
Carnegie Mellon University

CONFERENCE REPORTS

"The City in North America: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Public Works and Urban Services, the Environment, and Political Culture" was held in Mexico City, October 24-26, 2001. Nineteen scholars in history and the social sciences from Canada, Mexico, and the United States were commissioned to present papers, including keynote addresses by H.V. Nelles (York University), Ariel Rodriguez Kuri (Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco/University of California San Diego), and Martin V. Melosi (University of Houston). Approximately half of the papers were cross-national on topics covering urban images, regional growth, municipal incorporation, water supply and pollution, waste problems, transportation regulation, public works contracting, environmental justice, and gender issues. The conference was one of the first to apply historical perspective to such a wide range of urban infrastructure and public works issues for North America as a whole.

The primary sponsors of the conference were Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco and the University of Houston (through the Tenneco Lecture Series). The co-directors, respectively were Georg Leidenberger of UAM and Mar-

tin Melosi from UH. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, the Canadian Embassy in the United States, Evaluacion del Diseno, Area de Estudios Urbanos, and Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico.

The conference was held at Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico in the heart of the historic district in Mexico City.

The group plans a follow-up meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Alan Artibise (University of Missouri-St. Louis, artibise@umsl.edu) will be the director of the conference.

Martin V. Melosi, University of Houston

9th Biennial Conference on Planning History, Camden, N.J./ Philadelphia, PA.,

November 1-4, 2001

The biennial meeting of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (co-sponsored by the Urban History Association) lived up to its reputation as a forum for vital scholarship in urban and planning history and a venue for academic fellowship welcoming to graduate students and established scholars alike. Despite the events of September 11, the assembly drew almost 400 scholars, planners, students and local activists who enjoyed three days of engaging panels, provocative plenary sessions, and stimulating tours, not to mention a truly rare moment in scholastic circles when host committee chair, Howard Gillette, bought a round of drinks for the crowd gathered in the Sports Bar of the Doubletree Hotel. The conference also witnessed the announcement of SACRPH awards for best scholarship in several categories and the launching of a new journal, *The Journal of Planning History*, sponsored by Sage Publications and edited by Christopher Silver and David Schuyler.

True to its track record, the conference offered forty panels on topics of interest to urbanists of all persuasions. Sessions analyzed urban politics, city plans and planners, housing and housing policy, historic preservation and urban design, the globalization of planning ideas, suburbanization and many facets of urban decline and revitalization. A variety of sessions also focused on analyses of planning and the exercise of power including relationships between planning and the operation of social distinctions such as race, class, and gender. The interdisciplinary breadth of planning history scholarship was evident in numerous presentations including Lee Ann Bishop Lands' use of Geographic Information Systems to explore the neighborhood roots of racial zoning in Atlanta and Lawrence Vale's nuanced analysis of public and private housing discourse in the 20th century U.S.

Conference organizers also arranged an exceptional set of plenary sessions, including a "conversation" with the eminent master planner of Philadelphia, Edmund Bacon, a slick luncheon monologue by the New Urbanist, Andres Duany, and a dialogue on the implications of the September 11th attacks moderated by Kenneth Jackson. One highlight of the conference was a revealing – at times fiery — opening session in

Camden, which coupled three successive panels of academics, neighborhood activists, and waterfront developer/planners who offered stunningly divergent visions for "the Revitalization of Camden." In particular, the struggle of community groups to improve the quality of life in existing neighborhoods — for instance, by building half-court basketball hoops or furnishing low-cost home loans for local residents — provided a sobering counterpoint to the vision of a carnival city on the waterfront — a minor league ballpark, a corporate-sponsored concert space, a cross-river tramway, a regional aquarium — designed to attract middle class day-trippers to the city.

Finally, an assortment of half-day tours served as bookends for the conference. Tours offered conferees the opportunity to examine topics such as neighborhood reinvestment in North Philadelphia, the legacy of Garden City planning at Radburn, New Jersey, the impact of historic preservation in central Philadelphia, and examples of experimentation in industrial and housing planning. The tour of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey was led by Peter O'Connor, who was counsel for the plaintiffs in the landmark zoning case and culminated in a visit to the Ethel Lawrence homes, an immaculate, wooded development of 100 townhouse apartments named for the local activist who sustained the effort to build affordable housing in the township for decades. Juxtaposed against the lavish vision of the region's waterfront developers, the years of litigation required to complete so small a project is a depressing reminder of the distance yet to travel in engaging professional planners and public officials in meaningful planning for all of the nation's urban residents.

Andrew Wiese, San Diego State University

CALL FOR PAPERS

Small Cities: Past, Present, Future

The Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University and the Minnetrista Cultural Center invite paper and panel proposals for its second annual Small Cities Conference. The purpose of the conference is to explore the distinctive challenges that have confronted and still confront small cities, municipalities with a population between 40,000 to 100,000 people. Professor Kenneth T. Jackson of Columbia University, author of *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985) will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Professor Jackson was scheduled to give the keynote lecture at the inaugural Small Cities Conference in 2001 but was forced to postpone his visit due to the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11.

Proposals for papers and sessions dealing with the historical, economic, political, social, educational, 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, but proposals from scholars who are studying topics in European cities will also be considered. The conference organizers encourage submissions from social scientists, humanists, urban planners, public officials, journalists, and

educators in the elementary and secondary schools. Submissions from graduate students are also encouraged. Proposals for complete panels, including two or three papers, a chair, and a commentator, are requested. 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, 2002. Send proposals to Bruce Geelhoed, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. The conference will be held November 1-2, 2002 at the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, IN. Accepted papers must be completed and received by August 24, 2001.

The Resilient City: Trauma, Recovery and Remembrance

A Colloquium at MIT, Spring 2002

The Resilient City project at MIT was conceived in response to the terrorist attacks that destroyed New York's World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Intended as both a scholarly and therapeutic exercise, the colloquium will examine critically how cities in the past have endured traumatic episodes, and prevailed to establish new order out of chaos and devastation. In this series of public lectures, we will attempt to understand the economic, artistic, political, social and cultural forces that have enabled cities to rebuild and recover, and in the process develop a framework for understanding both the commonalities and differences inherent in post-traumatic urbanism. To do so we will investigate a diverse selection of examples of urban trauma, recovery, and remembrance from around the world.

The Resilient City colloquium lectures are open to the public and will be held on Monday evenings 5:30 pm-7:30 pm throughout spring 2002 and conclude with a final presentation on September 11, 2002. Lectures will be held in room 10-485 at MIT, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139. Further information will be available soon at <http://resilientcity.mit.edu>, on which all lectures will eventually be viewable in digitized form using RealPlayer.

For additional information please contact Larry Vale (ljvale@mit.edu) or Tom Campanella (tomcamp@mit.edu).

The Colloquium sessions will address the following topics:

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| 11 February - Thomas J. Campanella, MIT
<i>September 11th and the City</i>
Lawrence J. Vale, MIT
<i>Urban Trauma and the Resilience of Cities</i> | 8 April - Anthony S. Pitch, Washington, D.C.
<i>Patriotism and Reconstruction: Washington, DC after
Conquest and Arson during the War of 1812</i> |
| 25 February - Max Page, UMASS, Amherst
<i>Creatively Destroying New York: Fantasies,
Premonitions, and Realities in the Provisional City</i> | 22 April - William Fulton, Solimar Research Group
<i>After the Unrest: Ten Years of Rebuilding Los Angeles
Following the Trauma of 1992</i> |
| 4 March - Kevin Rozario, Smith College
<i>Spectacular Reconstructions: Ways of Seeing and the
Politics of Recovery in American Urban Disasters</i> | 29 April - Edward T. Linenthal, University of Wisconsin
<i>The Predicament of Aftermath: Reflections on
9-11 and Oklahoma City</i> |
| 11 March - Brian Ladd, SUNY Albany
<i>Double Restoration: Berlin after 1945</i> | 6 May - Carola Hein, Bryn Mawr College
<i>Fires, Earthquakes, Modernization and Air Strikes:
The Destruction and Revival of Japan's Cities</i> |
| 18 March - Diane E. Davis, MIT
<i>Reverberations: Mexico City's 1985 Earthquake and
the Transformation of the Capital</i> | 13 May - William J. Mitchell, MIT
<i>Trauma and Rebuilding in the Digital Electronic Era</i> |
| 1 April - Hashim Sarkis, Harvard GSD
<i>Beirut, Beirut</i> | 11 September - Julian Beinart, MIT
<i>Cities and Resurrection</i> |

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Minutes of the Urban History Association Thirteenth Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 4, 2002
San Francisco, California

Lizabeth Cohen, Urban History Association President called the Thirteenth Annual Business Meeting of the Urban History Association to order at 4: 50 P. M. on Friday, January 4, 2002 in the Oxford Room of the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, California. The minutes of previous meeting (January 5, 2001, Boston, Massachusetts) were presented to the membership and approved. The minutes had been posted on the Urban History Association web site in the Newsletter Section at <http://www.unl.edu/uha/news> from.html.

Timothy R. Mahoney, Executive - Secretary and Treasurer then gave the 2001 Annual Report of the Urban History Association. Mahoney's report consisted of three parts: a report on membership, then on the financial affairs of the association, and finally on the activities have taken place this past year. In regards to membership Mahoney reported that although the second renewal period under the new system of renewal that incorporates subscriptions to the *Journal of Urban History* into the Urban History Association renewal process was still underway, that the Urban History Association's membership currently stood at 425. That represents a slight increase from the 420 reported at last year's meeting and represents the first increase in number of members some years. Mahoney also reported that 10 members of the association became new Life Members and 12 members became new Six Year Members in 2001. He thanked those individuals for their important support of the association. In general, however, Mahoney expressed the belief that the association still continued to face the same causes that have accounted for declines in memberships in other professional associations. Mahoney did note that most of the new members were younger scholars and graduate students, thus indicating that a special mailing encouraging many senior members at Ph.D. granting institutions to encourage their students and recent Ph.Ds to join the association may have had some effect. In general, Mahoney reported about 40 new members joined the Urban History Association in 2001, doubling the 20 or so from the year before and he thanked those involved in the effort. Mahoney also encouraged those present to get involved and encourage others to join the Urban History Association. Membership may also have increased as a result of the decision of the board of directors and the president last year to encourage the association to provide more professional services to its members. As a result of this initiative the association launched an Urban History Conference this September. That fact, and the advertising that has preceded it, along with semi-annual ads in the *Journal of Urban History*, the web site, and our new affiliate status with the American Historical Association, have all increased the visibility of the association.

Mahoney then gave a brief report on the finances of the Urban History Association. He reported that, given the declining or steady membership, combined with a dues structure

that has remained unchanged since 1988, it should be apparent that the association over the past several years has had declining revenues with which to work. At the same time, of course, the costs of operating, which includes forms, web site, advertisement for the conference, the dinner, continue to increase gradually. As a result, the treasurer is faced with what is a familiar scenario - trying to do more with less. Mahoney reported that he has tried to do this by limiting mailing and clerical costs, gradually replacing some mailings with announcements posted on the web site, and trying to build a cushion from funds that we receive in support of the association from the University of Nebraska College of Arts and Sciences.

Mahoney then presented and gave a brief analysis of the tentative financial statement. Mahoney reported a slight decline in income from 2000 to 2001, in spite of an impressive receipt of funds from 10 new life members and 12 new six year members. He again thanked the former Deans Brian Foster, and Linda Pratt, and new Dean Richard Hoffmann of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Nebraska for providing fiscal year support for three years of \$2000.00 annually to the Urban History Association and remarked that renewing this support will be a critical issue in 2002. While revenues were declining, expenses in 2001 continued to rise. The increase was due to a combination of one time costs related to the conference, the non - North American book award, and an increase in legal fees. These increases were counteracted by a significant decline in web site maintenance, mailing, and clerical costs, and a decline in cost of annual dinner due to donations. In regards to finances Mahoney also reported that the 2002 biennial conference must be at an institution that will limit user fee to us to daily out of pocket costs, and the conference will be roughly pay as you go conference with very limited travel or speaker stipends.

Mahoney then proceeded to report on the good progress of each of the new initiatives of 2000, the new relationship between the Urban History Association and the *Journal of Urban History*; the web site; and the conference. First of all he reported that a week after the last annual business meeting the Urban History Association was granted official affiliate status with the American Historical Association. This provides us visibility and access to announcements in *Perspectives* and space at the annual American Historical Association meetings.

In regards to the relationship between the Urban History Association and the *Journal of Urban History*, Mahoney reported that everything is working smoothly and to everyone's satisfaction. All members who now subscribe to the *Journal of Urban History*, about 140 individuals, receive their discounted subscription rates through the annual Urban History Association renewal process. Last year, 27 members started new subscriptions of the *Journal of Urban History* and 11 new members subscribed. Needless to say, the increase of 38 subscriptions pleased Sage Publications. In return the Urban History Association has placed ads in the March and October *Journal of Urban History*, which will be an annual occurrence, and the *Journal of Urban History* placed an ad in the March *Urban History Newsletter*. The editor of the *Journal of Urban History*, David Goldfield, has also become an ex-officio officer of the Urban History Association. Mahoney expressed his view, and reported

that David Goldfield, the board of the *Journal of Urban History*, and Sage concur, that the first year of our new arrangement has worked fine and will continue to do so in coming years. He stated that he did not anticipate any changes in the arrangement for four years remaining on the contract.

Mahoney reported that the relationship between the Urban History Association and the H-Urban is still under discussion. After much discussion at last year's meeting, H-Urban was able to assemble a full staff for this past year. In the meantime, discussion of the Urban History Association adopting H-Urban continued. But road blocks continue to confront such an arrangement, as was discussed in this morning's Board of Directors meeting. Most importantly, the fact that the Urban History Association has neither the funds nor staff to provide financial or personnel support for H-Urban, complicates the issue. Moreover, as a web site located on the University of Nebraska server, the Urban History Association is prohibited from linking our web site connection to H-Urban if H-Urban plans to connect itself to Amazon.com to generate income. Mahoney expressed a willingness to discuss placing the Urban History Association web site on an off site server, but was reluctant because doing so would result in the loss of the services of a fine in house web site manager at University of Nebraska-Lincoln who provides her services at subsidized rates compared to commercial rates. Right now, Mahoney argued that the Urban History Association can not afford moving off the University of Nebraska-Lincoln server.

Mahoney then reported that the Urban History Association web site has now been up and running since Summer 2000. He recommended that all members book mark it and consult it regularly for updated Urban History Association announcements.

Mahoney finally reported that all the arrangements for the first Urban History Association Urban History Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 26-28, 2002 have been made, the Call for Papers has gone out and been widely advertised, and the conference committee is now assembling the program. He urged all members to submit a paper or session proposals. In conclusion, the year 2001 has seen solid progress on most of the initiatives proposed in 2000.

Mahoney then thanked Joel Schwartz not only for continuing on as Membership Secretary, but also for his willingness to adjust to and facilitate the implementation of new membership renewal process and new electronic procedures. He also thanked Janet Bednarek, Editor of the *Urban History Newsletter* for the great job she has done in her second year as editor of the newsletter as we approach the 27th issue of the biannual newsletter in March 2002. He also thanked the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for their three years of service to the association that ended earlier in the day at the board of directors meeting on January 4, 2002. They are Lorraine Attreed, Clifton Hood, Patricia Mooney Melvin, Mark Rose, Kristin Stapleton, David Stowell, and Quintard Taylor. Finally, Mahoney thanked outgoing president Lizabeth Cohen. Liz was been an aggressive president, a member of the conference committee, a key help in locating speakers, and sources of funding for our events, and allowed us graciously to intrude on a semester on leave. Liz Cohen also continued the new tradition

of having breakfast meetings of the Board of Directors at the American Historical Association and Organization of American Historians meetings as a great way to meet those directors who made it to the meetings and getting their input on the issues facing the association.

Mahoney then expressed his hope to see many of those in attendance at thirteenth annual Urban History Association dinner at 6:30 in the Renaissance Room at the Ristorante Fior d'Italia, on 601 Union Street, at Union and Stockton Street at Washington Square Park in North Beach. He thanked Bill Issel of San Francisco State University for finding a great spot for us at which to have the annual dinner. Ann Keating, president-elect will preside and Liz Cohen will deliver the presidential address "Is There an Urban History of Consumption?" Mahoney thanked Liz Cohen for her efforts in acquiring funding support for the dinner from Houghton Mifflin Co. and Alfred A Knopf, Inc. which will be publishing Liz's new book in the spring of 2003. After Cohen's address, Ann Keating will then present the UHA awards for scholarly distinction for 2001 (see Urban History Association web site under Awards).

Mahoney concluded by inviting members to the Urban History Association luncheon at the meeting of the Organization of American Historians in April, 2002. Barbara Franco, Director of the Washington D. C. Historical Society, will deliver a luncheon address on Friday, April 12 at 11:15 A. M. entitled "The City as Museum."

Lizabeth Cohen, upon completion of the annual report, then turned to the Report of Committee on Nominations. Timothy Mahoney, representing the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Andrew Lees, read the Report Of the Committee on Nominations for the Annual Meeting of the Urban History Association. The report indicated that Robert Fishman was duly elected as president-elect for 2003. Nora Faires, Harvey Graff, Jeffrey Diefendorf, Neil Larry Shumsky, Robin Bachin, Albert Camarillo, and Eric Sandweiss were elected for a three-year term on the Board of Directors from January 2002 through December 2004. He offered congratulations to each of them.

Lizabeth Cohen then turned to old business. Wendy Plotkin gave a brief report on the H- Urban and Urban History Association relationship. Plotkin reported that things were still in flux as they sorted out what was legal or not in generating funds from H-Urban through a contract with Amazon.com. She reported that discussions will continue and a report will be presented to the Board of Directors meeting in April in Washington D. C. The members present, turning to the next item, approved, on a motion from the floor, to continue the Urban History Association's annual \$350 support of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

Under new business, Mahoney gave a brief up date on the Urban History Association Conference, September 26-28, 2002, Pittsburgh. He reported that the call has gone out and been widely advertised. He intended to send out a reminder on H-Urban in early January. Lizabeth Cohen urged all members to become involved and contact conference committee and use web site email contacts to submit paper pro-

posals and organize session proposals. The conference, Mahoney remarked, will be an important moment in the association's development by reemphasizing the integrative and interdisciplinary approach of urban history within the discursive and fragmented academic world. He also reported that all the arrangements and logistics are set and a Local Arrangements Committee is forming. He remarked that there will probably be a luncheon, a plenary session, and a reception, but no dinner at the conference, as the annual Urban History Association dinner will remain at the meeting of the American Historical Association next year in Chicago. Mahoney also reported that the conference will be a pay as you go conference with a somewhat high registration fee. He urged members to calculate that into their travel budgets next year. After brief further discussion, the business meeting adjourned at 5:40 P. M.

Annual Urban History Association Prizes



UHA award winners, Marta Gutman and Martin Melosi at the annual dinner

Best Book in North American Urban History published in 2000

Martin Melosi. *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in American from Colonial Times to the Present*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

The committee for the UHA prize for the best book in North American urban history published in 2000 awards the prize to Martin Melosi, *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in American from Colonial Times to the Present*. This book represents a landmark in the study of the urban built environment. It is comprehensive and concise detailed and conceptual. Its analysis of the importance of environmental issues for urbanization, and of the changing ideas about sanitation and health among both urban residents and historians, is unmatched in any previous work on urban infrastructure development. It is a splendid reference work that provides useful comparisons among cities.

Best Book in Non-North American Urban History published in 1999 or 2000

Hanchao Lu. *Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Life in the Early Twentieth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

Hanchao Lu's well-organized, vivid book deals with an analytical problem fundamental to urban studies since Max Weber: the balance between capitalism, Western influence, and regional history and culture in the molding of modern urban life in different parts of the non-western world. Lu constructs an engaging narrative of how the native residents and rural migrants of China's largest city — the so-called "little urbanites" — lived and made a living during the high point of the city's industrial and commercial influence and of the Western colonial presence there. *Beyond the Neon Lights* draws upon an impressive range of sources, from literature and folklore to surveys of seven neighborhoods full of long-time residents. Particularly memorable is Lu's portrait of life in Shanghai's distinctive compounds of alley houses known as *shikumen*. The book demonstrates that Shanghai's urbanism reflected a fusion of attitudes and aspirations that migrants from rural China imported to the city with a mind set and living pattern generated by the city's streets, shops, and houses. In stressing ways that Shanghai's people wove their lives from a variety of Chinese and Western influences, Lu challenges the traditional characterization of this city as mainly a bridgehead into China for Western capitalism and modernity. Lu's book attests to the vibrant state of scholarship on Chinese cities. Scholars of cities around the world will find ideas and techniques in this exemplary work of urban social history

Best Article in Urban History published in 2000

Robert Self, "To Plan Our Liberation" Black Power and the Politics of Place in Oakland, California, 1965-1977. *Journal of Urban History*, Vol. 26, No.6 (September 2000) pp: 759-792.

Robert Self's well written and thoroughly researched article firmly places the role of black power in reconfiguring urban politics in the 1970s. His focus on Oakland is of particular interest because of the rise of the Black Panthers, but also, as the author points out, because the black power movement in that city had multiple roots and focused on a strong sense of urban place. Self's description of Oakland and the impact of postwar redevelopment on West Oakland are important for understanding the varied roots of black protest. His portrayal of West Oakland as the East Bay's "oddest urban space" impacted by numerous urban renewal and Great Society programs is most interesting. Self breaks new ground and makes a convincing argument that Oakland's black power movement politicized the city's distribution of resources in unprecedented ways in the 1960s and 1970s. The author shows that this politicization was spatial as well as racial. The defense of neighborhood played a crucial role in the world view of Black Panthers and other black power advocates. In this article Robert Self has provided an interesting model not only for the exploration of black protest, but for those scholars interested in labor, ethnic, or religious protests as well.

Best Dissertation in Urban History completed in 2000

Marta Ruth Gutman, "On the Ground in Oakland: Women and Institution Building in an Industrial City" (University of California - Berkeley, 2000)

Through her imaginative reading of historical sources and sophisticated analytical framework Marta Gutman has created an impressive study of the charitable institutions created by middle- and upper-class women in Oakland, California, in the years between 1870 and 1930. The implications of her study reach far beyond the western regions of the city that is her focus. They also challenge urban historians to think about the social and physical transformations of American industrial cities in complex interdisciplinary ways. The committee was especially impressed by her ability to combine urban, social, political, policy, gender, and architectural history in constructing a narrative that was both enlightening and provocative.

Using her narrative to walk her readers through Oakland's streets, Gutman skillfully recreates the town at the turn of the century. As she does, she demonstrates that "the privately built charitable landscape became a compelling civic presence in West Oakland even as the effects of inequality, power, and racial bias were written, and rewritten, into each architectural setting." Her interdisciplinary approach to the subject made her analysis as three-dimensional as her described landscapes, decoding the vernacular architecture as she placed the people and institutions that built and used it into the larger historical context.

The result is a dissertation that demonstrates much about women as builders of charitable institutions and cities and processes of urban development. At the same time, as befits a dissertation in architecture, she makes it clear why students of architecture "need to sidestep the division between high/architecture and low/building to investigate the broad realities, spatial continuities, building practices, and human efforts which tie the landscape and specific settings to each other, power, and authority."

We anticipate that this dissertation, when revised for the book, will make important contributions to urban history, women's history, the history of social welfare, and architectural history. For these reasons, we have selected Marta Ruth Gutman's, "On the Ground in Oakland: Women and Institution Building in an Industrial City" as the 2001 Urban History Dissertation Award winner.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Clifton Hood was recently elected to the board of directors of the New York Council on the Humanities.

Harvey J. Graff served as the president of the Social Science History Association in 1999-2000. In May 2001 the Linkoping University in Sweden awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa.

The Public Works Historical Society awarded **Martin V. Melosi**, University of Houston, the Abel Wolman Prize for the best book in public works history in 2001 for *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America From Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000). This same work also won an UHA prize (see above).

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

April 11 - 14, 2002

Renaissance Washington D. C. Hotel
999 9th Street N. W.

Friday April 12, 2002

8:30 - 9:45 A. M.

Board of Directors Meeting
Room 3
Renaissance Washington D. C. Hotel

11:15 A. M.

The Urban History Association Luncheon
Room 3
Renaissance Washington D. C. Hotel

Presiding: Ann Durkin Keating,
President of the Urban History Association

Luncheon Address:
"The City as Museum"
Barbara Franco
Director of the Washington D. C. Historical Society

“Power, Knowledge and Society in the City”

Sixth International Conference On Urban History

Edinburgh, Scotland 5,6 and 7 September 2002

You are invited to take part in the Sixth International Conference of the European Association of Urban Historians (EAUH) which takes place in Edinburgh from Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th of September 2002.

The conference begins with an informal reception on Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning there will be an opportunity to see some of the resources available for urban historians in Edinburgh. The central part of the conference consists of two plenary lectures and a wide variety of sessions, and round table.

The EAUH was established in 1989 with the support of the European Union. Our conference which takes place every two years is the largest and most important meeting of urban historians in Europe and is now noted for attracting urban historians from across the globe. We expect over 300 participants from a wide range of disciplines.

The title of our conference, Power, Knowledge and Society in the City, has been chosen to celebrate the fact that Edinburgh in the 18th century was home to some of the most innovative thinking of the enlightenment and that Edinburgh in the 21st century is home to the new devolved parliament of Scotland. The title also recognizes both established and innovative work by urban historians. Indeed one of the merits of urban history is the manner in which it brings together such a range of methodologies, intellectual approaches, periods, places and topics. As the list of session topics indicates, there is no area of our curiosity as urban historians which is excluded from this conference.

Among the main sessions are: Who was running the cities? Elites and urban power structures, 1700-2000; Cities, Multiculturalism and Ethnicity: Expressions of Identity and Municipal Politics -19th/20th century; When the History of Cities Meets Environmental History; Imperial spaces and imperial power: urban geographies of Empire; The decline of industrial cities European Cities, Public Sphere and Youth in the 20th Century; Endangered Cities: Military Powers and Urban Society in the Age of Total War; and Models of urban power in European political systems: the Russian perspective. For more information contact Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK and see website at <http://www.le.ac.uk/urbanhist/urbanconf/topics.html>.

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Inquires about membership, subscriptions, or changes of address should be sent to: Joel Schwartz, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043 USA (Phone: 973-655-7541; e-mail: schwartz@saturn.montclair.edu).

Inquiries about the activities of the Association or about purchasing back issues of the newsletter (where available) should be sent to: Timothy R. Mahoney, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, c/o Department of History, 610 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0327 USA (Phone: 402-472-3247; e-mail: tmahoney1@unl.edu).



Mark your calendars!

*The First Biennial Urban History Conference
of the Urban History Association*

September 26-28, 2002

John Heinz Regional History Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Urban historians, sociologists, urban planners, architects, and literary scholars from around the United States and the world will gather in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference will open with a session in the Pittsburgh Renaissance Hotel on Thursday evening September 26. Over forty sessions devoted to urban society, demography, immigration, race, ethnicity, gender, class, culture, space, landscape, the natural and built environment, economy, technology, infrastructure, architecture, political economy, politics, policy, and planning will take place on Friday and Saturday at the John Heinz Regional Center. Numerous sessions will be comparative and international in perspective. Joseph Trotter, Professor of History at

Carnegie Mellon University will deliver the luncheon address on Saturday, September 28. Conference participants will stay at the landmark Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel at 107 Sixth Street in the heart of Pittsburgh's cultural district. The John Heinz Regional History Center is located only six blocks away and is easily accessible by public transportation.

A conference program, registration form, and hotel information will be mailed to UHA members and be posted on the Urban History Association web site at <http://www.unl.edu/uha/conf.html> in June 2002. For further information, please contact Timothy R. Mahoney, Executive Secretary of the Urban History Association at tmahoney1@unl.edu.