Warner and Urban History

To mark the retirement of Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Brandeis University, several UHA members share their answer to the following question: How has your own teaching and/or research been influenced by his scholarship?

Sam Bass Warner, Jr. has given the city a dynamism that historians take for granted today. The city in history had been a place, a bounded structure, a moral artifact. In Streetcar Suburbs (1964), a pathbreaking study of city building as a process, and in The Private City (1968), an account of the deviation of Quaker Philadelphia into market-driven loyalties, Warner gave the city movement as well as a moral indeterminancy. At the same time, his virtuoso techniques, like the use of collective biographies and penetrating quantitative data, have given historians powerful ways to encapsulate the past.

Few historians have written more authoritatively about the impersonal forces that have shaped urban society or more passionately about the power of individuals to make their own urban policy. I particularly like his To Dwell Is to Garden (1987), a sweet testament to Boston’s community gardeners, and Province of Reason (1984), a fascinating account of character, will, and chance (which draws together, among other protagonists, Vannevar Bush and Fred Allen). Warner has never flinched from describing the moral evasions of race and poverty that American city life seems to nurture. He has been a gadfly for cities that were more decent and responsible. While he has given us an unbounded city, he has always emphasized our obligation to find its moral center.

Joel Schwartz, Montclair State University

Sam Bass Warner, Jr. published his first book the year I was born and effectively transformed my life, although of course I did not realize it for many years. I first encountered Warner’s work in a meaningful way as an undergraduate interested in cities and historic preservation. Warner’s insights on the relationship between the built environment and the quality of the lives of the people who dwelt there laid the foundation of my developing perspective as I began to specialize in studying the urban environment. The radical notion that cities should work for the people who lived in them, and the critical analysis that they did not, had a profound influence on me. From Streetcar Suburbs to To Dwell is to Garden. Warner’s perspective informed my own. For me, a key element was Warner’s emphasis on studying not only how and why cities came to be the way they are, but on the ways in which people could act to influence their own environment. My research on the role of African Americans and white workers in shaping the city-building process and on (continued on page 2)

Wade and Urban History

To mark the retirement of Richard C. Wade, City University of New York Graduate Center, several UHA members share their answer to the following question: How has your own teaching and/or research been influenced by his scholarship?

Much of my current research agenda can be seen as a reaction to the underlying intellectual concerns of Richard C. Wade’s, The Urban Frontier. Wade established a framework of analysis which stimulated further research in community studies, comparative urban history, and regional urban history. By challenging the Turner thesis, he stimulated research in frontier community studies making it a significant subfield of both urban and frontier history. By advancing a comparative approach Wade increased the awareness among urban historians that urbanization was not a universally replicated process varying only according to timing and local context and that further comparisons, without any effort to explain differences in urbanization among various cities, would lead to explanatory dead ends within community, local, and urban history. In The Urban Frontier, it is evident that Wade was aware that each city developed in different ways because they functioned and interacted differently within rapidly changing regional and national urban systems, economies, societies, and cultures. One can, therefore, infer from Wade’s analysis the following conclusions: 1) the process of urbanization is systemic 2) systemic forces shape the economic functions of towns and cities and 3) the changing nature of that function and of any city’s interaction with regional forces shapes the social, political, and cultural structure and development of any city. Historical geographers, regional urban and economic (continued on page 14)
WARNER (from page 1)

African-American self-help in business and public health in the early twentieth century builds directly on insights gained from Warner’s work. And I continue to see Warner’s influence as I launch my career as an urban historian. Not only do I see it when I write and teach, but perhaps most significantly, I see it whenever I walk down city streets.

Steven J. Hoffman, Bentley College

My knowledge of Sam Bass Warner, Jr’s scholarship began with “the weave of small patterns”—a felicitous phrase indeed. From Boston’s growth, to “private city” Philadelphia, to the “urban wilderness,” the ideas presented in Warner’s work and how they were developed have influenced my own. Warner’s method of studying Boston’s suburbanization became the basis for my research on the impact of land use controls. Like Warner I mined public records for nuggets of information on a city’s physical development. The aggregation of individual actions produced a picture of both the city itself and the process that built it, much like assembling a jigsaw puzzle.

From Warner’s work I also learned structure, about which I had previously not thought much. Warner’s books showed how an argument could be framed, then the pieces of evidence laid out one by one to lead the reader to the author’s conclusion. This has been as central to my teaching as to my writing; students are shown that the effectiveness of their research depends on how well or poorly it is put together.

Probably most important is Warner’s exploration and illumination of the relationship between the spatial and social aspects of urban development. Where things happen affects what happens—then and later. This underlies my own research on land use controls, but also figures prominently in my teaching, whether in traditional history or in city planning.

Had there been no Sam Bass Warner, Jr. I would still have studied urban history and city planning, but my work would have been much different.

Patricia Burgess, Iowa State University

Sam Bass Warner has influenced my work in several ways, but I am principally grateful to him for clinging on to the land as the fundamental component of urban history. Location, development, access, transport, real estate values, and political issues all form the core of the whole process of urbanisation, and in Warner’s hands they develop the founding perceptions of the Chicago School. My early urban history classes in the 1960s, for which there was so much to read, were held together by Sam Bass Warner’s work and now, as a more specialised historian of city planning and architecture, I am privileged to be able to use his ideas and approaches in my own writing. He has done more to hold urban history together that any other urban historian, and not just in the U.S. Anthony Sutcliffe, University of Leicester

Sam Bass Warner’s The Private City appeared in 1968, the year I was completing my doctoral dissertation research on Philadelphia during the Great Depression. Nineteen-sixty-eight also witnessed the Tet offensive, Lyndon Johnson’s decision not to seek re-election, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, another year of urban rioting, and violent clashes between police and demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention. A native Philadelphian, fully acquainted with the city’s crisis, I discovered Warner’s thesis about “privatism” and urban change intriguing. Indeed, Warner’s ideas about the interface of private decision-making and urban ecology, applied to Boston’s suburbs, then Philadelphia neighborhoods, greatly influenced my thinking. His richly textured picture of Philadelphia the “walking city,” (a pre-capitalistic, pre-industrial Gemeinschaft that nurtured caring, face-to-face relationships) devolving into Philadelphia the urban metropolis, a city segregated by race, class and ethnicity, helped guide both my research and teaching in the 1970s. Warner’s structural-functional model of three cities each progressively more fragmented, each reflecting a succession of political and social institutions designed to cope with greater alienation, likewise afforded a neatly packaged historical framework for my exploration of urban crisis. It compartmentalized beautifully not only with the Depression Philadelphia I described in my doctoral dissertation, but aslo with the isolated black housing communities that I studied subsequently. How exciting that Warner commented favorably on the first product of my public housing research delivered at the 1975 meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Boston. But, Warner’s influence on me went further. He was a model of the dedicated urban historian, of the intelligent insightful and involved urban scholar effectively using the city as a laboratory to investigate the intricate relationship between city, space, societal change and public policy.

John F. Bauman, California University of Pennsylvania

I failed fully to appreciate the usefulness of Sam Bass Warner’s thoughtful writing until I was teaching and writing myself. Streetcar Suburbs provides much of the temporal framework for my urban history course. Warner’s account of the interplay among space, time, institutions, mindsets, and social relations during Boston’s transformation from a walking city to a segmented metropolis is comprehensible without being cut-and-dry. This book offers an example of an unmechanistic stage model of geographic change accessible to new students of urban history.

On my shelf, Warner’s Private City sits next to Thomas Bender’s Toward an Urban Vision. In their different ways, these unpretentious but brilliant books deal with the conceptual and political concerns which have until now engaged me most. Through the late 1960s and 1970s, historians hesitated to argue that urbanism in the United States manifested distinctive patterns, in part for fear of the trap of exceptionalism. Defying this tendency to impute an underlying sameness to the West’s urban societies, Warner and Bender tackled the grand question of how and why the American environment has nurtured an urban form recognizable as distinct. Subsequent works by these two writers continue to revolve around the pressing social and moral problem of upgrading civic life in urban America. Warner’s notion of “privatism” has limitations; it may not survive the systematic comparative research that has appeared in recent years. Still, privatism remains a compelling starting point from which to launch sweeping analyses and critiques of the American city.

Alan Lesoff, Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi
In graduate school I though *The Private City* a model monograph of urban history. While teaching in Boston during the first half of the 1970s I found *The Urban Wilderness* the best text in American urban history. Together these books offered a conceptualization of the American city as private and capitalist, exposing and naming the structural basis of American urban life. Then I moved to Houston. Then came the global ascendency of neoconservative policy and discourse. And the scholarship of Sam Bass Warner, Jr. became even more central to my research and understanding of city life, as it did for many others. Building on his work, recent critics find the "new" private city increasingly populated by private autonomous individuals, increasingly composed of private rather than public spaces, and increasingly dominated by private—rather than public-sector institutions and services. Sam Bass Warner’s scholarship on the private city has always been about power and policy, first-rate historical research and writing tied to current problems and their solutions. Because our contemporary context seeks to foist an unbridled capitalist and unchallenged private city upon us, it demands heightened urban struggle over who will benefit from the global transformation underway. Warner’s work will continue to speak compellingly and urgently to urbanists for a good long time.

Robert Fisher, University of Houston

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Carl Abbott presided over our sixth annual dinner, bringing together more than 80 persons at the Chicago Historical Society. We listened to a provocative presidential address by Kenneth T. Jackson. The Association is grateful to Harlan Davidson, Inc. for agreeing to serve as the exclusive underwriter of the dinner and to Douglas Greenberg, president and director of the Chicago Historical Society (and a new member of our organization), for offering the Association such a warm welcome. Some thirty-five individuals took advantage of the free guided tours of the museum galleries.

Once again the Association is working, hand-in-hand, with the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, as a co-sponsor of its sixth biennial conference. It builds upon the collaboration which was fostered by the fine conferences in Richmond and Chicago. This arrangement continues to prove mutually beneficial for members of both organizations. The conference is scheduled for Oct. 12-15, 1995 in Knoxville, TN.

David Rusk will be the distinguished guest speaker at the Association’s annual luncheon during the O.A.H., scheduled for April 2 in Washington, D.C. The O.A.H. program, no doubt because the committee was chaired by Michael Frisch, will also feature a series of Washington-area field studies organized by Howard Gillette as well as a panel discussion assaying the scholarship of Sam Bass Warner, Jr.

Enclosed in this issue is a membership brochure. Consider handing it to someone whom you consider as a prospective member; remember that graduate students who have not previously taken advantage of our offer are eligible for one year of free membership.

Our seventh annual dinner is scheduled for the Atlanta History Center on January 6, 1996, thanks to the hospitality extended by Rick Beard, its executive director. Ronald H. Bayor will chair local arrangements.

Warm thanks to our officers and directors whose terms expired with the conclusion of 1994: They include: Gunther Barth, Stuart M. Blumin, Lizbeth Cohen, Kenneth T. Jackson, Dottie Lewis, Larry D. McCann, Martin V. Melosi, and Anthony R. Sutcliffe.

Michael Ebner

(S. to r.) Kenneth T. Jackson and Carl Abbott at the sixth annual dinner. (Credit: Gilbert Stelter)

SIXTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President Kenneth T. Jackson called the sixth annual business meeting to order at 4:45 PM on January 6th in Conference Room #4C of the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel. Thirty-eight persons were present. What follows, in digest form, are the minutes of this meeting: (i) reading and approval of the minutes of the fourth annual business meeting of January 7, 1994; (ii) report from Ann Durkin Keating on the newsletter (iii) report from executive secretary-treasurer on the affairs of the association; (iv) report from the chair of the nominating committee, presented by Blanche Lindsay (in the absence of Louise Carroll Wade), reporting on election of slate of candidates as nominated; (v) renewal of support for National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; (vi) report from Bruce M. Stave (in absentia) on postponement, for lack of American funding, of joint conference of urban historians from People’s Republic of China and North America originally August of 1995; (vii) approval of U.H.A. co-sponsorship for possible international conference, tentatively scheduled for Israel in 1997, being organized by Ilan S. Troen; (viii) authorization for Carl Abbott to write to selected members of Congress to urge legislative reauthorization of The National Endowment for the Humanities; and (ix) a spirited and thoughtful open discussion, led by Kenneth Jackson, on the future of urban history. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM as Kenneth Jackson handed the gavel to Carl Abbott.
1994 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

What follows is an abbreviated statement of Association expenses and income for fiscal year 1994 (January 1–December 31). A complete report is available, upon written request, to all members.

Expenses
Income
'93 carryover income
Membership bank acct
Balance

8,065.94
10,036.11
5,288.05
381.22
7,668.44

MEMBERSHIP

Clifton Hood, membership secretary, reports that our membership for 1994 totalled 505. New life members include Carl Abbott and Thomas W. Hanchett. They join a list including: Eugene Ladner Birch; Blaine A. Brownell; Ruth Carter; Michael H. Ebner; Robert Fishman; Timothy J. Gilfoyle; John Graham; Samuel P. Hays; Kenneth T. Jackson; Josef Konvitz; Roger W. Lotchin; Robert D. McCrie; Zane L. Miller; Eric Monkkonen; Carol A. O'Conner; Gordon Olson; Joseph Rochford; Roderick N. Ryon; Mingzheng Shi; Bruce M. Stave; Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.; Richard C. Wade; and Sam Bass Warner, Jr. Graduate students taking advantage of the Association's first year free membership offer totalled 52. Forty members of the Association reside outside of the United States in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, New Zealand, China, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore. If you wish to receive a membership brochure, contact: Clifton Hood, Membership Secretary, c/o Department of History, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456-3397 USA (Hood@hws.edu).

CALIFORNIA CITIES AT WAR


NYC HOUSING AUTHORITY

The LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, which is located in Queens, New York City, is the repository of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Created in 1934, NYCHA was the nation's first housing authority. As of the end of last year it managed more than 330 projects housing over 600,000 people, more than the populations of Pittsburgh, St. Louis, New Orleans and Boston. The collection covers the period from the late 1920s through the 1980s. It documents the establishment of New York's public housing program in the 1930s and provides significant information about the lives of low-income city residents. Most themes in the social and planning history of 20th century New York can be studied through the collection. It includes correspondence, tenant populations, surveys of neighborhoods, testimony, legislation, minutes of meetings, press clips, oral histories and about 20,000 photographs.

A finding aid and computerized index make the materials in the collection easy to access. Contact: Dr. Richard K. Lieberman, Director, LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101 (Tel: 718-482-5065; Fax:718-482-5069; or GQLG@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU).

PHILADELPHIA PHOTO ARCHIVE

The Urban Archives of Temple University has received a grant to collect and publish information describing photographic collections in the Greater Philadelphia Area. The two-year grant was awarded to the Urban Archives by the Pew Charitable Trusts under the auspices of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSLC).

The purpose of the project is to survey, mostly by mail, approximately 1,000 institutions. A limited number of institutions, mostly those with large photographic collections, will be visited by a surveyor who will review collections on site. The geographic area to be included in the Project encompasses Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware. Compiled information for each institution holding photographic collections will be disseminated through the publication of a directory. The directory will include access and photographic reproduction information for each institution as well as descriptions of their photographic collections.

For further information please contact: George D. Brightbill, Project Director, PACSLC Photographic Directory Project, Urban Archives, Samuel Paley Library, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122 (Phone: 215-204-8257).

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW

The prime goal of the Urban History Review is to be a vehicle for the exchange of information, theories, and techniques relating to the development of urban communities over time. The UHR is concerned with the historical evolution of urban Canada in a broad sense and welcomes material from all disciplines and on topics ranging from early Canadian history to contemporary concerns over the evolution of urban policy. We wish to make available information about current research on the development of Canadian cities and towns; what scholars are discovering; what topics they are researching; what topics need to be added to our research agendas; how research can be best carried out; and what sort of research materials are available to accomplish it. One of the key aims of the UHR is to bring together the various disciplinary perspectives that exist in the broad field of urban studies. As well, the UHR is interested in publishing non-Canadian material when it deals with comparative, methodological or historiographical issues or topics.

The UHR is a bilingual, refereed journal. For further editorial information, contact Richard Harris, Editor, UHR, McMaster Univ. (HarrisR@McMail.Cis.McMaster.CA).

The Urban History Review is published twice each year for $20.00 per issue, or on an annual subscription basis for $35.00 (individual), $40.00 (institutional), $50.00 (international, non-North American). Subscribers in the United States are requested to pay in U.S. dollars. Single issues, back issues or subscriptions may be obtained from Becker Associates, 36 Bessemer Court, Unit 3, Concord, Ontario L4K 3C9 905-669-5373 Fax: 905-669-1927.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Special note: Look for European bibliography in an expanded version in Fall 1995 issue. Included here is a special Cuban urban bibliography which follows our regular entries.

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WISCONSIN RESEARCH GRANTS

To foster high-level use of The University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries' rich holdings, and to make them better known and more accessible to a wider circle of scholars, the Friends of The University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries are pleased to offer two grants-in-aid annually, each one month in duration, for research in the humanities in any field appropriate to the collections. Awards are $800.00 each. The Memorial Library is distinguished in many areas of scholarship: it boasts world-renowned collections in the history of science from the Middle Ages through the Enlightenment, one of the largest American collections of avant-garde "Little Magazines," a rapidly growing collection of American women writers to 1920, of Scandinavian and Germanic literatures, of Dutch post-Reformation theology and church history, of French political pamphlets of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, among many other fields.

Applicants must have the Ph.D. or be able to demonstrate a record of solid intellectual accomplishment. Foreign scholars, and graduate students who have completed all requirements except the dissertation, are eligible. The grants-in-aid are designed to help provide access to UW-Madison Library resources for people who live beyond commuting distance, that is, for scholars who reside outside a seventy-five mile radius of Madison. The grantee is expected to be in residence during the term of the award, which may be taken up at any time during the year. Applications are due October 1 and April 1. For information write: Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries Awards Committee, 976 Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, or phone John Tortorice at 608-262-3243.

ILLINOIS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Illinois History Symposium, December 1-2, 1995, invites proposals. It seeks papers on any aspect of the state's history, culture, politics, geography, literature, archaeology, and related fields as well as cognate subjects such as archives, historic sites, and museums in Illinois. U.H.A. members participating in last year's symposium included: David Badillo; Kathleen Neils Conzen; Michael Conzen; Scott Fletcher; Timothy Gilfoyle; Melvin Holli; Ann Durkin Keating; Gordon W. Kirk, Jr.; Patricia Mooney-Melvin; and Barbara Posadas.

Each proposal should include a summary of the topic and a résumé of the participant. The deadline for proposals is March 24. Proposals should be sent to Thomas F. Schwartz, Illinois State Historian, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507.

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NEWBERRY LIBRARY

The Dr. William M. Scholl Center for Family and Community History, founded in 1971, promotes innovative research and teaching through the use of the Newberry Library's rich collections in family and local history. The Library's maps, local histories, genealogical materials, publications of historical societies, and documentation of community life have helped it to evolve as the Midwest's center for genealogical research, regional history, and American social history.

The Center sponsors research projects, publishes occasional papers and a newsletter, and organizes conferences and seminars. Its institutes in quantitative history, held during the 1970s, established it as an international center for the use of computers and statistical methods in historical analysis. Current projects include a multi-volume historical atlas of county boundary lines in the United States; an Encyclopedia of Chicago History; and a collaboration with the National Park Service to nominate National Historical Landmarks with a labor history theme. Origins, the Center's newsletter, informs academic and lay historians, along with genealogists, about research at the Newberry, recent publications, and Scholl Center programs. Seminars meet regularly in American social history, rural history, early American history, and urban History. For additional information: Dr. James R. Grossman, Director, Scholl Center, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380.

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THE URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

President: Carl Abbott/Portland State University
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Past president: Kenneth T. Jackson/Columbia University
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Past Presidents: Richard C. Wade/CUNY Graduate & Research Center (1989); Sam Bass Warner, Jr./Brandeis Univ. (1990); Zane L. Miller/Univ. of Cincinnati (1991); Samuel P. Hays/Univ. of Pittsburgh (1992); and Lynn Hollen Lees/Univ. of Pennsylvania (1993).
1994 UHA AWARDS

BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION, 1993:

Marcia Sortor, "Saint-Omer and Its Textile Trade in the Late Middle Ages: A Contribution to the Proto-Industrialization Debate," American Historical Review, 98 (December, 1993), 1475-1499.

Marcia Sortor’s analysis of proto-industrialization in Saint-Omer draws from a impressive range of primary sources to shed significant and new light on an important historiographical debate about cities and economic development. Her careful examination of labor markets and institutional regulation during the Late Middle Ages challenges the long-held view that urban manufacturing competed with manufacturing in the countryside and that the modern economy was born in the countryside. Rather, she finds that during the earliest stage of industrial development city and countryside were interdependent and complementary. Moreover, urban institutions made medieval Saint-Omer’s cloth industry flexible and responsive to changing market conditions. Thus, Sortor’s work calls for a new analysis of the relationship between urban and rural production in medieval Europe, and she returns cities to the center of interpretations of European economic development.

Marcia Sortor is an assistant professor of history at Grinnell College.

BEST DISSERTATION IN URBAN HISTORY, WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION, 1993:

Thomas W. Hanchett, "Sorting Out the New South City: Charlotte and Its Neighbors" (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993).

Thomas Hanchett’s dissertation reminds us why we joined this profession. Although he marshals a wide array of primary and secondary sources — indeed, nine tables and sixty-one maps and illustrations enhance the text, his purpose is less to dazzle his fellow scholars than to inform and inspire his fellow citizens. Many of the questions he addresses are central to the story of American cities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Why did rich and poor, black and white, live interspersed closely together in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the 1870s and 1880s? Why did Charlotte’s population sort itself out by race and class, first in a checkerboard pattern from 1900 to 1930, then in large swaths or sectors from 1930 to 1970?

Putting a local and regional slant on questions of national import, Hanchett sees this process as resulting not so much from changes in transportation technology and definitely not from governmental fragmentation at the metropolitan level. Rather, events at the turn of the century proved crucial, putting elite whites firmly in control of the city’s government and setting the stage for the devastating application of federal funds that began in the 1930s. By shedding light on this process, Hanchett hopes to reverse it. "What people have created," he says, "they may choose to re-create."

But if Hanchett’s work contains a reformist message, it also conveys an affection for the many disparate neighborhoods of Charlotte’s past. We learn of Dilworth, the streetcar suburb with a difference established by E.D. Latta and expanded by the Olmsted Brothers; Elizabeth, the white-collar district centered on a women’s college and a public park; and Brooklyn, the low-lying stretch of ground that became Charlotte’s black main street and leading black residential district. Throughout the work Hanchett discusses complex developments in an accessible and interesting manner.

In published form this ambitious work seems certain to exert a strong influence on the field of urban history. May it also affect the broader public to whom it is addressed.

Thomas W. Hanchett is the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Southern Studies at Emory University. He ascribes his interest in urban history to Stuart M. Blumin, his undergraduate advisor at Cornell University, Kathleen Neils Conzen at the University of Chicago, where he completed an M.A., and Roger W. Lotchin, who supervised his dissertation at Chapel Hill.

BEST BOOK IN NORTH AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY, 1993:


Carl Abbott’s book on western cities builds on Arthur Meier Schlesinger’s insistence on the significance of cities in American history, on Earl Pomeroy’s recognition of the urban character of the West, and on his own research on western and sunbelt cities. The Metropolitan Frontier is an intriguing study of urban growth and development which also reflects on the work of Richard Wade concerning the earlier urban frontier. Well written and researched, Abbott has created a masterful look at the forces of postwar urbanization. Abbott has analyzed the development of cities in the region from the Second World War to the present. Not only has he covered the political, economic, and cultural development of cities as distant as Houston and Seattle and as distinctive as San Francisco and Denver, but in the process he has thrown light on such phenomenon as deconcentration, the military-industrial complex, the Pacific Rim, and race relations in the United States. This wide-ranging study examines the distinctive evolution of western cities and their crucial role in current American life. It adds much to our understanding of post-1945 America.

Carl Abbott is professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University.
AMERICAN CITY SLIDES

The Still Picture Division of the National Archives and Records Administration has compiled a set of 170 historical slides on the history of American cities that is an important resource for instruction and research. Slide categories include: artists’ conceptions of 19th- and 20th-century cities; skylines and streets; city life; transportation; turmoil. To purchase the complete set, costing $60, telephone the National Audio Visual Center at 1-800-788-6282 and specify your interest in obtaining item # A18637. To request the brief select picture list detailing this collection, write to: Still Picture Branch, NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

Shopping in Mrs. Snyder’s Candy Shop, South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 1927 (NARA 86-G10E-2)

GETTY SEMINAR

Imaging the City in the Americas: The Formation and Display of Urban Identities around 1910 is an ongoing program of seminars and related events organized by the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities in Santa Monica, California. This program considers how images of the large city in the Western hemisphere came into being and what roles they played in the construction of civic identities during this era of new metropolitanism. Taking a multidisciplinary and comparative approach to our presentations and discussions, we have selected for study cities in the Americas that experienced significant economic expansion and rapid demographic change in the early twentieth century. Our goal is to examine relationships between political, economic, social, and scientific conditions of urbanization and their representations in art, literature, and popular culture. We hope to illuminate not only the means by which ideas and images of urban life were constructed for--as well as by--various constituencies but also the full range of modernist technologies that were harnessed for their formation and dissemination.

We initiated Imaging the City in the Americas in the summer of 1994 by focusing on the urban development of Mexico City, Los Angeles, New York, and Buenos Aires and their representations in such diverse media as architecture, planning, film, photography, literature, and urban pageantry. This year's program will consider the changing artistic, social, and political geographies of Rio de Janeiro, Havana, Chicago, and Montreal as exemplified in contemporary social thought, caricature, technology, the performing arts, and the international exposition. A special media seminar on photography and the American city will conclude the spring 1995 series. Should you wish to attend or if you have any questions regarding this seminar, please contact Claudia Bohn Spector at (310) 458-9811, ext. 5028.

UHA SYLLABUS EXCHANGE II

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

To purchase copies send your check or money order (only in US dollars please) for $25 within US, $26 in Canada, or $26.50 elsewhere. Checks must be made payable to: The Valentine Museum. Telephone, fax, e-mail, and C.O.D. orders will not be accepted. Send prepaid order to: Syllabus Exchange II, c/o The Valentine Museum, 1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1590 USA.

NONPROFIT RESEARCH FUND

The Aspen Institute’s Nonprofit Sector Research Fund’s mission is to expand the understanding of nonprofit activities, including philanthropy and its underlying values, by supporting high quality basic and applied research undertaken by scholars and practitioners. Jessica I. Ellenbein, a U.H.A. member at the University of Delaware, is the recipient of a doctoral grant for "Urban Offerings: The Baltimore YMCA and Metropolitan Change, 1853-1993." Collaborative studies that link researchers and nonprofit agencies are encouraged as are studies that address the diversity of organizations. For further information: David Williams, Grants Administrators, Nonprofit Sector Research Fund, c/o The Aspen Institute, 1333 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Suite 1070, Washington, DC 20036 (202-736-5831).

TAFT FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Cincinnati announces the Charles Phelps Taft Postdoctoral Fellowships. The award carries an anticipated annual stipend of $25,000 (September 1995 - August 1996). Additional funds to defer moving and research-related expenses are available and single coverage health insurance is included. Deadline in January 15, 1996. The application must include a plan of research, a vita, and three letters of reference. Send the above information to Taft Postdoctoral Fellowships, University of Cincinnati, PO Box 210627, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0627.
ST. LOUIS URBAN FORUM

The St. Louis Urban Forum is midway through its sixth season of monthly programs on urban life. The series, housed at the Missouri Historical Society, is cosponsored by a variety of academic and professional organizations. These sponsors include not only history groups but organizations involved in politics, planning, and architecture.

In keeping with our broad base of support, we seek to consider urban history from a variety of perspectives. Speakers include academic urbanists as well as influential policy experts, builders, and community activists. They speak to an audience that includes scholars, students, and civic leaders, as well as the general public.

A broad annual theme helps to bring unity to this varied agenda. This year’s topic, "Living in the City," borrows from the 1993 campaign rhetoric of St. Louis Mayor Freeman Bosley, who maintained that the solutions to four basic urban challenges—housing, educations, jobs, and public safety—were intertwined. Seeking to place this contention in a historical context, we have asked each of our speakers to address its relation to their own research. Two programs are presented on each of the four issues: one with a local speaker discussing St. Louis-related topics, and the second featuring an out-of-town speaker.

Speakers who have already made presentations in the 1994-95 season include: St. Louis May Freeman Bosley, Jr.; Martin Trimble, National Association of Community Development Loan Funds; historian Jacqueline Jones on poverty in the late twentieth century; Peter DeSimone, Missouri Association for Social Welfare; anthropologist Seena Kohl on the voluntary school desegregation plan in St. Louis; and political scientist Clarence Stone on reforming urban education.

The two final presentations of this season are: Richard Rosenfield, "Changes in St. Louis Homicide Patterns, 1960-1992" (April 20); and Timothy Gilfoyle, "Crime and the Urban Underworlds of 19th-Century America" (May 18).

For more information contact Eric Sandweiss, Missouri Historical Society, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112; or Mark Abbott, Department of Urban Specializations, Harris-Stowe State College, 3026 Laclede Ave., St. Louis, MO 63103.

MILESTONES

W. Roger Biles has been appointed as professor of history and department chair at East Carolina University. Previously he taught at Oklahoma State University.

David R. Goldfield, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was interviewed by North Carolina's Taste Full (November '94) about his other life as a habituée of fine restaurants.

Samuel P. Hays, University of Pittsburgh (emeritus), received a History Maker Award from the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society on October 20, 1994.

Dorsey Phelps has been appointed assistant professor of history at Buena Vista College.

Carol Willis, Columbia University, has been awarded a grant from the Graham Foundation to support publication of her book about the skyscrapers of Chicago and New York City.

1995 UHA PRIZE COMPETITIONS

The Urban History Association is conducting its sixth annual round of prize competitions for scholarly distinction.


Deadline for receipt of submissions is: June 15, 1995.

To obtain further information about procedures for making submissions in the 1995 round of competitions, please write to: Professor Carol A. O'Connor, Department of History, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0710 USA. Do not send any submissions to Professor O'Connor.

Urban History Research Guides

Invisible Networks: Exploring the History of Local Utilities and Public Works by Ann Durkin Keating (Melbourne, Fl: Krieger, 1994) launches a new series of historical research guides designed to introduce students and non-specialists to the agendas and techniques of various aspects of urban history. Invisible Networks introduces public works history in a manner that should interest readers ranging from public works practitioners to local historians with no background on the topic. The Exploring Community History series, of which Invisible Networks is the inaugural volume builds on the premise that there is value, at least for the residents, in examining the history of every individual community. Furthermore, there is interest in doing so, if not by academics and professionals, then at least within the community itself.

David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty, the series editors, began to appreciate, a number of years ago, that many people would like to explore the past of their own families and communities. Only the lack of research knowledge and confidence stood in their way. Not only professionals in other disciplines but also undergraduate students, local historical society members, and out-of-school adults motivated to explore some question regarding the past of their immediate surroundings could master most historical research methods, pursue most research possibilities, critically evaluate most potential explanations, and achieve a considerable measure of understanding. Such people should be enabled to function as historians themselves or at least evaluate what others might say and write about a personally important past.

The effort to meet this need began in David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty, Your Family History: A Handbook for Research and Writing (Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1978). Four years later it continued with Kyvig and Marty, Nearby History: Exploring the Past around You (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1982). The warm reception for the two books led to a five-volume Nearby History Series, published by AASLH, providing expert advice on exploring the history of schools, homes, public places, places of worship, and businesses. These efforts are being expanded through the series forthcoming from Krieger Publishing Company.
Wade (continued from page 1)
historians, and social and cultural urban historians all still strive to follow through on Wade's remarkably rich and complex agenda and to write urban history that aspires to grasp the totality of experience.

Timothy R. Mahoney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Although Richard Wade's *The Urban Frontier* was focussed on a particular region, it has had a remarkable capacity for application to other contexts and frontiers, both in the United States and abroad. Wade alerted historians of other new countries of the nineteenth century to similar aspects of their settlement history, and they too came to appreciate that the contributions of towns had been considerably underplayed and misunderstood. When I was writing *New Towns in the World*, I found *The Urban Frontier* a source of considerable inspiration. My own primary interest was in contemporary perceptions of the urban frontier, and I found of particular relevance Wade's reliance on contemporary sources rather than, for instance, statistical analysis. This work clearly pre-dates the 'new urban history' in the way in which he deals with such phenomena as transience. But what he did do very successfully was to uncover the ways in which the people of the time perceived the towns they were developing and the relationship of those towns to the overall process of 'subduing the wilderness'.

Although the book in effect stood the Turner thesis on its head, Turner hardly receives a mention in it. The author modestly advanced no 'Wade thesis'. Yet several pungent sections in it (e.g. about 'urban imperialism') have come to be among the most influential in the analysis of the development of 'the urban frontier'. The title itself probably also set the fashion for defining all sorts of sub-categories of 'frontier', a process which definitively fragmented the simplistic Turner concept of 'the frontier'.

David Hamer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Although Richard C. Wade's writings on various aspects of urban history have been important to my understanding of the urban past, his first book, *The Urban Frontier* (1959), profoundly influenced my first major research project—the dissertation and publications that came from it. He broke the Turnerian grip on the thinking of urban settlement on American frontiers with a wonderful image presented in the memorable first sentence. The next sentence established the geographical perspective. "The towns were the spearheads of the frontier. Planted far in advance of the line of settlement, they held the West for the approaching population." With those words, he had freed me to reconsider the relationship between nascent towns and Anglo-Americans efforts to access, settle, and develop frontier regions.

The ensuing chapters fleshed out the complexity and scope of urban life, which had been traditionally overlooked and belied the small populations of these frontier towns. His case study methodology and soup-to-nuts topical approach did not appeal to this 1960s geography graduate student, infatuated by the social sciences' search for theory and application of systems' logic. However, Wade had provided the critical insight that stimulated a systemic approach and subsequently made sense of the geography of urban settlement frontiers. Ironically, a decade later when I searched often in vain for lecture material on early Pittsburgh, I finally turned to the formerly less appealing topics in *The Urban Frontier* and found a trenchant interpretation of an unequal, fragmenting, and changing society in Pittsburgh, which has held up to subsequent scholarship.

Edward K. Muller, University of Pittsburgh

RICHARD C. WADE RETIREMENT CONFERENCE

On October 27, 1994, colleagues, students, political associates, and friends of Richard C. Wade gathered at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York for a retirement conference honoring him for 46 years of scholarship and civic activity. Wade's unique contributions both to urban history and public life were embodied in the twin themes of the conference: "Urban History, Past and Present" and "The Duty of the Scholar to His Times."

Kenneth Jackson, urban historian at Columbia University, chaired the first session, which dealt with Wade's distinction as a scholar and teacher. He set the informal tone of the session by comparing his old mentor with Elvis Presley: just as "the King's" admirers assert that "there was no music before Elvis," urban historians might well say, "Before Richard C. Wade, there was nothing." Through his scholarship, teaching, and mentoring, Wade invented the field of urban history as it is practiced today. He brought a new way of looking at American history, fired his graduate students with enthusiasm, and carried his beliefs into the arena of politics.

Wade rose to thank his former student. "I scarcely recognize myself," he said wryly. He then took a seat on the dais, explaining, "This way, I can join in the conversation—and besides, I want everyone to remember that I'm still here."

The first speaker, Carl Abbott of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University, reprinted 150 years of urban scholarship and placed Wade as "the keystone in the historiographic arch." Abbott described an arch composed of the "booster histories" of the mid-1800's, the weighty "book-end histories" of the gilded and progressive eras, the academically based urban biographies of the mid-1900's, and, most recently, Wade's own "comparative history" generation. "Richard C. Wade connects the urban scholarship and interests of the 1840's with that of the 1990's and beyond, and for that we own him a great debt of gratitude," he concluded.

The next speaker, Zane Miller of the University of Cincinnati, was Wade's first Ph.D. student and is a self-described "member of the Wade Machine" in politics. He traced Wade's interest in urban history to the influence of his Harvard mentor, Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., who early advocated an urban perspective on American history—a perspective Wade put into brilliant effect in his 1959 *Urban Frontier* and 1964 *Slavery and the Cities*. More generally, he noted, Wade has been instrumental in shifting American history away from social determinism and toward its current emphasis on choice, individualism, and cultural and political pluralism.
Leslie Wilson, a more recent student who is assistant professor at Montclair State University, spoke next and focused on Richard Wade's career as a teacher. "He provided us with an urbanscape, a way of dissecting the actors and participants of urban life," Wilson reminisced. He described some of Wade's innovative techniques—the use of map work, slides, photography, and the like—and his genius in suggesting dissertation topics. And, concluding on a personal note, Wilson echoed the sentiments of many other students; in addition to learning about teaching, research, writing, and politics from Wade, he found in him a warm friend and "a role model in family life and fatherhood."

John Hope Franklin, who is to African-American history what Richard Wade is to urban history, chaired the afternoon session, "The Duty of the Scholar to his Times." "No one personifies better than Richard Wade the relationship between the scholar and the larger community," he declared. As a colleague at the University of Chicago in the 1960's, he saw Wade's impact both on scholarship and on the community, as he not only served as housing commissioner but took part in grassroots Democratic politics.

This political activism was the topic of the afternoon's first speaker, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., a fellow retiree as Distinguished Professor at City University. Schlesinger traced their friendship back to the days when Wade studied under his father at Harvard, and recalled how it came to full flower when they stormed the 1948 Democratic National Convention on behalf of the upstart Americans for Democratic Action. In his opinion, Wade is a throwback to the nineteenth-century ideal of the citizen-scholar—not an ivory-tower academician but one who carries the ideals of the historical profession into the arena of politics and public life. Wade's forays into politics (he campaigned, among others, for John and Robert Kennedy, George McGovern, Paul Douglas, and Mario Cuomo) was, in Schlesinger's opinion, "his way of living out the ideals of the historical profession."

Sam Roberts, veteran reporter for The New York Times, spoke next and testified to Wade's standing as one of the nation's leading experts on urban affairs. "A reporter may not know very much," he commented, "but he knows whom to call"—and on urban questions, the first person he generally calls is Richard Wade. Wade is such a standard source for reporters, he noted, that a Nexus search shows 172 articles quoting him in the Times alone. As a result of his availability to the media (both press and broadcast), his ideas have reached beyond academia, and informed and enlightened the public in general. Recalling one of the themes of the conference, Roberts quipped that "Dick Wade is a perfect example of "The Scholar's Duty to The Times."

The final speaker was Robert D. McCrie of John Jay College, who is one of Richard Wade's current Ph.D. students. Borrowing a tribute Wade offered to Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., McCrie characterized his mentor as "Citizen first; historian second." He placed Wade among those sterling few who have lived up to his ideal: among others, his colleague Schlesinger, serving in the Kennedy administration; John Hope Franklin, historian and long-time trustee for Fisk University; Paul H. Douglas, economics professor and senator, and Woodrow Wilson, historian-turned-president. Paraphrasing Roger Kennedy, he declared that Wade exemplifies the "historian in society" as compared to the pure academic—the distinction being that the historian in society regards his task as "binding together the community as well as informing it." This quality is what has made Richard Wade a truly outstanding historian.

Following the conference there was a lively party and reception. Colleagues and students reminisced over old (and not-so-old) times and swapped their favorite "Richard C. Wade stories." Frances Degen Horowitz, president of the Graduate School of CUNY, and David Nasaw, executive director of the history program, welcomed everyone to CUNY. Historian Cynthia H. Whittaker, wife of the honoree, presided over the presentation of a gift from former students. Brief remarks were made by Jeffrey Kroessler, a former student gamely battling the unfavorable job market; Orin Lehman, a longtime friend and New York historic preservation commissioner; Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., who regaled the audience with stories of their political adventures and misadventures, and former senator George McGovern, who popped in to speak of his friendship with Wade and of their mutual conviction that politics—despite its detractors—is an honorable pursuit.

It was, all things considered, a memorable tribute to a memorable colleague. It was a tribute delivered not so much by words and speeches but by the sheer presence of so many people eager to acknowledge their affection for, and debt to, Richard C. Wade—a man who, in the words of Kenneth Jackson, was "not content simply to write history but to live it, to affect it, to change it."

Judith A. Gilbert
Independent Scholar, Amarillo, Texas

HAGLEY CONFERENCE

1995 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, and the beginning of America's conversion to a peacetime economy. The Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library will bring attention to this critical period with a conference, "Aftermath: The Transition from War to Peace in America, 1943-1949," to be held October 27 and 28, 1995. Send one page abstract and a c.v. by April 21, 1995 to: Dr. Roger Horowitz, Associate Director, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, Box 3630, Wilmington DE 19807, or fax to 302-658-0568. Email queries may be sent to RH@STRAUSS.UDEL.EDU.
Canadian Round Table at CHA/ICHS

The Canadian Urban History Association is sponsoring a Round Table tentatively scheduled for the morning of August 27, 1995, to link the meetings of the CHA, which end that day, and the meetings of the International Congress, which open that day. The intent is to provide an occasion at which North American and European urban historians can gather for mutual intellectual benefit, and we hope for lunch as well. The line-up, pending final approval of the CHA program committee. The proposed round table topic is "City Planning Across the Atlantic: Old and New World Contributions." Moderated by Paul-André Linteau, UQAM, participants will include: Gilbert Stelter, University of Guelph ("Culture and Form: The Place of Europe in North American Urban Development"); Mario Lalancette and Alan M. Stewart, Canadian Centre for Architecture ("Exploring Processes of Change in Urban Form: Montreal in the 17th and 18th Centuries"); Francoise-Auguste de Montequin, The Lewmont Institution ("Urban Regulation in the Spanish Empire: Illusions and Realities"); and Michael Conzen, University of Chicago ("What Did England do for American Town Planning?").

Of additional interest to urban historians at the meeting of the International Congress are the following: "Commission Internationale pour l'histoire des villes" will present a round table on "Fairs in Europe, from the Middle Ages to the Modern Period," September 1, 1995; "Urban Demography during Industrialization"; "Islamic Urbanism in Human History: Political Power and Social Networks"; and "The Greek Polis."

More information on the International Congress is available from Prof. Jean-Claude Robert, Histoire, UQAM, CP8888, Succ. Centre-ville, Montreal, Canada H3C 3P8. E-mail: cish95@uqam.ca. Or on the Canadian Urban History Association sessions from Professor John Taylor, History, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6, E-mail: john_taylor@ccs.carleton.ca.

UHA FIELD STUDIES DURING OAH

The Association, thanks to the efforts of Howard Gillette, Jr. of The George Washington University, has arranged two field studies during the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians (March 30-April 2) in Washington, D.C.

From 8:30 AM-Noon on April 1, there will be an opportunity to visit Kentlands in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This 352-acre tract is a leading example of the new urbanism associated with planners Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk designed to combat suburban sprawl through purposeful design of compact neighborhoods capable of housing diverse populations at a range of costs. Field study leaders will be Michael Watkins, director of architecture, and Jennifer Russel, director of planning. Registration fee will be $12.

From 9:00 AM-Noon on April 1, a field study of downtown Washington will be led by Jon Fondersmith, a U.H.A. member who is a section chief for the office of planning in the District of Columbia. The group will walk through the retail core, the arts district, Chinatown, etc. Registration fee will be $3, in addition to Metro fares.

Registration via the O.A.H. program booklet or during the convention, subject to availability. For further information, directly contact the O.A.H. (812-855-7311).

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Urban Historians attending OAH are welcomed to attend to cash-bar cocktail hour celebrating

SAM BASS WARNER, JR.

4:45-6:15 pm

March 31 (Friday)

State Room-Washington Hilton

Immediately after the convention session on

"The Urban Historian as Citizen"

(hosted by friends of Sam Warner)

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