



Pittsburgh: Your kind of neighborhood

By Marcia Duncan Lowry

Plan to attend ACRL's 7th National Conference, March 29–April 1, 1995

Pittsburgh! "It's a wonderful day in the neighborhood," as Mr. Rogers, one of the city's notables, attests. Come experience the friendliness, charm, and diversity of the "City of Three Rivers" during ACRL's 7th Annual Conference, March 29–April 1, 1995. Pittsburgh long ago shed its grimy, industrial image of the early 1900s. Today the city is described by sparkling rivers, fountains, green parks, towering modern skyscrapers, and, nestled in its surrounding hillsides, 90 ethnically diverse and distinct neighborhoods. It is a city with a rich 200-year history, as its many nicknames indicate.

"Gateway to the West"

In 1753 a young major in the Virginia Militia named George Washington was sent on a surveying mission to western Pennsylvania. Finding a location at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, he wrote that the area was "extremely well situated for a fort, as it has absolute control of both rivers."

The triangular spit of land where the two rivers meet and the Ohio River begins was the site of several forts over the course of the following years. Both the French and the English wished to claim this strategic location for expansion into the interior of the North American continent. The English Fort Prince George was supplanted by

the French Fort Duquesne in 1754, only to return to English hands with the erection of Fort Pitt in 1759. The British General John Forbes named the settlement which developed around the fort "Pittsburgh."

After the Revolutionary War, Pittsburgh was pivotal for the westward migrations of the pioneers. It was a welcome location for replenishing supplies and energies following the trek over the Appalachians, and the "Gateway to the West" grew as a trading and boat-building center.

"Iron and Steel City" transforms

The 19th century transformed Pittsburgh into an industrial center fed by rail and steamboats. The great steel magnates Andrew Carnegie and Henry C. Frick established their empires in the city and the mills' production played a major role in America's growth. The glory of being the "Steel Capital of the World" came with a hefty price tag, however. Pittsburgh's produc-

tive mills, coke ovens, and foundries churned out massive quantities of smoke, soot, and pollution. The city was described as "hell with the lid off." Streetlights burned both day and night to penetrate the industrial darkness well into the 20th century.

The "Smoky City" underwent a major transformation shortly after World War II. The public and private sectors joined to fund the city's first renaissance. In 1946 Pittsburgh instituted a smoke control program in conjunction with a major urban renewal project. The heavily industrial-

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ized "Point" where the rivers meet was transformed into a 36-acre green park and, in place of terminals and warehouses, the office towers of Gateway Center were erected.

After an industrial peak in the 1950s, the economic base of Pittsburgh faced a major setback. The decline of the domestic steel industry in the 1960s and '70s left many unemployed and the city struggling to come to grips with its new reality. Fortunately, however, another little-noticed industry was growing in Pittsburgh during the decades when steel was king—the service industry. By the 1980s the white collar work force outnumbered the blue by four to one, compared to the one to one ratio of the '50s. Today Pittsburgh is in the midst of its second renaissance, restructuring its economy to propel it as a model city into the 21st century.

"One of the Top" & "One of the Best"

The Pittsburgh of the 1990s is consistently numbered on the "top" and "best" lists published by various organizations and pollsters. It is one of the largest corporate headquarters in the country and eight *Fortune* 500 companies call the Golden Triangle home. Pittsburgh constitutes the third largest research and development center in the country. Knowledge is surpassing steel's previous profitability to become the economic resource of the region. Finance, education, medicine, biotechnology, software engineering, and advanced technologies currently fill Pittsburgh's portfolio.

Pittsburgh enjoys membership in the "Most Livable City Club," being the only U.S. city to have placed in the top five locales three times in the *Places Rated Almanac*. It is also one of only six cities to be included twice in the once-a-decade list of top U.S. cities published by the Partners for Livable Communities. Despite a population nearing 2,500,000, Pittsburgh maintains the friendliness and charm of a small town.

Culturally, Pittsburgh takes center stage as well. It is home to one of the world's best symphony orchestras; its ballet is consistently ranked among the top ten regional companies; and its opera is one of the nation's ten best. In all, Pittsburgh is host to more than 200 performing arts groups.

The city's museums include the Carnegie, with its Museum of Natural History, Fine Art Museum and Heinz Architectural Hall; the Andy Warhol (native son) Museum; the Frick Fine Art Museum; the Stephen Foster Memorial; the Carnegie Science Center; and the Pittsburgh Regional History Center. For flora and fauna lovers, the city offers the Phipps Conservatory, the National Aviary, and the Pittsburgh Zoo—a state-of-the-art natural habitat.

Other Pittsburgh facts may surprise and delight the trivia lover. The "City of Bridges," with over 700, has more than any other city in the world. And as long as one is counting, Pittsburgh has more golf courses and pleasure boats per capita than any city in the U.S. The McDonald's Big Mac was invented in Pittsburgh; radio's first broadcast was made from Pittsburgh's KDKA on November 2, 1920; and Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine here. Pittsburgh claims the first ferris wheel, the first drive-in gas station, and the first football team to put numbers on jerseys! And if you are wondering what *Flash Dance*, *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hoffa* have in common—it is Pittsburgh. Due to its diverse and rich architecture—H. H. Richardson Romanesque to Phillip Johnson

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A view of Pittsburgh's rejuvenated "Point" where the rivers meet.

Gregory C. Colati has been appointed college archivist at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

Cindy Compton has been appointed administrative services librarian at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Philip Croom has been named health/physical sciences collection management librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

Ree DeDonato is now undergraduate librarian at Columbia University, New York.

Francine DeFranco has been promoted to reference services unit head at the University of Connecticut, Greater Hartford Campus.

Elizabeth A. Dupuis is now reference and electronic information services librarian at the University of Texas at Austin Undergraduate Library.

Paula Epstein is the new coordinator of library outreach at Columbia College, Chicago.

Mark Esser has been named conservator in the Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Karl Fattig has been appointed catalog librarian at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

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modern—the city is consistently chosen as a prime movie filming site.

ACRL 1995 convention site

As a convention city, Pittsburgh offers a compact downtown area which is safe and easily navigable by foot or public transit. Within roughly ten square blocks, restaurants and shopping abound. One Oxford Center, PPG Place, and Fifth Avenue Place provide the most avid shopper hours of pleasure in proximity to the Convention Center and hotels. Slightly further afield in the distinctive neighborhoods of the city are South Craig Street in Oakland, Walnut Street in Shadyside, Forbes and Murray Avenues in Squirrel Hill, and East Carson Street and Station Square on the South Side.

The ACRL local arrangements committee has planned an array of events and tours designed to acquaint conference attendees with the city and its environs. Future articles will discuss in greater detail tours which are planned, cultural events, sightseeing, libraries, and local restaurants. Come share a few wonderful days "in the neighborhood." ■

Frederick L. Gilmore has been named electronic resources librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

D. Jennifer Haas is now Balcones librarian in the Engineering Library at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sharon Hay has been appointed social science/humanities reference librarian at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Patricia Henderson has been named assistant acquisitions librarian at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

Alberto Hernandez is now reference librarian/bibliographer in the O'Neill Library at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Robert A. Hinton is now reference, documents librarian at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Virginia W. Hopcroft has been named reference librarian for government documents at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

Maymanat Jafari has been named social science reference librarian at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Debra Ketchell has been appointed acting deputy director of the University of Washington Health Sciences Library and Information Center, Seattle.

Ann E. Koopman has been named science reference librarian at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Mary Berghaus Levering is the new deputy register of copyrights at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Rosemary McAndrew has been appointed head of access services at New York University, New York City.

Mark McFarland is now acting coordinator of electronic information programs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Amanda Maple recently joined the Penn State University Libraries as music librarian.

Terrence Mech has been appointed vice-president for information and instructional technologies at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Judith Reid Montgomery has been promoted to associate librarian for public services at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

Thomas Newell recently joined the University of Texas at Austin Tarlton Law Library staff as computer services librarian.

Joan R. Norton has been appointed reference librarian at the Tacoma Campus of the University of Washington.