

Walter D. Love Prize

The WALTER D. LOVE PRIZE in History is a \$150 award given annually by the North American Conference on British Studies for the best article or paper of similar length or scope by a North American scholar in the field of British history. The prize journal article or paper, which may be published anywhere in the world, should exhibit a humane and compassionate understanding of the subject, imagination, literary grace, and scrupulous scholarship. It should also make a significant contribution to its field of study.

Honourable Mention: Guy Ortolano, "Planning the Urban Future in 1960s Britain," *The Historical Journal* 54:2 (2011): 477-507.

Guy Ortolano's "Planning the Urban Future in 1960s Britain" explores the modernist dream of establishing a 'monorail metropolis' in Buckinghamshire county during the 1960s. While this futuristic city was never built – sadly bumped from the drawing board by Milton Keynes -- Ortolano shows the way British urban planners hoped to "manage social change along congenial lines." As urban planners tried to manage growing populations, they also aspired to renew Britain's global status by building "the city of the future." The Bucks "New City" was meant to be a futuristic urban paradise that would rival Brasilia, New York and Paris -- a city of the imagination which Ortolano uses to skillfully unravel British hopes in a changing post-war environment. We found the article to be beautifully written and deftly argued. Although he is studying a set of urban plans that resemble Disney's "Tomorrow Land" more than any actual British town, Ortolano uses close reading and thick description to reveal the extraordinary sense of possibility shared by the urban planners who wished to build and export their urban dream city. Ortolano's contribution to the study of urban planning, social engineering, and conceptions of modernity make this an exemplary piece of social and cultural history.