

PROFESSIONAL
ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF
NEW
YORK
CITY



NEWSLETTER NO. 36

November, 1987

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Material for the PANyc Newsletter can be sent to Celia Orgel, acting editor, 360 Cabrini Boulevard, Apt. 3-G, New York, NY, 10040. Please submit material at least ten days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

MEETING NOTICE - NEXT PANYC MEETING DATE - DECEMBER 2, 2987

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 6:15 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 7:00

CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1126

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting
CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1126, September 30, 1987
Cantwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the May 20, 1987 meeting were corrected to read: "Action: Wall noted Ceci's concern..."; with this correction the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Winter, balance in PANYC account is \$1,488.53. The PANYC mailing list has been up-dated removing all former members who have not paid their dues.

President's Report: 1) Correspondence in the Newsletter includes: a) letter from AIA in response to PANYC concern for a need to screen listings in the AIA Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin - a procedure to screen such listings has been established in response to PANYC inquiry; b) letter to SHA noting \$50 contribution from PANYC in support of legislation to give greater protection to shipwrecks; and c) letter to Reynolds, NYC Parks, regarding concern for greater need to preserve archaeological resources at Madison Park. Mention of the Parks letter stimulated comments from PANYC members regarding archaeological concerns in NYC Parks including: Gracie Mansion (Wall), Classons Point (Grumet), and Wave Hill (Rubinson).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Action: Rubinson resigned as chair and Tony Silver volunteered to take her place. Silver can be reached at 516/295-0250.

AIA Participation: Joan Geismar volunteered to be acting chair of the committee. The immediate need for planning in preparation of the exhibit on NYC archaeology for the December 27-30, AIA meeting was discussed. The Executive Board allocated up to \$500 for preparation of photos and text for 4'x8' panels on PANYC and archaeology in the five boroughs of NYC. There was a call for volunteers to assist Geismar with exhibit preparation.

Awards: No report.

City Agency Policy: No report.

Curation: No report.

Election: No report.

Legislation: No report.

Museum: Geismar noted the January, 1988 schedule for the archaeology program at The Museum of the City of New York is four consecutive Sundays: 10, 17, 24, and 30; information on speakers and program topics will be in next Newsletter.

Native American Affairs: Cantwell noted upcoming talks at the NY Creative Alliance in October and November on issues that relate to Native American concerns.

Newsletter: Orgel volunteered to continue editing the PANYC Newsletter but indicated the need to have assistance with photocopying. Rothschild, Winter, Grumet and Cantwell volunteered to photocopy the next four Newsletters. Wall reported progress with Cantwell on a special publication of the Newsletter to contain papers from presentations at the Museum of the City of NY public seminars from two years ago.

Public Program: Rubinson noted that the Public Program at the Museum of the City of NY is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 1988.

Research and Planning: No report.

Standards: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) Cantwell noted that Solecki, the first PANYC President will retire and move to Texas in the coming year. A celebration to recognize his contributions was proposed and Marshall volunteered to coordinate this event which is planned to take place in Spring of 1988. 2) Joint meetings of NYAC and PANYC for this winter were approved by the Executive Board. The NYAC program may feature Lynn Sullivan of the NY State Museum, who would speak on Curation Guidelines and Standards. 3) Nurkin noted that Senator Daniel Inouye has introduced a bill to move the Museum of the American Indian to Washington, D.C. Discussion of concerns regarding the desire for keeping this important collection in New York followed.

Membership: No report.

Respectfully Submitted, Daniel N. Pagano, PANYC Secretary 1987/88

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

November 19, 1981

Mr. Kent Barwick, President
The Municipal Arts Society of New York
457 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

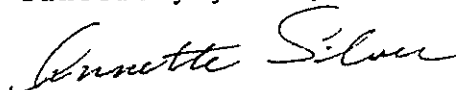
Dear Mr. Barwick,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) in regard to the Municipal Art Society's recent catalog insert in the New York Times. We are concerned with the renovations and restorations proposed for four of the properties: the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel, the Bowne House, the Sycamore Avenue Historic District, and the Valentine-Varian House. These properties have the potential for containing important archaeological resources. The proposed renovations will have subsurface impact and thus can comprise the preservation and recovery of historic materials at these important sites. In the catalog there is no mention of efforts to prevent damage to cultural materials which may be present in subsurface deposits.

We strongly urge you to require that the involved Historical Societies include as part of their renovation procedures appropriate measures for the mitigation of negative impact on subsurface prehistoric and historic cultural resources at these sites.

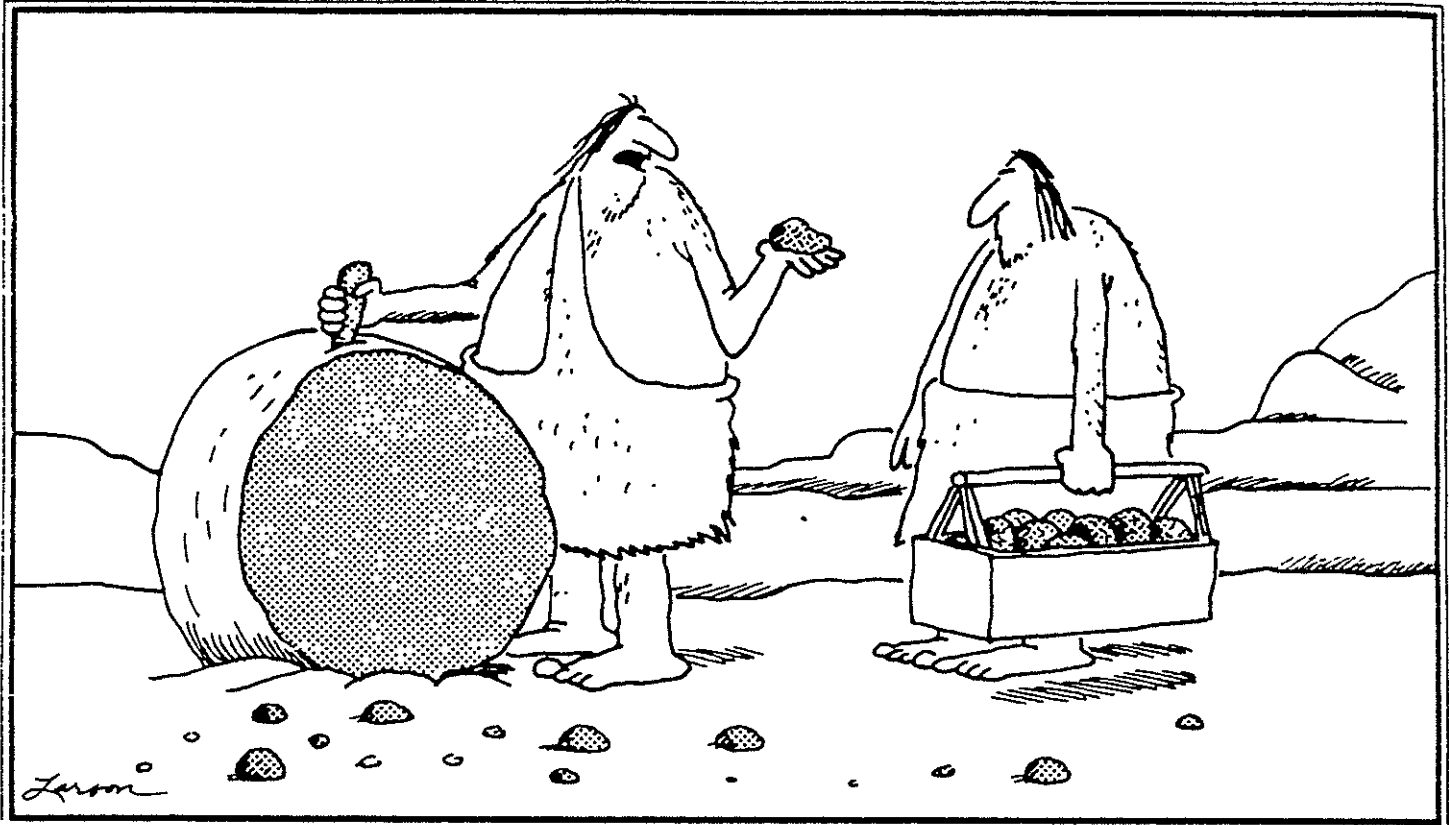
If PANYC can provide any assistance, we would be happy to do so. Please feel free to contact me (516/295-0250) or Anne Marie Cantwell, President (212/667-7209).

Sincerely yours,



Annette Silver, Chairman
Action Committee

CC: A. Braver, Bowne House Hist.Soc.
R. Diamond, Bklyn. Hist.R.R.Ass.
G. Hermalyn, Bronx Co.Hist.Soc.
R. Kornfeld, Sycamore Ave. Hist.Dist.



"So what's this? I asked for a *hammer*! A hammer! *This* is a crescent wrench! ... Well, maybe it's a hammer. ... Damn these stone tools."

Archaeological Talks to be Presented at
the Museum of the City of New York
January, 1988

1/10/88 The Indians Lived Here, Ralph Solecki, Ph.D., Columbia
University Department of Anthropology.

There is evidence of Native American occupation throughout the five boroughs of New York. These occupations will be explored in a slide-illustrated talk by the excavator of many local sites.

Digging in New Amsterdam and Colonial New York.
Professor Nan A. Rothschild, Barnard College,
Columbia University.

This talk will describe the first major sites in New York City, the Stadt Huys and Hanover Square blocks. Discussion of Dutch and early English life will include what kinds of foods the settlers ate and how the young city grew. It will be illustrated with slides.

1/17/88 From Rubbish to Real Estate: Colonial Land Reclamation in Lower Manhattan. Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., Archaeological Consultant.

Both the Dutch and English reclaimed land from the East River, thereby increasing dockage and expanding land holdings. Recent archaeological investigations have illustrated the methods used in landmaking, and in one instance revealed that a late 17th or early 18th century ship was used to structure the fill.

Garbage of the Rich and Famous: New York City in 1800.
Terry H. Klein, Assistant Director, Cultural Resource
Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

Recent excavations at the Barclays Bank Site at 75 Wall Street uncovered a wealth of archaeological material. Most of it was from households of very wealthy, well-known families who lived on the block from 1780 to 1800. From this household "garbage", archaeologists have reconstructed various aspects of the daily lives of these prominent individuals.

1/24/88 At Home in New York: An Archaeologist's Perspective on Changes in Family Life in the 18th and 19th Centuries.
Diana diZerega Wall, New York University.

The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw the development of the kind of family life that we look on as "traditional" today. Using both archival and archaeological sources, these changes are described and illustrated for the middle class and the elite of New York City.

New York's First Suburb: The Archaeology of Greenwich Village in the 19th Century. Bert Salwen, Professor of Anthropology, New York University.

The archaeological evidence for the development of the Greenwich Village suburb in the vicinity of Washington Square Park will be discussed and illustrated.

1/31/88 Industrial Archaeology: A Look at the Artifacts of the Industrial Revolution. Ed Rutsch, Industrial Archaeologist.

Manhattan's industrial development from an archaeological perspective.



The New York Times/Alan Zale

Valerie de Carlo at the archeological excavation of a building foundation in Riverdale Park in the Bronx.

Hudson's Secrets Unravel in Riverdale

By SUSANHELLER ANDERSON

Five thousand years ago, as now, the site was first-rate real estate on the east bank of the Hudson River, where the river rushes by Riverdale Park.

Now, Valerie de Carlo, the resident archeologist at Wave Hill, the environmental center and estate in Riverdale, has unearthed several artifacts in the park. She has excavated a 5,000-year-old spearhead, along with Civil War coins, 19th-century bottles and bears' claws.

Seven archeological sites in the park are being dug by Ms. de Carlo, in a cooperative project between the Parks Department and Wave Hill, which initiate the project.

Ms. de Carlo is trying to unravel some mysteries of life along the Hudson River as she examines the sites in the park. "The prehistoric sites are valuable because there are so few of them," Ms. de Carlo said, "and we know so little about prehistory in New York City."

Oldest Dock Still Standing

At the water's edge, she excavated the foundation of a dock, "the oldest dock still standing into the Hudson, about 1829," she said. When city officials, including Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern and Cultural Affairs Commissioner Mary Schmidt Campbell, toured the site yesterday they saw the excavation of a building foundation, which might predate 1830. The building is built into an Archaic site that was inhabited 8,000 to 2,000 years ago, Ms. de Carlo said.

Riverdale Park and Wave Hill overlook the river, are opposite the Palisades and are adjacent to each other. The 97-acre park stretches one and a half miles, from 231st to 254th Street. Wave Hill lies in 28 acres at its northeast boundary.

The archeological sites will be used for education, with adults and school children aiding Ms. de Carlo in the

A 5,000-year-old spearhead has been found.

excavations. Wave Hill and the Parks Department call the effort the Lower Hudson Valley Project. It is intended to examine human and natural life on the eastern side of the Hudson River bank.

"What's extraordinary about these sites," Ms. de Carlo said, "is that they're in a city park, and we're using city kids and the public to excavate." To date, one class has helped in the dig, and adults have helped during two public dig days.

Surveying the Park

Ms. de Carlo began her work two years ago, when the executive director of Wave Hill, Peter H. Sauer, found oyster shells sticking out of the ground, indicating someone may have lived there. "The idea was to survey the park to determine its archeological potential," she said.

As part of Riverdale Park's \$2.5 million restoration plan, to begin in 1990, the archeological sites will be integrated into the park. The restoration program will include erosion control, improving trails and the preservation of the archeological sites.

"Some of the sites will be exposed," said Paul C. Berizzi, the park manager, "others will remain secret, because there's so many amateur pot hunters out there."

As for the completed project, the goal is "a wonderful park that teaches people the history of the Hudson Valley," Mr. Sauer said, "both the human and natural history, which are linked."

Metropolitan News

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NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT / TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1987

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B1

10th St. Privy Yields Artifacts

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

For a few hours yesterday afternoon, daylight fell on a 19th-century "time capsule" of life in Greenwich Village, reaching empty bottles of Tweddle's Celebrated Soda (or Mineral Waters), Dr. Hooker's Cough & Croup Syrup and Batchelor's Hair Dye No. 2.

From these and other household articles found in a backyard privy at Greenwich and West 10th Streets, Dr. Joan H. Geismar hopes to learn more about working-class existence from the 1850's to the 1880's — an existence that was far more common but not nearly as well documented as were the lives of the rich.

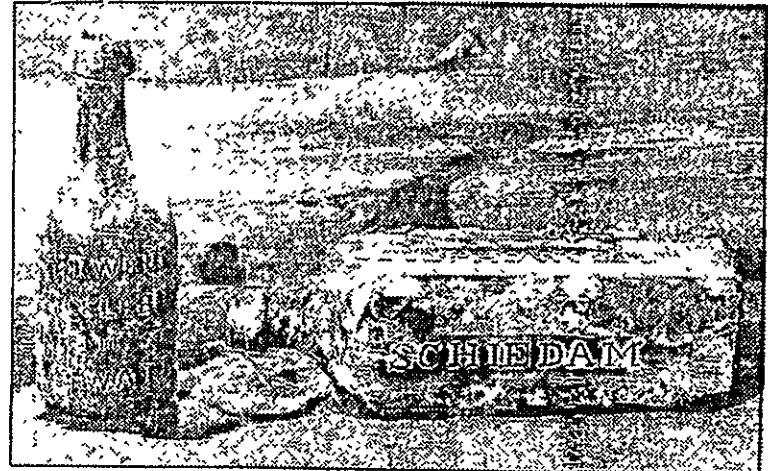
Dr. Geismar, an archeologist, was overseeing a brief dig at a site where eight new houses are to be built, clustered around a private street

called Greenwich Mews. It was only a matter of hours between excavation of the 15-foot-deep, 6-foot-wide, stone-lined hole and its reburial.

'Like Time Capsules'

Privies are useful from an archeological point of view — "like time capsules," Dr. Geismar said — because of their secondary role as convenient receptacles for the household refuse. The houses themselves were torn down almost 50 years ago.

What emerged in yesterday's dig were dozens of bottles, many of them whole, one of them still corked and filled. The Tweddle's bottle, a cobalt color with an opalescent finish, glistened for the first time in a century as it was held in the sun-



The New York Times/Vic DeLuca

Soda, left, and schnapps bottles from 19th century found at dig site.

Continued on Page B4

A 10th St. Privy Yields Artifacts of Old New York

Continued From Page B1

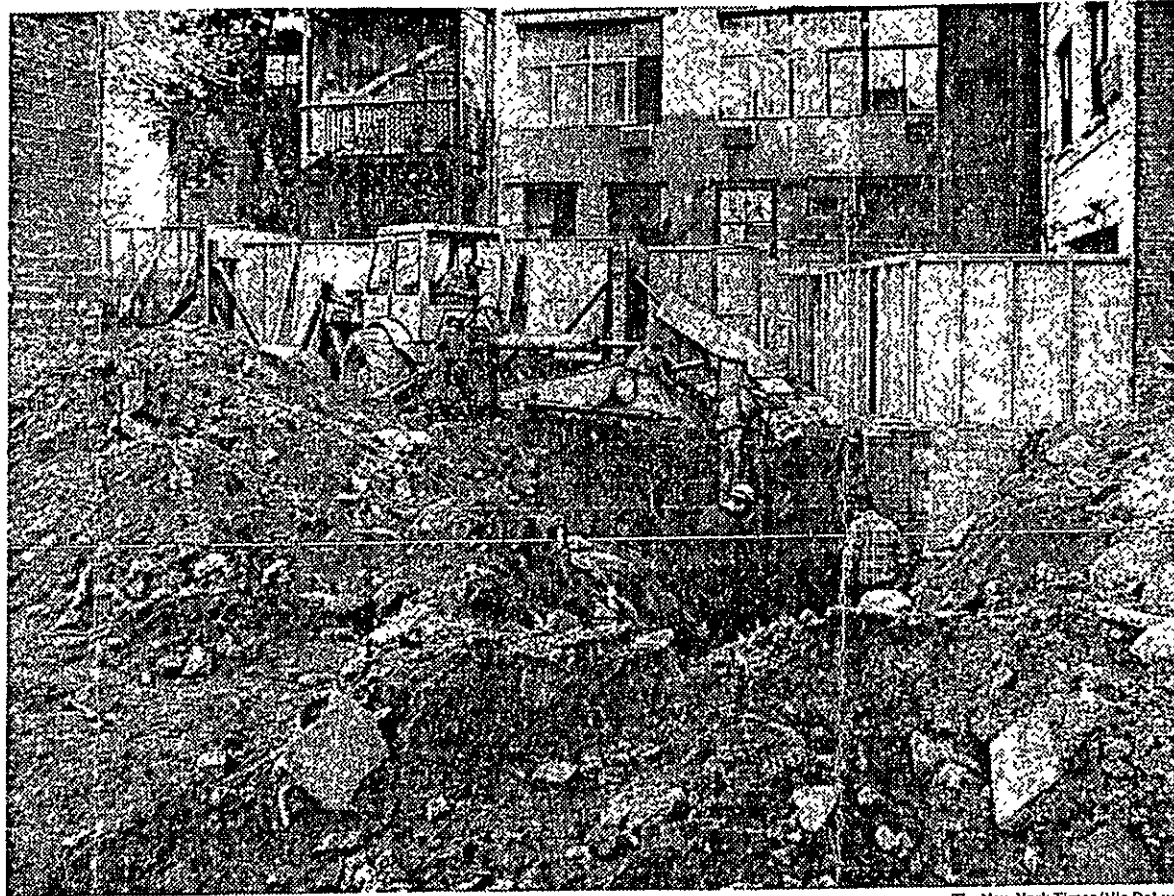
light. There were fragments of kitchen and tableware, including a particularly garish pitcher, gilded and painted to Victorian excess. Even the most utilitarian artifacts had esthetic appeal, such as a blue-green ink jar in the form of a tapered octagon. One of the last objects found was a white porcelain cat, about an inch and a half tall, its tail curled behind it.

What also emerged was an unusual view of class distinction in New York. The archeologist for the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, Dr. Sherene Baugher, followed the progress of the dig by telephone. She was interested to learn of indications that the privy had been used well into the late 19th century, three or four decades after sewer lines were installed in the neighborhood.

"This gives us a view of what was taking place in transient, working-class buildings," Dr. Baugher said. "The 1890's were the gilded age, a period of tremendous wealth. To think that workers of more modest means were trekking out of their third-floor apartments to use privies is somehow surprising in the 1890's in New York City."

Anyone who thinks of archeologists with fine-mesh screens and tooth brushes might also have been surprised to find Dr. Geismar working alongside a backhoe operator, Richard Dunbar. (Although R. Huntley Allen, who works for the architects of the new houses, said approvingly that Mr. Dunbar "operates the backhoe like a doctor's scalpel.")

"This is not traditional archeology," Dr. Geismar said. "It's salvage archeology. We are trying not to hold up a developer who has been very



The New York Times/Vic DeLucia

The site of the archeological dig at Greenwich and West 10th Streets in Manhattan.

cooperative and to get our information."

The builders of the Greenwich Mews project are Irving Koven and Jack Shafran. The designer is Chip Caine of Proposition: Architecture.

Mr. Allen said that the City Plan-

ning Commission had required the archeological dig as a condition of granting a special permit that the developers needed for extra parking spaces.

Having set the rapid timetable for the project, Dr. Geismar confessed to

an emotional tug when the backhoe pushed great piles of earth and rubble back into the hole. "You don't know how sad this makes me," she said. "These are my people. These are my things. They're going to be covered up forever."

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the purpose of the organization and who meets the following criteria for Education, Training and Professional Activity:

- a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree, such as an M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D., from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.
- b. Applicants must have had at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and at least four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curating experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experience will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set forth by the Society of Professional Archaeologists.
- c. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies, review of archaeological proposals and/or cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on a case by case basis.
- d. All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership. All members receive the Newsletter and other PANYC publications.

The 1987 membership dues are \$12. Nonmember subscriptions to the Newsletter are \$6.00. If you are interested in applying for membership in PANYC or in subscribing as a nonmember to the PANYC Newsletter, complete the below form and mail it to: Daniel Pagano 315 Ave.C Apt.1-A

New York, N.Y. 10009 (212) 553-1134

Name _____

Address (Business) _____

Please indicate preferred mailing address.

Telephone _____

(Home)

Telephone _____

Are you a member of the New York Archaeological Council? _____
or of the Society of Professional Archaeologists? _____

Please attach Curriculum vitae or resume.