

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM
Presented by the Professional Archaeologists of
New York City and The Museum of the City of
New York

**TRADES AND MARKETS OF HISTORIC NEW
YORK**

1:00 - 2:00

WELCOME

Linda Stone, Chair, PANYC Public Program
1994

CITY ROPEWALKS: A CONFLICT OF NEEDS

Speakers: Betsy Kearns and Cece Kirkorian
Historical Perspectives

Ropewalks, the long and narrow shed structures where imported fibers were twisted and turned into rope, dotted New York's early landscape. The first was established in Manhattan in 1719; by 1883 there were fourteen rope manufacturers in Brooklyn alone. But as the city became more crowded its need for growing room came in direct conflict with the ropewalk manufacturers' need for large areas of uninterrupted space. As the nineteenth century progressed, ropewalk complexes adapted to encroaching urban sprawl in various ways in their continuing effort to produce this essential commodity.

**HEALTH AND HYGIENE IN NINETEENTH-
CENTURY GREENWICH VILLAGE**

Speaker: Jean Howson

This talk discusses aspects of health and hygiene, both public and private, as reflected in excavated remains from the Sullivan Street site in Greenwich Village. Artifacts such as patent medicine bottles, toothbrushes, and syringes offer a glimpse at how people dealt with day-to-day concerns in a time of changing conceptions of disease, hygiene, and medical practice. Evidence from the excavations shows how public health strategies affected private hygiene as backyard cisterns and privies gave way to city water and sewer systems. Remains from a physician's house and a tenement are compared.

UP IN SMOKE: RECOGNIZING THE INVISIBLE

Speaker: Diane Dallal
South Street Seaport Museum

Dutch women played a key role in the making and selling of pipes that reached New York in the 17th century. Their presence has been concealed, however, as a result of reporting biases that distort the reality of pipe production. The literature supports the myth that pipemaking was a male profession when, in fact, it was

an activity practiced by both men and women. Until recently, archaeologists have focused on the chronological aspects of clay tobacco pipes. This paper will demonstrate that urban pipe assemblages can also be used to enhance our understanding of trade networks, ethnicity, gender, and the creation of identity.

15 minute break

2:15 - 3:00

CHANGING TASTES

Speaker: Marie-Lorraine Pipes
Louis Berger & Associates

Almost from its inception, New York City has had a market system where people went to buy fresh produce supplies, as well as animal products. Over time the types of food that people eat has varied and changed. Faunal remains have been found at several sites throughout New York City dating from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. These bones provide a clear picture of a city rising to meet the dietary needs of its inhabitants by regulating meat markets, and exploiting wildlife resources, and by overseeing the provisioning of the city by outlying farms. Looking at the archaeological record this paper will explore the basic trends in animal consumption from the seventeenth century to the nineteenth century. These trends will be considered in terms of cultural factors and economic forces operating on the system of supply and demand.

**SHOPPING IN THE WEST VILLAGE - NINETEENTH
CENTURY STYLE**

Speaker: Nancy Brighton
New York University

Nineteenth century descriptions of New York City markets and shops provide a list of a wide variety of items, many from exotic locales, that were available for purchase. Most of these shops were located in and around residential areas, making these products accessible to many households. The excavation of a nineteenth century privy at 153 West 12th Street yielded a large number of artifacts, such as plates, teacups, coffee beans, and bottles, which were originally purchased in New York City, possibly from merchants located on adjacent Sixth and Seventh Avenues. The purpose of this paper is to look at these items and the locations of stores in the neighborhood surrounding West 12th Street to see where the residents may have shopped for these goods, and to determine what others, that were not recovered from the feature, may have also been available.