

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

Number 103, November 2001

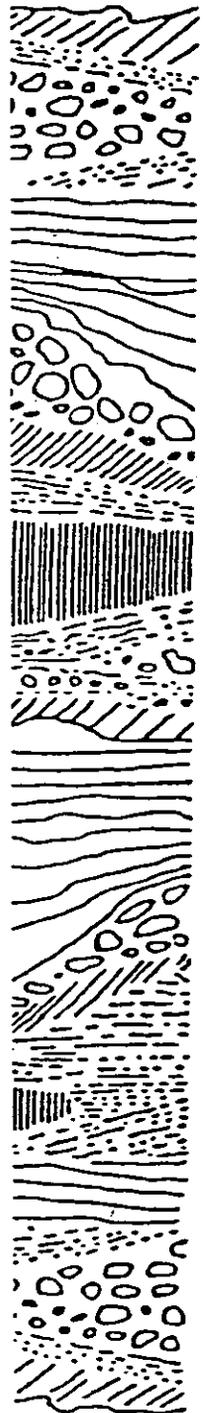
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Material for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues Notice!!

Just a reminder that we are still looking for *2001 Annual Dues* from some members. Please send your dues for this year (or next!) to Arnold Pickman, 150 E. 56th St, New York, NY 10022.

Your Opinion: Fewer Newsletters?

We also wonder what your opinion would be about reducing the total number of issues of the PANYC Newsletter prepared each year from five to three. This does not mean a reduction in the amount of information distributed, only the amount of time and the cost of preparing and mailing the newsletter. Please send your opinions to Chris Matthews at the address, phone, or email provided on the cover.

Email List

Finally, we are hoping to compile an email list that we can use to send general announcements to the PANYC membership. If you would like to be on the list please send your email address to PANYC Secretary, Greg Lattanzi at glattanzi@earthlink.net.

PANYC – Professional Archaeologists of New York City
Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting: 19 September 2001.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2001

Room 710, Hunter College North

The intersection of East 68th and Lexington, Manhattan; Turn right out of elevator, go through doors, turn left and go to end of hall, the room is on the right

Executive Board: 6:00 P.M.

General Membership: 6:30 P.M.

President Nan Rothschild called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes accepted with minor revisions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There is a balance of \$1839.64 in the PANYC treasury, as reported by Arnold Pickman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nan Rothschild discussed the archaeological investigations in Brooklyn currently being conducted by Historical Perspectives, Inc. PANYC was informed that the excavations were still being conducted and therefore the consultant could not discuss at this time any related issues. However, when the investigation is finished Historical Perspectives would be glad to attend a forthcoming PANYC meeting and present their results.

City Hall Park artifacts are now at Brooklyn College awaiting analysis. Nan Rothschild discussed with Arthur Bankoff the analysis of the artifacts and that Arthur would like as many qualified people to work on the artifacts as possible. Most of the individuals working on the materials will be students.

In the wake of the September 11th disaster, the status of artifact collections that were housed in the basement of 6 WTC was discussed. Artifacts and other documentation relating to the Five Points and African Burial Ground excavations were located in 6 WTC. We need to advocate for these collections, probably by writing a letter, but first discuss their location with Sherrill. Nan mentioned that we might want to start a new committee or make this part of the Repository Committee's agenda.

ACTION: Nothing to report.

AWARDS: Nothing to report

ELECTION: Nothing to report

EVENTS: Linda Stone asked that members let her know of upcoming events, in a timely manner in order that they can be added to the events list for inclusion in the PANYC newsletter. A Conference on New York City History scheduled for October 5-7th was mentioned. This symposium, hosted by the Gotham Center for New York City History will take place at Graduate Center City University of New York 365 Fifth Avenue, between 34th & 35th Streets. A separate panel concerning the Archaeology of New York City will be held on October 7th, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Discussants include Arthur Bankoff, Meta Janowitz, Joan Geismar, Diana Wall and Nan Rothschild, Allan Gilbert, and Chris Ricciardi.

MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY: Nothing to report.

MEMBERSHIP: Nothing to report.

MET. CHAPTER NYSAA: Gregory Lattanzi noted that the meeting for September 11th was cancelled due to the events at the World Trade Center. The November meeting is still scheduled.

NEWSLETTER: Christopher Matthews has agreed to continue to publish the newsletter.

NYAC: People should check the NYAC listserv for current issues and debates. The next NYAC meeting is scheduled for September 29th 2001 with the program concentrating on GIS.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Lynn Rakos is organizing the public program and has picked a preliminary topic that deals with paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the New York Harbor.

PARKS DEPARTMENT: Nothing to report.

REPOSITORY: Nothing to report.

URBAN STANDARDS: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING: A workshop centering on ethics and archaeology to be sponsored by PANYC was presented and discussed.

WEB SITE: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS: An e-mail concerning gathering archaeological volunteers to sift debris from the World Trade Center disaster was sent out by Sophia Perdikaris of Brooklyn College to a number of e-mail lists. Archaeologists that wanted to help in supervisory and instruction capacity should contact her. However due to the number of responses, the collection and registration of volunteers for this task is now being run through the Society for American Archaeology. No word on when those volunteers would be needed has been given.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory D. Lattanzi
PANYC Secretary

Correspondence

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

25 Sept. 2001

Dept. of Anthropology
Barnard College, Columbia University
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Mr. John Ketchum
Historic Preservation Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472-001

Dear Mr. Ketchum,

Professional Archaeologists of New York City is a non-profit organization of professional archaeologists with an interest in the archaeology and history of our City. We are writing to you in regard to an issue associated with the recent tragic events at the World Trade Center. It concerns two important archaeological collections. While we know that the fate of objects rightfully have a lower priority than the present rescue and search attempts for people, we want to make certain that these artifacts also remain on the list of significant missing valuables.

Collections from two major archaeological sites were being curated in the sub-basement (B-2) of World Trade Center Building 6. We believe that altogether there were 1500-2000 boxes of artifacts, plus slides and original field records. These sites, the African Burial Ground and the Five Points Site, are two of the most important archaeological sites ever excavated in the City. The collections represent the material remains of important and under-studied aspects of New York City's history. The collections include objects that evoke the ways of life of groups that are often forgotten in New York's and our nation's history, and there is also much to be learned about those histories from this material. For example, Five Points has been described as an abysmal slum, but the archaeological analysis conducted to date indicates that the people in this neighborhood were not that different in their aspirations from those living in other parts of the city. The importance of the African Burial Ground in raising the awareness of slavery in the north and indicating the complex history of New York's African American community has been expressed in many press reports. The final report on the African Burial Ground excavations has not been completed and the Five Points Site collection has the potential to provide much more information through the detailed analysis of its artifacts.

Press reports indicate that Building 6 has been heavily damaged, and will eventually need to be demolished. Photos of the site suggest that the western portion of the structure continues to stand with the eastern portion having sustained the greatest damage. The collections were stored on the western side of the building, south of the elevator. This raises the possibility that at least a portion of these collections may remain intact. The excavations and the laboratory analysis of the

collections has been funded by the United States General Services Administration at a substantial cost. It would be an incredible waste if these irreplaceable materials--a source of highly significant information and evocative objects that document our history--were lost. And it would be terrible if the collections were intact and were discarded because no one was aware of their existence.

We are mindful of the fact that the ongoing search and recovery, as well as the forensic investigations, must take priority. We would, however, like to explore the feasibility of determining the condition of the collections, as well as the possibility of recovery, once these operations are completed and before Building 6 is demolished. We understand, also, that safety considerations must take precedence.

Our organization is willing to help in whatever way possible. Please let me know if and when there is a chance to get further information about this situation. Peter Sneed of the General Services Administration would also like to be notified in case a rescue attempt is contemplated.

Sincerely,

Nan A. Rothschild, President

Cc:

Senator Hillary Clinton
State Senator David Patterson
Representative Charles Rangel
Senator Charles Schumer
General Services Administration
National Park Service

E-mail correspondence

Fall 2001

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Thu, 04 Oct 2001 19:44:00 +0000

From: ddander@att.net

To: Nan Rothschild <roth@columbia.edu>

Cc: Diana Wall <DDIZW@AOL.COM>, Arnold Pickman <apickman@AOL.COM>

Subject: 6 WTC

Dear Nan -

On Friday (9/28) Sneed spoke with Bob Tranter Environmental Officer of FEMA. As of Friday, 6WTC was listed as a "no enter" building. The disaster team will schedule a plan for the rest of the work. 6 WTC could be first or last bldg. on the list. A limited number of people will be allowed on site. Pete volunteered to go into the building if it's deemed "safe." He asked Allen Steenhausen if Charles Cheek would also be willing to volunteer since Charles supervised the last move of the collection into the basement. Charles is on vacation.

As for saving the collections: Pete asked Steenhausen what his priorities were. Pete seemed fixated on retrieving the computers (the hard drives contain information, he said). Allan cared more about the artifacts. I agreed. We already have copies of the records and probably the slides, although of course we should try to save everything we can.

We discussed ways of retrieving the collection. Depending upon damage to the building, it might be possible to pull a truck up to the garage (which is right next to the collection). We could form a human chain, and load the boxes onto the truck. He asked if I would compile a list of apx. 50 volunteers (name, adress and SS#). I would like to avoid what happened to Sophia Perdikaris (900 responses) and quietly limit the call to PANYC and perhaps Met Chapter members and maybe your and Diana's students. I will be happy to take this on but have done nothing about it so far and await your comments.

He also asked if you (Nan) with your extensive contacts could contact conservators. What do we do if papers are wet? What about photographs? etc. I took the liberty of contacting Melba Myers in Virginia. She immediately sent me extensive resources via email, told me what to do with water-logged slides, etc. She also said she'd volunteer to come out for two weeks to help with the conservation effort. I relayed her message to Pete via email but have heard nothing from him about this proposal. Of course, I also spoke with Gary. His conservation organization takes on "angel projects." I agreed to come to one of their meetings to speak to them about the possibility of getting their help.

Diane

From: "Peter Sneed" <pasneed@worldnet.att.net>
To: <ddander@att.net>
Subject: Re: 6 WTC
Date: Thu, 4 Oct 2001 16:30:57 -0400

Diane

Our office phones have been inoperative since 9/11. Tell Gary to e-mail me. As with all the others, we appreciate his offer of assistance. If we are able to retrieve anything from the bldg, GSA will have to decide where the materials should be stored. Volunteer help and donated services will be gratefully considered. At this point, I have no idea what kind of funds will be available through GSA. Advice from you and other experts will be critical in making those decisions.

And now for the good news: I've been told that a decision has been made to attempt to recover the artifacts - work could begin as early as the end of next week on removing the covering debris and shoring up the basement areas. There are NO GUARANTEES here. Safety will be the over-riding determinant of how much can/will be done.

I agree about PANYC volunteers. One thing FEMA surely doesn't need is more people calling and e-mailing them to offer assistance. Also, from my recent conversations with FEMA and NYC official, I doubt that they will allow volunteers to enter the site. I will remind them of the offer as they move along with the site clearance.

I would like to let the PANYC leadership know the current situation - if you could e-mail me the name & phone number of the current president, I'll make the call. I'll be here at home through next Monday. Home phone is 908-369-5095.

Pete



Photographs by Don Hogan Charles/The New York Times

On Bergen Street in Brooklyn, at right, the Hunterfly Road Historic Houses were part of a community of freed slaves in the 1800's. Below left, the area in 1923. Below right, Pam

Green, left, the executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville, and Joan Maynard, the executive director emeritus. They hope to finish work on the homes.



New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

Hidden in Brooklyn, A Bit of Black History

Freedmen's Homes Seen as Attraction



October 29, 2001, Monday

Hidden in Brooklyn, A Bit of Black History; Freedmen's Homes Seen as Attraction

By NICHOLE M. CHRISTIAN

For 33 years, Joan Maynard has dreamed the same dream, the one where crowds come to see the four little clapboard cottages tucked behind a chain-link fence on a blighted block in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

The houses are all that remain of Weeksville, one of the nation's earliest communities of freed slaves. And Ms. Maynard, 73, has spent nearly half of her life tending to the Hunterfly Road Historic Houses, as they are officially known. She imagines them as a flourishing museum, a link to a bygone era and a bridge of opportunity for a neighborhood dominated by the Kingsborough Houses, a public housing project. "The Weeksville houses were a source of hope to the people who once lived here and they can be hope for the people who live in this community now."

It is a dream not far from reality these days. Through nearly \$10 million in grants, the bulk of them from the Brooklyn borough president's office and from companies like Goldman Sachs, the houses will soon be fully restored and turned into a museum and education center.

Only one building is currently open to the public — a so-called interpretive center, a place to view some of the early 19th-century artifacts donated and discovered by the society. The few on display and not in boxes — an old butter churn, a stone ax sharpener and a pair of slave shackles — are in need of restoration.

"Everyone should know what happened here," said Ms. Maynard, executive director emeritus of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville, the group that owns the buildings at 1698 Bergen Street. "These houses can't speak for themselves," she said recently while strolling the grounds, where sweeping trees and scampering squirrels are subtle reminders of the property's pastoral heritage. "Their story deserves to be told in a major educational setting."

So along with the restoration, scheduled to begin in the spring, the society is also building an education center to introduce neighborhood children to the story of Weeksville using media, art, dance and computer technology.

"Urban renewal basically destroyed places like Weeksville," said Jim Hadley, of Wank Adams Slavin Associates, an architectural preservation firm. The firm is handling the restoration, including furnishing the homes with gas lamps, wood-burning stoves, outhouses and a two-story laundry pole in the backyard. "But just by a stroke of luck we have a chance to now give these houses back to the community as they once existed."

The story of Weeksville began with James Weeks, a black longshoreman from Virginia, believed to be a former slave, who bought land from the Lefferts family in 1838. His patch of farmland became a bustling place for blacks, partly because slavery in New York was outlawed in 1827, well before the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. Scores of African-Americans, many fleeing Manhattan during the draft riots, quickly made their way to the area bounded by Fulton Street on the north, East New York Avenue on the south, Ralph Avenue on the east and Troy Avenue.

In Weeksville, people found virtually everything they needed: schools, thriving churches, social organizations, even an orphanage and a home for the elderly. (Historians believe some of the churches were stops on the Underground Railroad.)

By the 1950's, that legacy was all but buried. Then in 1968, a historian and a pilot surveying Brooklyn, and benefiting from an aerial perspective, saw an odd clump of run-down wooden cottages tucked away on what appeared to be a trace of a road. Through some detective work, they soon realized they had discovered the remains of a lost community. The road itself, called Old Hunterfly Road, had a story: It had been a trade path used by Indians. In 1970, the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the Hunterfly Road Houses a landmark. Two years later, they were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

But prestige has not eased the struggle to preserve the houses. Over the years, Ms. Maynard's group has pieced together, through corporate gifts and city and neighborhood donations, the money for renovations, including, in the early 1980's, new roofs for all four houses. Still, the sparsely financed project has endured its share of setbacks. One house, destroyed by a fire, had to be completely rebuilt, and a security system was installed to ward off thieves.

Even now that Weeksville appears headed for its biggest boost yet, there is concern.

Last month, the group received the kind of news that would make any preservation project envious. It received a \$400,000 grant from Save America's Treasures, a federal group that has helped preserve the homes of Harriet Tubman in upstate New York and Edith Wharton in Massachusetts. On any other day, it would have been a moment to celebrate. But it came on Sept. 11, and like the rest of New York and the nation, the Weeksville Society was grieving for the victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attack.

In the weeks since, the society's excitement has been dampened by news that both Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Gov. George E. Pataki plan to cut billions from the city and state budgets, a move some worry could stymie Weeksville's rebirth. The city owns the land where the new education center is to be built and the state has promised thousands of dollars to the project. City and state officials say it's too soon to tell how arts programs will be affected.

"This is a big moment for us," said Pam Green, the executive director of the Weeksville preservation group. "We finally have the money we need to expand, but given what's happened to the city, it's no longer clear that we'll have the necessary funding to create a level of stable programming."

Ms. Green said about \$5 million more is needed, and the first of a series of fund-raising galas is set for Nov. 3.

She wants to hire a full-time museum educator, someone she could offer a two- or three-year contract, and to open an after-school program with computer training and art and dance classes. She also wants to upgrade the Weeksville Web site and market the houses nationwide as a tourist attraction.

"After everything we've gone through, we don't want to just restore the houses and then have no one come here," she said. "It's not the first part of Brooklyn people think to visit. Weeksville has to be made relevant for the 13-year-old across the street and the person visiting New York from across the country."

Ms. Green and Ms. Maynard walk the grounds daily imagining the site restored and open to scores of children. "The dream is so close," Ms. Maynard said.

And that's why Ms. Green remains worried. "If we can't pull it off now with all of the momentum we have, we may not have another 30 years to wait. It's now or never."

Organizations mentioned in this article:

Society for the Preservation of Weeksville

Related Terms:

Slavery; Historic Buildings and Sites; Restoration and Rehabilitation; Hunterfly Road Historic Homes; Museums

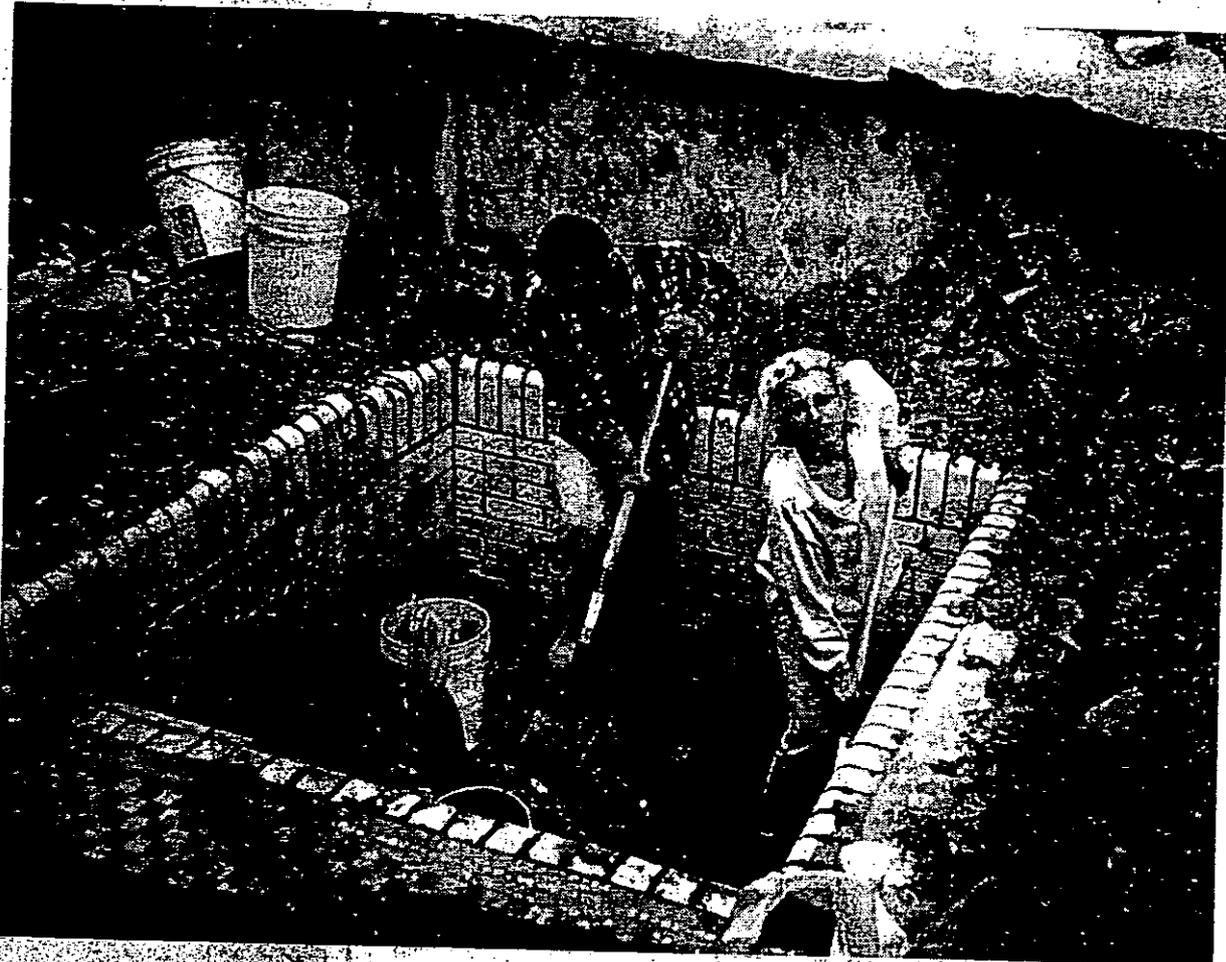
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New York Times

TRO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001

CITY



Dr. Celia J. Bergoffen, an archaeologist, and Dubravko Lazo, a student, digging at the site of a bathhouse. Richard T. Farnham

Tale of Past Jewish Life, Told in Tile

By DAVID W. DUNLAP



A clay pipe or a pottery shard is a fine day's work for an urban archaeologist. Dr. Celia J. Bergoffen found a bathhouse.

What thrilled her was not so much the 20-foot-long swimming pool — though that is a remarkable enough thing to find under an empty lot — as a 6-by-7-foot tank with snow-white tiles and six marble steps. For this was a mikvah, the bathing pool in which Orthodox Jewish women immerse themselves for ritual cleansing.

Although the pool cannot be dated precisely, Dr. Bergoffen said, it is almost surely the oldest such mikvah still existing in New York. (The bathhouse opened in 1887.) Its discovery last month behind the landmark Eldridge Street Synagogue casts new light on the day-to-day existence of Eastern European Jews on the Lower East Side at the turn of the last century.

It suggests that the practice of ritual immersion may have been more widespread than previously believed. If an otherwise common four-story tenement could have a mikvah in its basement, how many more might there be underfoot?

"It gives us a chance to present a rounded picture of the daily life of the congregants," said Amy E. Waterman, executive director of the Eldridge Street Project, a nonprofit organization that presents public programs and that is restoring the synagogue. It owns the lot at 5 Allen Street, near Canal Street, where the mikvah was found.

The lot was acquired in the 1980's as a staging area for the restoration project, with the idea that it might eventually be developed as an educational and cultural center. A tantalizing bit of oral history came with the

property. The previous owner, who had the tenement at 5 Allen Street torn down in 1958, claimed to have instructed the demolition crews not to disturb a mikvah there.

(A mikvah, also spelled mikveh, is literally a "collection" or "gathering" of water that must be fed from a naturally free-flowing source. A small pool like the one at Allen Street is typically used by women after their menstrual periods. Men use larger communal mikvahs to purify themselves before the Sabbath.)

Asked to investigate, Dr. Bergoffen learned that the first proprietor

A synagogue restoration and some oral history uncover a mikvah.

of the Allen Russian Baths, which opened the same year as the synagogue, was Isaac Natelson, a member of the Eldridge Street congregation.

That was intriguing circumstantial evidence. But it was not proof of the existence of a mikvah. And none of the longtime neighbors whom Dr. Bergoffen interviewed, even those who recalled the bathhouse, could remember a mikvah.

There was only one way to find out: with a Caterpillar 320 hydraulic excavator from A. Russo Wrecking, operated by Peter Mikes.

On Oct. 16, Mr. Mikes opened a trench. About three feet down, a line of white tile appeared, 20 feet long. This turned out to be a six-foot-deep swimming pool, lined with multicol-

ored tiles in eye-popping hexagons.

Two days later, Mr. Mikes opened another trench to reveal a line of round-edged tile. "It was a small, mikvah-sized pool," Dr. Bergoffen said, so small it could not be excavated with the big bucket on the Cat 320. She and a graduate student, Dubravko Lazo, had to finish the work with shovels.

The small pool turned out to be five feet deep, ideal for immersion, as required by Jewish law. Nearby was a smaller concrete pool, connected by a short length of pipe, which would have served as the cistern for the rainwater.

Rabbi Nochum Rosenberg, a mikvah expert and founder of the Jewish Family Purity organization in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, certified the discovery on Oct. 23. He said it would buttress his argument that "Jewish women should start obeying mikvah."

"They say, 'Rabbi, I don't want to be more religious than my mother or grandmother,'" Rabbi Rosenberg said. "They say, 'Look, there are no mikvahs on the Lower East Side.' Now, the fact that we're finding there was such a nice, beautiful mikvah shows there must have been other mikvahs."

The Eldridge Street Project has the more secular goal of using the mikvah as an educational tool. It is too early to say whether it can be opened in the near future to public visits, under some sort of protective structure. There is a chance that it may be covered again until the whole site can be excavated.

Dr. Bergoffen now wonders whether the swimming pool might have been used for communal immersions. "If it was," she said, "we could say we have the biggest mikvah."

A cistern nearby would be a giveaway. And, Dr. Bergoffen said, "I know where to look."

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The New York Times

November 4, 2001

CITY PEOPLE

A Patch of Dirt With a Haunting Past

By ERIKA KINETZ

NICHOLAS EVANS-CATO has been painting pictures of the same triangle of dirt for five years. Today the object of his affection — an awkward lot at Hudson Avenue and Front Street in the Vinegar Hill section of Brooklyn — is filled with sickly grass, robust weeds, automobiles, old socks and a deflated Wilson football.

But 200 years ago, historians believe, it was filled with the bones of patriots.

Mr. Evans-Cato, 28, a Brooklyn artist whose work has been shown at the New-York Historical Society and the Pratt Institute, among other places, painted the triangle eight times before he discovered its macabre history. He is now working on his 11th painting.

"I don't really believe in ghosts," Mr. Evans-Cato said, "but there was a feeling I had at that corner."

The triangle lies just up the hill from a part of New York Harbor called Wallabout Bay. During the Revolution, some 11,500 American troops died in British prison ships anchored in that bay, compared with a total of only 6,800 or so who died in combat in the entire war. Each morning, prisoners collected the dead from the ships, where diseases like yellow fever and smallpox were rampant, and buried them in shallow graves along the shore.

But the earth soon gave back the remains. In 1785 Joseph P. Cook, a congressman, wrote of the horror of "beholding a large number of human bones, some fragments of flesh not quite consumed, with many pieces of old blankets, lying upon the shore." He appealed to Congress and got the corpses buried, but bodies kept appearing.

Then, in 1808, the Tammany Society, a political group that grew into Tammany Hall, built a temporary monument and crypt adjacent to the Navy Yard. According to an 1867 book, "A History of the City of Brooklyn," by Henry J. Stiles, the interment celebration was a splendid pageant that drew 30,000 spectators.

But the groundswell of patriotism soon subsided. No money was raised for a permanent memorial, and by the 1830's, the small wooden hut, which contained

13 coffins of bones for each of the original colonies, had fallen into disrepair. In 1873, the remains were moved to Fort Greene Park, and in 1908, the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, an imposing Doric column designed by McKim, Mead & White, was built. The bones have been there ever since.

As always, delineating old history in feet and inches can be a tricky process. So far, the sole evidence of the location of the original wooden martyrs' monument is an 1828 property survey. That document labels as "Monument" the precise spot Mr. Evans-Cato has been painting.

"That map is pretty conclusive proof," said Robert Furman, president of Brooklyn Heritage, a nonprofit coalition of groups involved in commemorating the Revolution.

But some people have called for further research, both to confirm the location and determine if any bones remain at the site, which is privately owned. "We're pretty much agreed that where that map shows is where the monument was," said Prof. H. Arthur Bankoff, chairman of the department of anthropology and archaeology at Brooklyn College. But, he added, "you would like to confirm that it's there."

Last March, Brooklyn Heritage and the Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center applied for state grants to do research at the triangle and at five other Revolutionary War sites in Brooklyn. But the Sept. 11 attacks make the grants unlikely, Mr. Furman said.

But Mr. Evans-Cato's fascination with the triangle does not hinge on historical certitude. "What drew me to the corner initially was the visual interest in that bend in the street," he said. "It was the break in the city's unrelenting orthogonal grid."

Mr. Evans-Cato, a Brooklyn native who lives in Fort Greene, completed his first painting of the area in 1996. Since then he has spent summer nights, wet winter afternoons and bright spring days painting roughly the same scene. "There was something about the corner that kept drawing me to it," he said. "I knew it was more than just a formal, aesthetic quality."

It was not grandeur. In "Triangle," the first work he did after learning in 1999 of its significance, torn plastic hangs from barbed wire, and garbage flecks the canvas.

The city is Mr. Evans-Cato's favorite model. He often paints Williamsburg and the Gowanus Canal, places with which he has childhood associations. He said he felt a similar if vaguer connection to the triangle.

"I've always been interested in prisoner of war narratives," he said. "There's something that touches me very personally when I read these stories."

In 1980, a drunken truck driver hit Mr. Evans-Cato and his father. His father was killed instantly. Mr. Evans-Cato spent the next decade in and out of wheelchairs, hospitals and his bed. "I've done a lot of thinking about being trapped in a place

you can't do anything about," he said.

His paintings of the triangle have no sign of martyrs or a mass grave. Though Mr. Evans-Cato's paintings resonate with history, they do not tell it. That's a job for plaque-makers. "The painting itself doesn't tell the story any more than the triangle itself now tells the story," he said.

THE triangle is testament to a persistent American trait: forgetfulness. "In other parts of the world, even if all the bones have been moved from monument triangle to Fort Greene Park, that would be sanctified ground forever," he said. "In America, after 1873 when the bones were moved, it became real estate."

Mr. Evans-Cato said he would like to see a modest monument on the site, perhaps an explanatory marker and 13 trees. "There needs to be a physical space for these emotions, for these feelings of loss," he said.

In 1867, Mr. Stiles offered a similar admonition. "Oh, my countrymen!" he wrote. "These dead bodies ask no monument. Their monument arose when they fell, and as long as liberty shall have defenders, their names will be imperishable.

"But, oh, my countrymen, it is we who need a monument," he wrote, "that the widows and children of the dead, and the whole country, and the shades of the departed, and all future ages, may see and know that we honor patriotism, and virtue, and liberty, and truth."

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Dr. Frederik T. Hiebert



Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer/Asia Society

An excavation team worked last year in Turkmenistan, left. Digs were also common in Pakistan, where a seal with a bull motif was discovered. But since Sept. 11, some archaeological projects in Asia have been called off.

Strife May Delay Some Expeditions

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

In the first Afghan War, 1839-42, the British army officer and Assyriologist Henry Creswicke Rawlinson had to abandon for years the research that would eventually lead to critical breakthroughs in the decipherment of the cuneiform writing system, which in turn opened up the ancient history of the Middle East.

In the Crimean War, 1854-56, British and French archaeologists had to withdraw from excavation sites to the south in Mesopotamia, where they were uncovering the palaces and cuneiform tablets that attested to the successes and tribulations of the early empires of Babylon and Assyria. The two world wars halted archaeological and paleontological field work on a global scale.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, American scholars who have research projects from the eastern Mediterranean to Pakistan and through Central Asia have grown concerned that history may be repeating itself. They fear that unsettled conditions and possible flare-ups of anti-Americanism could make the risks of doing field work in those regions unacceptable. A few projects have already been delayed indefinitely.

Mostly, however, American archaeologists said they were taking a wait-and-see approach. Most field work is conducted during academic breaks, in December and January and in the late spring and summer, so few excavations are active now. But decisions about resuming or postponing the work in the next seasons will have to be made soon.

"Clearly we're operating under changed circumstances," said Dr. Jeremy Sabloff, director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of

Archaeology. "We have serious concerns for our researchers and students, and we intend to err on the side of greater caution."

Separate teams from the Universities of Chicago and Pennsylvania were in Syria on Sept. 11 and for several weeks afterward, but they reported no trouble. Still, American archaeological institutes from Athens to Cairo to Amman and beyond have tightened security. Some archaeologists expressed concern about Egypt, where terrorists have struck before.

Archaeology had already ceased to exist in Afghanistan, a victim of tribal warfare, the Soviet Union's invasion in the 1980's and Taliban rule. As a land conquered by Alexander the Great and at the eastern frontier of the Roman world, a crossroads on the legendary Silk Route between China and the West, Afghanistan in better times would be an inviting place for scholars. But citing Islamic prohibitions against idolatry, the Taliban last spring demolished two imposing 1,500-year-old statues of the Buddha.

"There are matters of serious archaeological interest in Afghanistan," said Dr. Andrew M. T. Moore of the Rochester Institute of Technology. "If the world were a more stable place, archaeologists would be in there digging."

Now, Pakistan has become too risky. German archaeologists recently closed a dig there. Americans had wanted to return to excavate cities of the Indus civilization, which flourished in the third millennium B.C. But "I would not go to Pakistan right now," said Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer of the University of Wisconsin. "I'll go to India instead."

The shifting of venues has been a tactic of archaeologists in past up-

heavals. When revolution and war closed Iran and Iraq to Western scholars, most of them moved to sites in Syria and Turkey that were from a similar period in antiquity. The result was a rewarding survey of ancient life in the upper valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Political unrest is endangering efforts to re-establish research operations in Iran and Iraq. In the last year or so, American archaeologists and other Westerners said they were making progress, especially in Iran, and were cautiously optimistic that the authorities there would permit them to resume some research.

In Iraq, though Americans remain excluded, French, Italian and German archaeologists have returned to dig at a few sites of the world's first great cities and empires.

The current unrest is nothing new for researchers with projects in Israel. Many archaeologists had left there before Sept. 11. Dr. Moore of Rochester, who had planned new excavations near Jericho, said: "It's physically impossible to work in the West Bank and Jordan Valley. I'm postponing it indefinitely."

Although she agreed that parts of the world had become less safe for archaeology, Dr. Nancy C. Wilkie of Carleton College, who is president of the Archaeological Institute of America, said, "In our profession, you have to be willing to take some chances."

Others reminisced of danger as one more hardship of field work. "I've sat in Baghdad with Scud missiles coming in," said Dr. Elizabeth C. Stone, an archaeologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "Most of us are used to living in less secure environments than is the case for people who don't do archaeology in the Middle East."

ARTICLES BY

The New York Times

November 6, 2001

The Art of Afghanistan

to the Editor:

The loss of the treasures of 3,000 years of Afghan art are indeed a universal loss, even if much of the world is unaware of it (Arts pages, Nov. 1). The looting of the Kabul Museum began in 1979 under the first Communist regime, when rare and delicate works were unceremoniously dumped into crates and carted off to another site; they may or may not have been returned. Other major sites have been fought over and bombed, and the splendid Timurid mosque in Herat damaged and looted.

The dazzling Bactrian Gold Hoard from Tilya Tepe, a treasure comparable to that of Tutankhamen, may have been taken secretly to the Soviet Union. To rebut speculation, Afghan Communist regimes distributed photos of objects stored in the palace, but the small handful shown included no major pieces. A lavishly illustrated book by Victor Sarianidi, the archaeologist who discovered the treasure, published in Leningrad in 1985, includes all the scholarly data about every object — except their location. It would be ironic but not historically unique if the theft of part of a nation's heritage turned out to be its salvation.

ROSANNE KLASS

New York, Nov. 2, 2001

The writer was director, Afghanistan Information Center, Freedom House, from 1980 to 1991.

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With the recent interest, especially in historical archaeology, in archaeological storytelling, I thought these articles on understanding the meaning of common objects in the post-September 11 era are enlightening. -CNM

New York Times

Beneath the Rubble, the Only Tool Was a Pair of Cuffs

By JIM DWYER

As the officers ran, a small arsenal of tools clanked around each man's waist: Guns. Ammunition. Flashlight. Handcuffs. Moving through the trade center concourse, a team of five Port Authority police officers stopped at security closets to collect more gear — Scott Airpaks, helmets, axes — and piled it into a canvas laundry cart. Then they ran the cart toward a freight elevator, but it was 9:59 a.m. on that Tuesday and the first of the towers was falling above them, burying light and space, men and women.

A few minutes passed, and a voice called

Articles in this series are reporting on workaday objects that resonate in unusual ways in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

from the darkness.

"Sound off!" the sergeant, John McLoughlin, hollered.

"Jimeno," said Will Jimeno.

"Pezzulo," said Dom Pezzulo.

From Officers Antonio Rodrigues and Chris Amoroso there was no response.

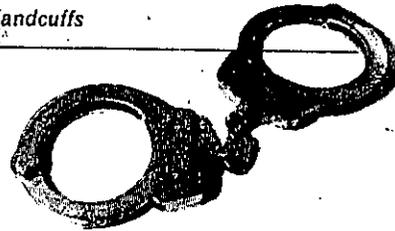
They were close to the exact center of the 16-acre complex, 20 feet underground, not far from the globe sculpture. Over the next half-hour, Officer Pezzulo, a weight lifter, shoved rubble off his body, struggled to his feet, then started to claw at the debris piled on Officer Jimeno.

The north tower groaned. Officer Jimeno remembers the vibrations rolling through his body, like a deep bass line, and calling to his friend: "Dom! It's going to go!"

Having escaped one building, Officer Pezzulo was crushed by the second.

OBJECTS

Handcuffs



Now only two were alive from that team of five: John McLoughlin and Will Jimeno. In fact, those two officers were the last living people to be pulled from inside the destroyed buildings.

Their survival was built, first of all, on the bravery of many, but also on the smallest of

turns: on gusts of wind that shifted fireballs a few inches; on canvas hoses that did not tear when stretched across jagged rocks; on a solitary pair of marines who wandered near fire and called into the dark; and finally, on a \$20 pair of handcuffs Will Jimeno bought seven years and four jobs ago, back when he was arresting shoplifters at Toys "R" Us.

Neither man could move. "Concrete across my chest, my leg, and a cinder-block wall on my right foot," Officer Jimeno said. Nor could they see each other, but they could talk.

"Can you see sky?" Sergeant McLoughlin asked.

"No sky, but light," Officer Jimeno re-

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OBJECTS

Only Tool In Rubble: Handcuffs

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plied.

The sergeant worked his radio. No one answered. An hour or so after the collapse, Officer Jimeno heard a voice coming through the same hole where the light was entering. "The person said, 'Is so-and-so down there?' I said, 'No, but Jimeno and McLoughlin, P.A.P.D., are down here.'"

They heard no more from this person.

Officer Jimeno's sergeant, widely admired for his skills and sense, told the young officer that the rescue operations would have to pull back for a day, until the scene was stable.

They waited.

Balls of fire tumbled into their tiny space, somehow veering away or spending themselves before they found more fuel.

Will Jimeno, age 33, felt that his death was near. His wife, Allison, and their daughter, Bianca, 4, would be sad, but proud. Yet their second child was due at the end of November. So he prayed. "I asked God to let me see my little unborn child, and somehow, in the future, to let me touch this baby," Officer Jimeno said.

Suddenly, shots rang out.

The fireballs had apparently heated up the gun of the late Officer Pezzulo. Rounds banged off pipes and concrete. Then they stopped.

With his one free arm, Officer Jimeno reached his gun belt for something to dig with. He had graduated from the Port Authority Police Academy in January, and was issued the standard police tools, but he already had his own handcuffs — a pair made by Smith & Wesson that he bought in 1994, when he was working department store security jobs.

He scratched and chipped at the concrete. He put the cuffs down, then could not find them.

By twilight, they were alone with the fires and crushing pain. Will Jimeno may have closed his eyes. He is not sure. About 8 p.m., he heard a voice:

"United States Marines. If you can hear us, yell or tap."

An accountant with Deloitte & Touche in Connecticut, David

Karnes, saw the attack, left his office in Wilton, got his Marine Corps camouflage utility uniform and gear, stopped for a prayer. At the scene, the search and rescue operation had been suspended because 7 World Trade Center had collapsed. Sergeant Karnes found another marine, a Sergeant Thomas.

Not another soul was around. They swept across the broken ground until they heard a voice.

"Over here," Officer Jimeno called.

To get help, Sergeant Karnes reached beyond the dead and jammed phone circuits of New York. He called his sister in Pittsburgh, who phoned her local police, who got word to the New York Police and Fire Departments, which came with an army.

Besides the marine, three people crawled into the pit with Officer Jimeno: two emergency services officers, Scott Strauss and Paddy McGee, and a paramedic, known only by his first name, Chuck. A firefighter, Tom Ascher, pushed the fire back from the pile.

So tight was the entry shaft, the officers had to take off their gun belts to squirm in. So impacted was the rubble around Officer Jimeno that they could not fit even a single folding shovel into the pit.

Scott Strauss spotted the lost pair of handcuffs, and used them to dig.

From overhead, they heard firefighters shouting for them to hurry, that 4 World Trade Center was burning like crazy and near collapse.

The marine, Sergeant Karnes, opened a hole overhead. They passed a hand-held air chisel to Officer Strauss, then the Hurst jaws-of-life tool, then shears. Officer Strauss lay on top of Officer Jimeno to work.

At 11 p.m., he was freed. They tied him into a basket, then called for a fresh team to save John McLoughlin, who would be there until dawn.

Lined up across the burning rubble were hundreds of police officers, firefighters, rescuers of all description, stretching deep into the black smoke. From hand to hand, they passed Officer Jimeno in his basket out to an ambulance. He was receiving intravenous liquids that Chuck the paramedic had started in the pit, hanging the line through Will Jimeno's \$20 handcuffs.

NY Times
11/16

Medic, Out of the Rubble, Finds an Identity Restored

By JIM DWYER

When he finally woke up that morning, all the e-mail messages told him something awful had happened: We can't believe it, Hope you're O.K., Our hearts are with you. On the answering machine, he found a message from his sister. She loved him and figured he was down there, helping.

Actually, he had been moping.

In his closet, he found a paramedic sweatshirt and a badge he had not used for years, remnants of a treasured time he had squandered. He went to St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center and hitched rides on ambulances. Maybe he would do splints or bandaging.

Downtown, instead of patients, he found a world stalled by fresh catastrophes every minute. Fires raged, more buildings were collapsing, and no one could search, much less rescue.

At dusk, the first hopeful shout rose from the pile.

Two men, Will Jimeno and John McLoughlin of the Port Authority Police Department, were buried a good 20 feet below ground, almost at the exact center of the 16-acre complex. Of all the thousands who were missing, they would be the last two people pulled alive from the ruins.

When emergency service officers dropped into the hole, they saw the man in the blue paramedic sweatshirt already there, tending to Officer Jimeno.

For hours, they worked elbow to elbow in a tiny space, heaving concrete blocks an inch, sawing rebar, shoveling with their hands. Yet no one knew anything about the man in the blue shirt, who never stopped digging or left his patient's side until Officer Jimeno

OBJECTS

The Shirt



had been hoisted from the rubble and into an ambulance.

"A medic named Chuck, that was all," said Scott Strauss, one of the emergency services unit officers in the hole. "He was great. None of us had ever met him before and we never saw him again."

Last week, Charles Sereika read an account in The New York Times of the rescue that featured a pair of \$20 handcuffs the officers had used to dig. He was

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OBJECTS

In Rubble, A Rescuer Confronts His Ghosts

Continued From Page A1

Chuck the paramedic.

"I think people in my family doubted it," Mr. Sereika said. "It was hard for me to believe. I was there. I left. I was alone. It was like I was a ghost."

On his journey to that terrible hole, Mr. Sereika traveled a much greater distance than his ambulance ride from Midtown.

For years, Mr. Sereika, 32, has struggled with alcoholism, a problem that has cost him jobs and friends and has resulted in a few nights in jail. He let his paramedic card lapse. Six months ago, his family packed him off to a rehabilitation program called Sierra Tucson in Arizona. He returned to New York in July, sober, and went to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every day.

Mr. Sereika got in touch with the newspaper in hopes of reaching Officer Jimeno, whom he last saw being passed across the rubble by firefighters and other rescue workers. He had no interest, Mr. Sereika said, in appearing in the press as a hero.

"I don't fit the mold," he said. Later, after discussing the matter with his family and his therapist, he decided that he should be open about who he is and what he did.

"Keeping secrets is going to kill me," Mr. Sereika said. "In May, I was down and out. Before that I hadn't drunk in about a year, but I wasn't going to meetings. By May, I was consumed by alcohol, and an eating disorder. I had too much shame about my relapse to come out of it myself." His family booked flights to the rehabilitation program, and he canceled them every day for two weeks before finally going.

When he returned, he felt whole, even though he knew that an important part of his life had slipped through his fingers. Until two years ago, he worked as a paramedic in the metropolitan area. He helped manage his family's real estate holdings in the city, and piled up minutes of sobriety until they became months.

On the evening of Sept. 11, almost nothing good was happening at the site of the attack, with most rescue attempts confined to the fringes, except for the one that led to the discovery of Officer Jimeno and Sergeant

Articles in this series are reporting on workaday objects that resonate in unusual ways in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

McLoughlin.

David Karnes, an accountant from Connecticut, had changed into his Marine camouflage outfit and wandered deep into the site. He heard Officer Jimeno calling.

As word spread about the trapped men, Mr. Sereika set out to the center, where he found Mr. Karnes standing alone. Mr. Sereika squeezed his way into the rubble pile, finally spotting Mr. Jimeno's hand.

"He had a good distal pulse," Mr. Sereika said. "I told him we weren't leaving him." He pawed at the rubble and found Officer Jimeno's gun, which he passed up to Mr. Karnes. Mr. Sereika then sent word for oxygen and an intravenous set-up. "Any tool you asked for, it was 20 minutes to get out, and 20 minutes to get back," Mr. Sereika recalled.

When Officers Strauss and Paddy McGee arrived, Mr. Sereika passed rocks and rubble back to them. In the distance, they could hear Sergeant McLoughlin calling out for help. "We had to get Will Jimeno out before we could get to him," Mr. Sereika said.

They labored under collapsed walls. It was not unlike working under the dashboard of a car, he said, except the engine was on fire and the car was about to crash. The space was filled with smoke. "I had Will on 100 percent oxygen," Mr. Sereika said. "Trauma is simple. Fluids and oxygen. We couldn't load and go, we had to extricate first."

They could hear 4 World Trade Center groaning to its bones. "I decided my life was not worth more than theirs," Mr. Sereika said. Officer Strauss said that at a critical moment, when the jaws-of-life tool could not get a firm grip, Mr. Sereika shimmed rubble into place.

"It's very easy for me to help other people," Mr. Sereika said. "It comes naturally to me and to all paramedics. It's what we do. Taking care of myself, I'm not so good at."

After four hours, Mr. Jimeno was loaded into a basket. The rescuers were spent, and sent for fresh teams. They hated to leave Sergeant McLoughlin. On the ground, they found they could barely walk. Smoke clogged their pores and reeked from the hair on their heads.

His shirt ripped beyond mending by rebar and jagged concrete, Mr. Sereika headed toward a cousin's home in Greenwich Village, stumbling through the still streets. "I felt lonely," he said.

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - November 14, 2001 - January 31, 2002

| EVENT | SPEAKER | DATE | TIME | LOCATION | CONTACT | FEE |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| Lost New York in Old Postcards | exhibit | thru 11/25 | | Museum of the City of New York | 212-534-1672 | admission |
| The Forgotten Holidays | Peter Rose | Sat 12/1 | 1 PM | King Manor Musuem, Jamaica | 718-206-0545 | free |
| <i>Unearthing Gotham</i> - book signing | Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana Wall | Wed 12/5 | 6 PM | New York Unearthed. | 212-748-8600 | free |
| New Research on Ancient Greek Polychromy | Vinzenz Brinkman | Sun 12/9 | 1 PM | Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium | | |
| New Perspectives on the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest: How Native Warriors Destroyed the Roman Legions | Peter Wells | Sat & Sun 12/12 & 13 | 11 AM & 1 PM | Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium | | |
| Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African-American Photography | exhibit | thru 12/16 | | Studio Museum in Harlem | 212-864-4500 | admission |
| The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls | Jodi Magness | Wed 12/19 | 8 PM | Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT | 203-661-4654 | members free, \$5 others |
| Wit & Wine: A New Look at Ancient Iranian Ceramics From the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation | exhibit | thru 12/30 | | Brooklyn Museum of Art | 718-638-5000 | \$4/\$2 students |
| William Beckford, 1760-1844: An Eye for the Magnificent | exhibit | thru 1/6/02 | | Bard Graduate Center, 18 W. 86 St., New York | 212-501-3000 | \$2/\$1 students |
| John Koch: Painting a New York Life | exhibit | thru 1/27/02 | | New-York Historical Society | 212-873-3400 | admission |
| Capture: Native Americans and the Photographic Image | exhibit | thru 7/21/02 | | National Museum of the American Indian | 212-514-3712 | free |

If any members have events which they would like listed, please contact Linda Stone by phone or fax at (212)888-3130 or by mail 249 E 48 St. #2B, New York, NY 10017.

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