



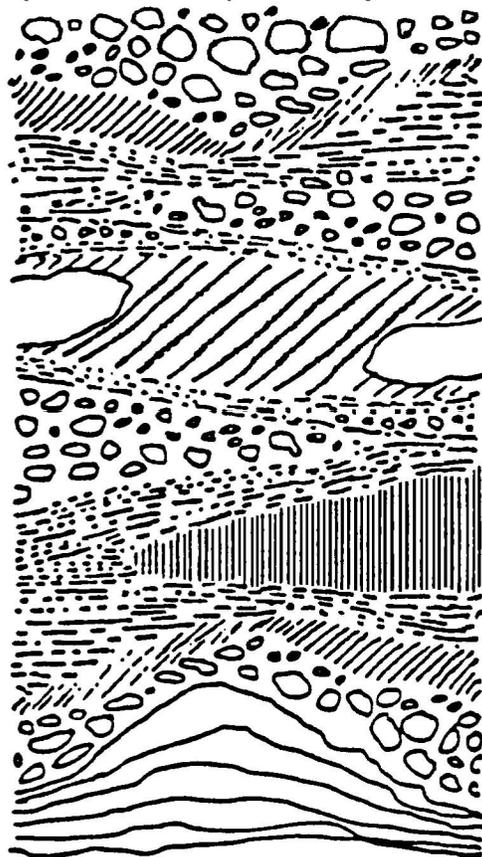
Symposium on the

ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY

**Colonial Waterfront Development in and
around Battery Park: Excavations for
the New South Ferry Subway Terminal.**

**Twenty-eighth Annual PANYC Public Program
Museum of the City of New York
Sunday, May 18, 2008**

open to the general public



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC), is a non-profit organization of local professional archaeologists concerned with preserving the archaeological and historical resources of New York City and educating the community on our cultural heritage. We would like to thank all those who made this year's PANYC Symposium possible. This includes staff members of the Museum of the City of New York, especially Paula Zadigan, Manager of Community Events and Alyson Cluck, Communications Associate. Thanks also go to AKRF, Inc. for providing photocopy services for the flier and program this year. We also want to express thanks to PANYC members Diane Dallal, Patience Freeman, Arnold Pickman and Lynn Rakos as well as all those who participated in the program and those who attended.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL
PANYC SYMPOSIUM

Presented by the Professional Archaeologists of New
York City and The Museum of the City of New York

**COLONIAL WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT IN
AND AROUND BATTERY PARK:**

Excavations for the New South Ferry Subway Terminal

1:00 - 2:10

WELCOME

Linda Stone, Chair, PANYC Public Program 2008

**“A BATTERY AT THE POINT OF ROCKS BY WHITE HALL”:
EARLY MILITARY FORTIFICATIONS IN LOWER
MANHATTAN.**

Speaker: Diane Dallal, Director of Archaeology,
AKRF, Inc.

Most archaeologists agree that the real “digging” begins when the excavation is over. They’ve made some startling field discoveries: segments of a large wall, perhaps even the original Battery for which Battery Park was named. They’ve also uncovered great hewn logs, the remains of various structures. But which battery have they found – the Grand, Half-Moon, Copsey, Whitehall, Patriot, Flat Rock or George Augustus’ Royal Battery? Do the logs represent landfill support structures, an old dock, or a gun platform? As they dig through the archives, archaeologists are attempting to uncover the real identity of the exciting discoveries in Battery Park.

**DENDROCHRONOLOGY AND THE SOUTH FERRY
TERMINAL PROJECT: COLONIAL CONSTRUCTION
DATES, PATTERNS OF COMMERCE, AND HUMAN
BEHAVIOR**

Speaker: William E. Wright, Doherty Associate
Research Scientist, Tree Ring Laboratory, Lamont-
Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

Dates for colonial construction activities on the south end of Manhattan Island were determined through dendrochronological (tree ring) analysis of logs recovered during excavations for the South Ferry Terminal Project. These dates, accurate to the year, are consistent with cartographic and documentary evidence for lower Manhattan and provide information about the timing of construction related to Whitehall Slip and later expansion of the waterfront. Because the wood did not come from Manhattan, tree ring information from many regions was required for statistical comparison with the South Ferry logs to identify the source region and arrive at calendar dates for the harvesting of the trees. Identification of the wood source region indicates the distances over which wood was being transported to New York City for non-household use in the early eighteenth century.

**DOCUMENTATION, DISASSEMBLY AND
CONSERVATION OF THE BATTERY WALL: A
CHALLENGE FOR A NEW VISION**

Speaker: Joan C. Berkowitz, Director of Conservation,
Superstructures Engineers & Architects

Reconstructions have biases and inaccuracies, yet their value to

the public has been established. Visitor response to three-dimensional representation is difficult to duplicate in other media. Reconstruction has been described as “one of the most radical levels of intervention. It is also one of the most hazardous culturally: all attempts to reconstruct the past, no matter what academic and scientific resources are available to the preservationist, necessarily involve subjective hypothesis.”

The means and methods used to document, disassemble, and store the physical fabric of three masonry walls uncovered during the South Ferry Project will be described. The partial reconstruction of the first wall as a temporary exhibit “Walls Within Walls” within Castle Clinton National Monument will be illustrated and discussed. Subsequent installations of historic wall are planned for the new South Ferry Subway Station and within Battery Park.

10 minute break

2:20 - 3:30

**PRESENTATION OF THE SPECIAL PANYC AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY A
NON-ARCHAEOLOGIST TO NEW YORK
CITY ARCHAEOLOGY:**

Cynthia Copeland

**NEW YORK CITY IN THE FILL: MAKING SENSE OF ALL
THOSE ARTIFACTS**

Speaker: Meta F. Janowitz, Project Lab Director, URS
Corporation

The title for this talk is a paraphrase of the name of a Dutch exhibit and monograph, *Amsterdam in de Put*, translated as *Amsterdam in the Well*. Dutch archaeologists used excavated materials to reconstruct the physical appearance and commerce of their city and the daily lives of its inhabitants, and New York archaeologists can do the same with artifacts from the fill excavated at the South Ferry site. Bits and pieces of old buildings, ceramics discarded because they broke during their Atlantic passage, and seeds and scraps of plants are part of our communal past that help us bring eighteenth- and nineteenth-century New York to life.

**DECONSTRUCTING SOUTH FERRY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DISCOVERIES ENABLE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE
PAST**

Speakers: Linda Stone, RPA, Consulting Archaeologist
Archaeological work is, by its very nature, destructive. However, unlike the destruction of demolition, archaeology provides an opportunity to put the puzzle of the past back together. The reconstruction of the past is possible through the systematic excavation, recording and analysis of the archaeological data. The South Ferry project has given us a unique window to the past. The final presentation of the afternoon will take pieces of each of the previous speakers’ talks and pull them together showing their contexts from the field excavations. In a way, this will bring the afternoon full circle; from deconstruction to reconstruction.