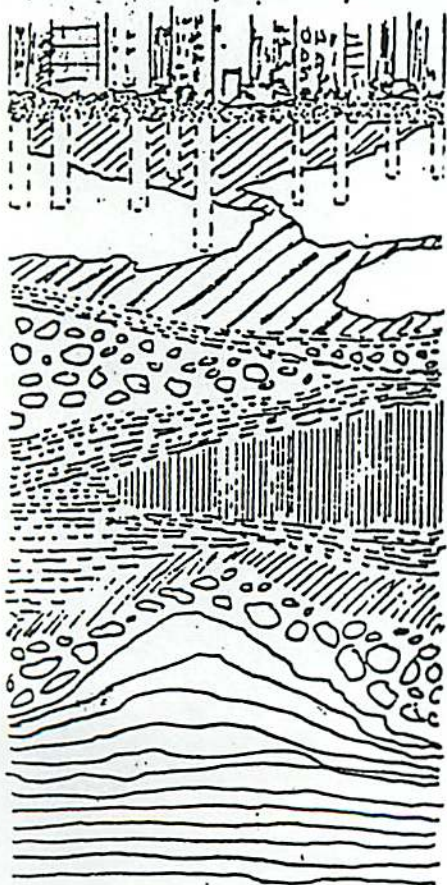




*Symposium on the*

# ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY

*open to the general public*



**"RECLAIMING VANISHED VOICES: EXCAVATING 19TH  
CENTURY NEW YORK"**

An afternoon of slides and discussions of  
archaeology's contribution to understanding our city

Seventeenth Annual Symposium sponsored by the  
Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)  
in association with The Museum of the City of New York

**SUNDAY APRIL 13, 1997**

**1:00-4:00 P.M. ADMISSION FREE**

**THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**FIFTH AVENUE AT 103 STREET**

PANYC is an organization of local professional archaeologists concerned  
with discovering and conserving our cultural heritage

**RECLAIMING VANISHED VOICES:  
EXCAVATING 19TH CENTURY NEW YORK**

1:00- 2:00

**WELCOME**

Wendy Elizabeth Harris, Corps of Engineers -  
NY District, Chair, PANYC Public Program 1997

**BOTTLES AND BONES: FOODWAYS AT FIVE  
POINTS**

Michael Bonasera, John Milner Associates

Analysis of food remains, glass vessels, and other cultural material recovered in three shaft features reveals some of the different dietary strategies pursued in the Five Points. Refuse from the households of two Jewish tailors residing on the block in the 1830s and 1840s will be discussed, as well as two stratigraphic contexts within a large cesspool associated with an Irish-American tenement. The tailors' assemblages suggest that maintenance of kosher kitchens was variable, and differed from the Irish tenement features in several ways, including types of cuts of meat or fish consumed, the food preparation methods, and the condiments used to enhance the meals.

**WHITE LACE, GREENHORNS, AND  
ORANGEMEN: SEEING ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL MOBILITY AMONG THE IRISH IN  
MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY NEW YORK**

Heather J. Griggs, John Milner Associates

In nineteenth century New York, the Irish were considered part of a "culture of poverty" that had roots in their rural, Catholic homeland, and the devastation of the Great Famine. Using bank records and archaeological artifacts from the Five Points Archaeological Project this paper will discuss the numbers of well-to-do Irish whose religious and political influence helped make New York "the most Irish city in the Union."

**BIRD FEEDERS AND BROTHELS: FLIGHTS  
OF FANCY ON BAXTER STREET**

Rebecca Yamin, John Milner Associates

This short narrative describes the mid-nineteenth century brothel at No. 12 Baxter Street that was tucked between Jewish tailorshops and secondhand clothiers. The artifacts recovered from the privy associated with the brothel reveal something of the personal and professional lives of the prostitutes who worked there.

Break (15 minutes)

(2:15 -3:45)

**PANYC SPECIAL AWARDS:**

**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW YORK CITY**

presented to Eric Byron, Ellis Island Immigration Museum, National Park Service by Anne-Marie Cantwell, Rutgers University-Newark and Diane Dallal, South Street Seaport Museum  
and

**BERT SALWEN AWARD FOR**

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER, 1996-7**

presented to Heather J. Griggs, Hunter College by Anne-Marie Cantwell, Rutgers University-Newark

**BACKYARD AS HISTORY: ARCHAEOLOGY  
AT THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT  
MUSEUM**

Joan Geismar, Urban Archaeologist, Consultant,  
Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Archaeological investigation of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum's backyard focused on the toilet facilities available to the building's 19th century residents (indoor plumbing was installed in 1905) and the household debris they might now contain. While the sought-after trash was not found, some of the findings exceeded expectations: not only was life in the tenement at 97 Orchard Street better than expected, the backyard toilet facilities offered some surprises.

**THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DOMESTICITY IN  
VICTORIAN BROOKLYN**

Robert K. Fitts, John Milner Associates

In 1995, John Milner Associates excavated privies and cisterns belonging to six Civil War era households in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. This paper will discuss the excavations and show how the recovered artifacts reflect a distinctive middle-class lifestyle based on the concepts of domesticity and gentility.

**CLOSING REMARKS: SENECA VILLAGE  
AND BEYOND**

Diana diZerega Wall, the City College of New York

Questions from the Audience