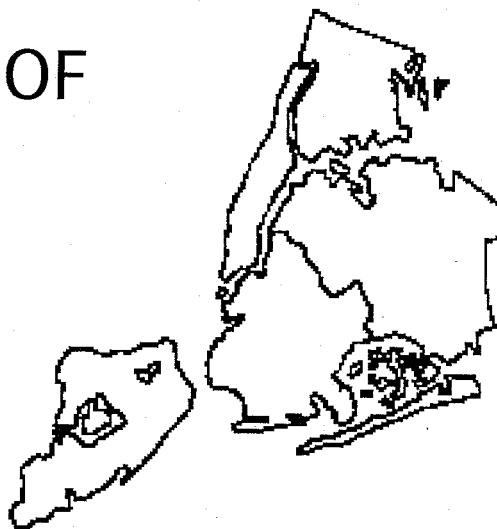


# P A N Y C P R O F E S S I O N A L A R C H A E O L O G I S T S O F N E W Y O R K C I T Y



Newsletter NO. 74

January 1996

## CONTENTS

Minutes, General Meeting, November 15, 1995 .....	1
Correspondence .....	3
Current Research in NYC .....	10
Bibliography of Archaeological Sites in NYC .....	11
In the News .....	20
Announcements .....	26
Events Calendar .....	29
PANYC Membership Application .....	30

Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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New York NY 10021

Home Telephone/Fax: 212 744-1592  
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Office Fax: 212 432-2981

To ensure inclusion in the next issue, please submit material by March 10, 1996

Next PANYC Meeting: March 20, 1996 at 6:30 in Room 1127 of the Graduate Center, CUNY

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**NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 24 January 1996**

Room 1127 Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.

**NEW MEETING TIMES AND FORMAT**

Executive Board: 6:10 - 6:30

General Membership: 6:30 - 7:30

Presentation: Rob Fitts - Excavations at Atlantic Terminal, and more (BYO..) 7:30 - 8:00

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**Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting 15 November 1995**

President Diana Wall called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The following committees will report: Action, Events, Metropolitan Chapter of the NYSAA, and Museum Exhibit.

Treasurer's Report: Harris reported a balance of \$1102.13 in the PANYC checking account.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with the following corrections:

President's Report: Wall thanked Harris for the letters sent [supplying information] ... ~~Chair~~ [Member] of the Appropriations Committee (~~Nydia Lowie~~) [Nita Lowey]... Wall suggested [has already sent] a letter ~~be sent~~ to Robert Bush... LPC has [proposed] designation... PANYC ~~should ask~~ [has given testimony]...

Burial Ground Report: ...Burial Ground [Memorialization] Committee...

Burial Ridge Report: the problem is looting, not the type of site designation.

Exhibit Report: Stone reported that she [the committee] is in ... Cheryl [La] Roche ...

Met. Chapter Report: membership could ~~contact~~ [pay dues to] Shelly Spritzer.

Newsletter Report: ...newsletter ~~will be~~ [was] ...

President's Report: Wall reported she and Stone had been sent draft copies of Belson article for Archaeology Magazine. Stone felt she was misquoted and taken out of context. Wall questioned focus of bottle hunters to Peter Young, editor of Archaeology. Wall sent NYTimes article to Young. Fitts spoke to the collector identified in the Times article who mentioned his tour of Brooklyn with Belson. Wall will be out of town 12/21 - 1/21. If any presidential action is required, members should contact Vice President Joe Schuldenrein at 718-601-3861. Wall is concerned with NYState budget fight issues. Lois Feister told Wall the State is planning to lay off 10,000 employees. Wall received a membership resignation letter from John McCarthy who has moved to Minnesota. Harris and Killeen went over membership list: 55 members, 35 are paid up, and 20 are past due. There is a bigger problem with subscribers. Renewal notices should be sent. Wall would like to see new members recruited to join PANYC. She appointed Fitts as chair of New Members committee.

Action: Stone reported she spoke to Spritzer who was not present. Spritzer reported PANYC has been successful at Atlantic Terminal, excavations are currently underway. Spritzer has not received any new permit information from the Army Corps, however she is preparing a letter for review by other committee members about an earlier proposed action by the Corps. Harris reported she and Rakos talked to Hunter about Seneca Village. He attended a meeting with the Conservancy and visited the site. Hunter was given information on proposed actions in the area and provided advice to the Conservancy about impacts to archaeological resources. However the Conservancy does not feel any pressure to move.

Events: Stone announced the upcoming Met Chapter meeting, a program on New York City Kilns to 1900 at the Museum of the City of New York, and talk on Ice Age Hunter-Gatherers in Spain at the New York Academy of Science.

Museum Exhibit: Stone reported that the committee is finalizing a draft of a detailed proposal for submission to the Museum of the City of New York by December 1.

Newsletter: Fitts will be changing the format of the Newsletter. He would like to provide information to help people such as an SHA format current research section. He also discussed the possibility of doing a bibliography of site reports from the five boroughs. Harris said she could contribute data on Corps reports.

Old Business: Wall mentioned the primer for doing research in NYC she compiled with Ingle several years ago. She would like to update this for possible special publication and would like input from members at the next meeting.

No further business was brought before the general membership. The meeting was adjourned prior to discussion.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Stone, for John Killeen, PANYC Secretary 1995-96.



**Geoarcheology Research Associates**

5912 Spencer Avenue  
Riverdale, New York 10471  
718-601-3861 Phone  
718-601-3864 Fax

**FAX**

Date: October 19, 1995

From: Maria L. Schleidt-Peñalva

To: Linda Stone

Company: PANYC

Fax Number:

Number of Pages: 2

Please Note: NYC Archaeological Compendium

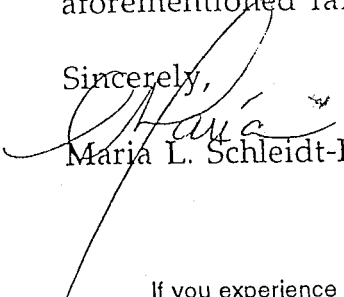
Dear Linda:

This note serves as an up-date on the current status of the compendium entitled *Sources for Archaeology Education in New York City*.

- 1) awaiting word from our last two possible funders, NYNEX and Chemical Bank;
- 2) The Bronx Historical Society has reviewed the compendium and will run the review by Dr. Karen Robinson in their next journal; and
- 3) the Archaeological Institute of Archaeology has asked to use portions of the compendium in their national guide.

If you have any questions on the compendium, please send me a fax to the aforementioned fax number.

Sincerely,

  
Maria L. Schleidt-Peñalva

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

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26 November 1995

Dr. Lynne Sullivan  
Chair, Anthropological Survey  
3122 Cultural Education Center  
The New York State Museum  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing on the behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) to express our support of the New York State Museum's proposal to the SAA for establishing the position of Coordinator in Archaeological Education who would assess the current condition of archaeological education in New York State and develop programming for the public. As I know you are aware, archaeologists in New York and elsewhere have generally been remiss in keeping the public informed of their activities and in providing information that is accessible to elementary and secondary school teachers and the general public. Unfortunately, the profession is currently feeling the repercussions of its need for a public constituency in the current environment in Albany and Washington. Therefore we applaud and endorse your efforts to help redress this problem.

Needless to say, PANYC and its members would be more than happy to provide their expertise for this project in any way that they can.

Sincerely yours,

Diana diZerega Wall  
PANYC President

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

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December 4 1995

The Honorable Rudolph Giuliani  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Giuliani,

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) in regard to the archaeological issues related to the Metrotech Center project in Brooklyn. We want to thank your office for facilitating our September 18th visit to the repository for the archaeological collection from the project with members of the staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

However, several issues regarding the artifact collection arose as a result of that visit. For example, it appeared that not all the artifacts from the collection had arrived at the repository and that some of the materials were stored in boxes with labels indicating that they had been subjected to necessary conservation treatments when in fact the materials had not. Furthermore, the artifacts were not packed in accordance with modern conservation guidelines. Finally, the repository itself does not provide a suitable environment for the permanent storage of archaeological collections as outlined in federal guidelines. Tony Robbins of the Landmarks Preservation Commission has promised to follow through in investigating these issues.

We are also concerned that the EIS for Metrotech Center included a provision for installing an exhibit showing the results of the archaeological excavation at the site in the modern building lobby. To our knowledge, no such exhibition is being planned. We would appreciate your keeping us informed of the progress being made on both these issues.

Again, thank you for your help in facilitating our investigation of the status of the storage of the archaeological collection. Our city's heritage is of concern to us all.

Sincerely yours,

Diana Wall  
PANYC President 1995/96

cc: J. Raab, Landmarks Preservation Commission  
R. Kuhn, State Historic Preservation Office  
D. Klima, Advisory Council  
S. Matnick, Forest City/Ratner  
D. Wright, Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

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12 December 1995

The Honorable Jennifer Raab, Commissioner  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
100 Old Slip  
New York, New York 10005

Dear Commissioner Raab:

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) to raise with you several of our concerns about the Commission's policy in regard to archaeological sites and resources in New York City.

First of all, we are concerned that the Commission has yet to establish a protocol to safeguard the archaeological resources that were especially earmarked for protection at some of its designated properties when sub-surface disturbance is planned for those properties. We are particularly concerned about the African Burial Ground and the Commons Historic District. This district has been continually subject to sub-surface disturbance ever since its designation and we understand that more sub-surface disturbance is planned for the area. Most recently, the utility trench that being dug under Chambers Street and in the northern part of City Hall Park was designed to follow a pre-existing trench. The Commission deemed archaeological monitoring to be an adequate control for mitigating the impact of this construction on the Burial Ground.

It turns out, however, that the new trench is not completely coterminous with the old trench and it is possible that the excavation of the new trench could have destroyed part of the Burial Ground (and desecrated some of the burials that it contained). We all know from earlier archaeological work in the Park that the 18th-century ground surface lies a mere 18" below modern grade in parts of the Park and that burials were uncovered quite close to modern grade on the Chambers Street side of the Park during an excavation by Con Edison in 1994. If the Commission had a policy in place for dealing with sub-surface disturbance that took into account what is known about the stratigraphy of the Burial Ground (and of the other sites that were designated for their archaeological resources as well as their standing structures), the possibility of the destruction of burials would not have occurred. Furthermore, this protocol could be designed to ensure that archaeological testing take place well before construction was scheduled to begin, so that such testing could be implemented cost-effectively.

Secondly, we are also concerned about how the Commission is determining whether or not an archaeological site is "significant." We would naturally agree that not all archaeological sites are equally important and that the question of "archaeological significance" is one that is subject to interpretation. However, the primary National Register criterion used to

determine the significance of archaeological sites has to do with the "information important in prehistory or history" that can be learned from these sites. Therefore the significance of a particular site has to be considered on a case-by-case basis in light of the modern research questions that are being investigated by archaeologists throughout the country. Sites should not be deemed as having no significance simply because they date to a particular time period, as we understand is currently the case.

As I'm sure you know, PANYC and the Landmarks Preservation Commission share many interests and have enjoyed a good working relationship for over a decade and a half. We would be more than happy to serve as advisors to the Commission in developing its policy to deal with our city's underground heritage and hope that you will meet with a few of us to discuss our mutual interests and concerns. I will call you next month to try and arrange a meeting.

Looking forward to meeting with you,

Sincerely yours,

Diana Wall  
PANYC President 1995/96

411 East 70th Street  
New York, New York 10021  
(212) 650-7361

cc: Peggy King Jorde, Office of Deputy Mayor Fran Reiter  
Senator David Paterson  
Daniel Pagano, Landmarks Preservation Commission



# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

18 December 1995

Mr. Robert Kuhn  
State Historic Preservation Office  
New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Division of Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island  
Box 189  
Waterford, New York 12188

Dear Mr. Kuhn,

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City to express our concern about some events on Ellis Island that have recently come to our attention. We understand that construction workers there excavated a large hole for sewage treatment in the basement of one of the buildings on the island without following 106 regulations. This particular building stands on the original island (as opposed to on the landfill), the part of the island that contains a known archaeological site. It is here that archaeological deposits that often include human remains have been encountered and recorded on several occasions in the past and which had been identified as extremely sensitive in John Pousson's report on the archaeology that was conducted on the island prior to its development for the Museum of Immigration.

In the course of this excavation, construction workers found mollusk shell (perhaps from a Native American shell midden) and several pieces of bone. Last week, some Park Service personnel took the bone to the American Museum of Natural History, where Dr. Lenore Barbian, a physical anthropologist, identified it as being definitely human. In her opinion, the bone probably came from one individual, a subadult in his or her teens.

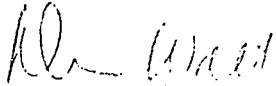
We are extremely concerned that the National Park Service has violated the 106 regulations on Ellis Island and possibly NAGPRA as well. We understand that the Advisory Council and the Park Service signed an MOA last summer which removed the oversight of the 106 process on Park lands from central authority and gave the individual Park superintendents the responsibility of overseeing this process in their parks. If incidents such as this one, which may well have resulted in the desecration of a grave, are the result of this new policy, the policy must be changed. Please investigate these events on Ellis Island and let us know as soon as possible what actually happened and how we can ensure that it will not happen again.

Finally, we would also like to know about the status of the human remains that were excavated on Ellis Island during its development for the Museum of

Immigration. These human remains had been slated for re-burial on the island. Has this in fact occurred?

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Sincerely yours,



Diana Wall  
PANYC President 1995/96

411 East 70th Street  
New York, New York 10021  
(212) 650-7361

cc: B. Castro, State Historic Preservation Officer  
D. P. Hsu, National Park Service  
D. Klima, Advisory Council  
L. Poolaw, Grand Chief, Delaware Nation Grand Council of North America  
M. Rust, Field Director for the Northeast, N.P.S.  
Superintendent, Statue of Liberty National Monument

## Current Research in New York City

The following projects are on-going or recently finished archaeological studies in New York City. To report current research please send abstracts of projects to the PANYC Newsletter editor.

### Staten Island

New York Harbor Collection and Removal of Drift Project

Submitted by Lynn Rakos

US Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), is presently conducting a cultural resources survey of the Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull, Richmond County, Staten Island, New York in connection with the New York Harbor Collection and Removal of Drift Project. A reconnaissance study was conducted for the Corps by Raber Associates in 1995 and consisted of the examination of waterfront structures and marine resources, which included bulkheads, piers, pile fields, and the remains of various types of vessels. This study identified numerous individual vessels and a number of vessel clusters as potentially significant resources. The former Baltimore and Ohio Transfer Bridge No. 2, on the Kill Van Kull, was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., is currently conducting further research and field investigations on the potentially eligible resources. The goal of this study is to understand vessel construction, function, design variations and history of the individual vessels and to document the firms or individuals responsible for creating the vessel clusters.

### Brooklyn

Long Island College Hospital Parking Garage Site (CEQR No.87-013K)

Submitted by Sara Mascia

Historical Perspectives, Inc.

During October and November 1995, field testing at the Long Island College Hospital Parking Garage Site (CEQR No.87-013K) in Brooklyn, New York, was undertaken. Following the removal of 5-7 feet of overburden, four features were discovered along with the

remains of foundations of some mid- to late-19th century buildings constructed along Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street. The Phase 1A documentary assessment, conducted in 1989 by Historical Perspectives, Inc., outlined changes in land-use through the prehistoric and historical periods, identified lots within the project site where there had been little known surface and subsurface disturbance, indicated which lots contained possible archaeological resources and recommended that further research was warranted prior to the construction of the parking garage. The Archaeological Assessment of the site, approved by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1989, identified a portion of the proposed site as having the potential to contain archaeological resources associated with the Revolutionary War and a farmstead from the early Federal Period.

Four features, dating to the 19th century, were discovered along with the remains of foundations of 19th-century brick buildings. It appears that remains of earlier activities were obliterated during the "brownstone" period of the mid- to late-19th century. Three brick cisterns were encountered in the location of the backlots affiliated with mid-19th-century brick buildings formerly located along Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street. Each of the three cisterns was examined for construction methods and content. One of the cisterns, a single brick, mortar-lined cistern, was found to contain three distinct deposits dating from the late-19th century. A second double brick cistern had four distinct deposit levels containing late-19th to early-20th-century artifacts. The third cistern, also of double brick construction, contained only one discreet deposit of fill with few historical artifacts.

The draft report for this project was completed in December 1995.

Atlantic Terminal Urban Renewal Project  
Submitted by Robert Fitts  
John Milner Associates

In October and November 1995 John Milner Associates (JMA) conducted Phase 2 and Phase 3 excavations at the Atlantic Terminal site located in Fort Green, Brooklyn. Twelve historic lots were investigated to locate privies and cisterns associated with the middle-class families who inhabited the site during the 1850s through 1890s. JMA uncovered and tested six shaft features as well as fully excavating three privies and four cisterns. Preliminary analysis suggests that the three privies and the of the cisterns were filled in the mid- to late-1860s, while the other cistern remained open until the turn-of-the-century. All of the features produced large numbers of ceramics, bottle glass, flower pots, and faunal remains. Significant quantities of textiles, sealed bottles still containing their original contents, dolls, and human hair were also recovered. Most of the tablewares found at the Atlantic Terminal site were from matching sets of white granite or undecorated European porcelain. Interestingly, only a handful of transfer-printed ceramics were found throughout the site. The draft of JMA's Atlantic Terminal report, available later this summer, will focus on middle-class life, the cult of domesticity, and dining etiquette in mid-19th century Brooklyn.

## **Bibliography of Archaeological Sites in New York City**

Starting with this issue of the PANYC Newsletter, we will be reprinting the bibliography of the archaeological reports on file at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. As the bibliography is over sixty pages, it will be broken into approximately 8 to 10 sections and published in sequential issues of the newsletter. We would like to thank Daniel Pagano for allowing us to reproduce this valuable resource.

This issue will start with the *Archaeological Bibliography of the Borough of Brooklyn: City Environmental Quality Review Reports* by Carol J. Clements, Daniel N. Pagano and Amanda Sutphin (December 20, 1995, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission).

The next PANYC Newsletter will contain the bibliography for sites in Manhattan.

Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc.

1991a Preliminary Assessment Of Archaeological Sensitivity Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal Site, Long Range Sludge Management Plan, GEIS III. (CEQR-Generic)

1991b Assessment Of Archaeological Sensitivity Erie Basin Site, Long Range Sludge Management Plan, GEIS III. (CEQR-Generic)

City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants

1994 Caribe Village Site: 65, 67, 69, & 71 South Fourth Street, Williamsburgh, Kings County, New York. Phase 1B Archaeological Field Survey. For: Suna-Levine Industries, Inc. CEQR #88-083K.

Geismar, Joan H.

1988a Documentation of Block 4322 Lot 24 in the East New York Section of Brooklyn (formerly a village in New Lots). For The Mobil Oil Corporation. CEQR 87-238K

1988b Documentation Of The Wallabout Urban Renewal Area Housing Site (Block 2027) Brooklyn, N.Y. For the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. CEQR 88-232K

1989 Preliminary documentation of the 330 Jay Street Site, Brooklyn, New York. For Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc. CEQR 89-253K

1990 Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Bishop Mugavero Geriatric Center Site, Block 189, Brooklyn. For Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, Inc. CEQR 90-223K

1991a An Archaeological Assessment of 12-16 Everit Street (Block 200 Lot 13/Part of 11), Brooklyn, New York. For the Pryde Corporation. CEQR 90-219K

1991b Scope of Work for Archaeological Field Testing of the Bishop Mugavero Geriatric Center Site, Block 189, Brooklyn. For the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, Inc. CEQR 90-223K

1992 Teacups and Opium: The Bishop Mugavero Geriatric Center Archaeological Field Report, Block 189, Brooklyn. For the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, Inc. CEQR 90-223K

1993a Archaeological Field Testing of the Wallabout Urban Renewal Area, Block 2027, Brooklyn, July 20 and 21, 1993. For the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). CEQR 88-

232K

- 1993b Documentary Study of the Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Area, Brooklyn, New York. For The City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development. CEQR 89-232K
- 1993c Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Area, Brooklyn, New York, Field Testing. For The City of New York Department of Housing and Development. CEQR 89-232K (October 1993)
- 1994 Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Area, Brooklyn, New York, Field Testing Revised. For The City of New York Department of Housing and Development. CEQR 89-232K (June 1994)

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.

- 1985 Sensitivity Evaluation and Archaeology Testing Recommendations. For Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, New York. CEQR 85-324K
- 1988 Phase 1A Cultural Resource Assessment Proposed Juvenile Detention Center, East New York, Brooklyn, New York. CEQR 88-011K
- 1992 Williamsburgh Street West. Block 2203 Lot 10. Borough of Brooklyn. New York, New York. For Mr. Eugene Ostreicher. CEQR 91-228K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Alfred G. Cammisa, William I. Roberts IV & Paula Crowley)

- 1994 Archaeological And Historical Sensitivity Evaluation For The Proposed Hendrickson Street Rezoning, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. For McKeown & Franz, Inc. CEQR 92-628K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Joel Grossman and William I. Roberts, IV)

- 1986 The Pierrepont Street Site, Brooklyn, New York, Phase IB/II Archaeological Testing Report. For Energy and Environmental Analysts. (Check for 1A Report) CEQR 85-324K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Gary McGowen)

- 1991 Metrotech Project, Conservation Assessment. CEQR 82-248K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts, IV)

- 1991a Archaeological And Historical Sensitivity Evaluation Of Caribe Village Development Project, Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York. For New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. CEQR 88-083K

1991b Archaeological And Historical Sensitivity Evaluation, The Dupont Street Senior Housing Project, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (68-88 Dupont Street and 103-111 Eagle Street) CEQR 91-149K

1992 Broadway Triangle Partnership Housing Project, Brooklyn, New York. Review of Archaeological Potential Blocks 1721, 1722, 1726 and 1731. For Mr. Leslie Lerner, A.I.A., Beechwood Organization. CEQR 86-304K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV & Mark E. Adams)

1990 Documentary Research Report, 1 84-1 Duffield Street, MetroTech, Brooklyn, New York. For Forest City Ratner Companies. CEQR #82-248

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Alfred G. Cammisa, Paula M. Crowley, Felicia Burgos Cammisa, Deborah Aschkenes, & Lou Ganzi)

1994 Archaeological Testing of The Proposed Hendrickson Street Rezoning, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. For McKeown & Franz, Inc. CEQR 92-628K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV & Paula Crowley)

1994 Archaeological Data Recovery Excavations at the Shaft 21B Project Site near Kent and Willoughby Avenues, Brooklyn, New York. For KISKA Construction Corporation. CEQR 89-119K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Paula Crowley, Kenneth Richter & Ronnie Best)

1991 Broadway Triangle Partnership Housing Project, Brooklyn, New York. Review of Archaeological Potential Blocks 1730 and 1732. For Mr. Leslie Lerner, A.I.A., Beechwood Organization. (October 1991 & December 1991) CEQR 86-304K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Paula M. Crowley, Michael Davenport, Frank Dunsmore, Patience Freeman, Mansoureh Niamir & Jesse Ponz)

1991 The Archaeological Investigations Of The Metrotech Project, Brooklyn, New York. For Forest City Ratner Companies. CEQR 82-248K (existing copy received February 17, 1993)

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Michael W. Davenport & Paula M. Crowley)

1991 Archaeological Testing Report For 457, 461 and 465 Waverly Avenue. Brown Memorial Church Development Project, Brooklyn, New York. For Tunolb Construction Co., Inc. CEQR 91-075K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Michael W. Davenport & Jennifer

Flood)

- 1991 Archaeological And Historical Sensitivity Evaluation of Brown Memorial Baptist Church Development Project, Kings County Brooklyn, New York. For Tunolb Construction Co., Inc. (457 through 465 Waverly Avenue) CEQR 91-075K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV & Jesse Ponz)

- 1990 Stage 1B Archaeological Survey Of The 26th Ward Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion Project, Borough of Brooklyn, New York City, Kings County, New York. For Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation. CEQR 89-116K (CEQR 90-118K)

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV, Kenneth Richter, & Paula Crowley)

- 1995 Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation Oceanhill Urban Renewal Area. Brooklyn, New York-Draft. For The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. CEQR # 89-112K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (William I. Roberts IV & Linda Stone)

- 1990a Lorimer/Middleton Streets Rezoning Block 2240, Borough of Brooklyn, New York, New York. for Eugene Ostreicher. CEQR 89-116K & 90-018K

- 1990b Phase 1A Historical and Archaeological Sensitivity Evaluation of The Block 169, Lot 36, (237 State Street) Borough of Brooklyn, New York, New York. For The City of New York Department General Services, Division of Real Property. (September & December) CEQR 89-297K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Linda Stone, Michael Davenport, Paula Crowley, William I. Roberts IV & Louis Ganzi)

- 1991 Stage IB Archaeological Survey of The Red Hook Water Pollution Control Plant, Brooklyn, New York.

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Linda Stone, William Sandy, Elizabeth Shura & Paula M. Crowley)

- 1991 Archaeological Field Testing At the Shaft 21B Project Site Near Kent And Willoughby Avenues In Brooklyn, New York. For KiSKA Construction Corp. CEQR 89-119K

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (Linda Stone, Michael Davenport, Paula Crowley, William I. Roberts IV & Louis Ganzi)

- 1991 Stage IB Archaeological Survey of The Red Hook Water Pollution Control



Plant, Brooklyn, New York.

Historic Sites Research

- 1983 Stage 1A Cultural Resource Survey, Jeffersonian Corporation Tract, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y. For Economic Capital Corporation of New York City.

Historic Sites Research (Susan Kardas & Edward Larrabee)

- 1983 Stage 1A Cultural Resource Survey, Royal-Certified Realty Company Tract, (Former F & M Schaefer Brewery) Brooklyn, N.Y. For New York City Public Development Corporation.
- 1984 Cultural Resource Reconnaissance, Metropolitan Technology Center, Brooklyn, New York. For Energy and Environmental Analysts, Inc.

Historical Perspectives, Inc.

- 1984 Phase 1A Archaeological Impact Report for the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Brooklyn Project. For Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade and Douglas. CEQR 83-308K
- 1985a Columbia Heights Topic Intensive Archaeological Research Report Phase 1-B, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society Brooklyn Project.
- 1985b Topic Intensive Archaeological Research Report Phase 1-B, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Brooklyn Project.
- 1985c Phase 1A Archaeological Impact Report for the Atlantic Terminal and Brooklyn Center Projects, Brooklyn, New York. For AKRF, Inc.
- 1988 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report for the Shaft Site 21B, Brooklyn, New York. For New York City Department of Environmental Protection City Tunnel No. 3, Stage 2. CEQR 89-119k
- 1989 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report for the Newtown Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Upgrading, Greenpoint, New York. For Greeley and Hansen. CEQR 89-170k
- 1993 Phase 1A Archaeological Report for the Gateway Estates Site, New Lots, Brooklyn, New York. For: Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc. CEQR No. 93-HPD014K.

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (Allee King Rosen & Fleming)

- 1990 Archaeological Assessment Report, Bridge Car Wash Site. For Department of City Planning. CEQR 90-178K (Section I & II)

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (Betsy Kearns & Cece Kirkorian)

- 1989 Preliminary Archaeological Assessment for The Steeplechase Amusement Park, Brooklyn, New York. For Alee King Risen and Fleming, Inc. CEQR 87-147K
- 1991 The New York City Long Range Sludge Management Plan Generic Environmental Impact Statement III, Revere Sugar Site, Brooklyn, Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment. For Alee King Risen & Fleming, Inc. (CEQR-Generic)
- 1992a Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Maujer Street Community Development Plan. For the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Office of Development. CEQR 89-096K
- 1992b Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Scholes Street Urban Renewal Area Housing Site. For the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Office of Development. CEQR 89-179K

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (Betsy Kearns, Cece Kirkorian & Julie Cowing)

- 1990 Archaeological Assessment Report For The Polytechnic Residence Hall, Brooklyn, New York. For Alee King Risen & Fleming, Inc. CEQR 90-186K

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (Betsy Kearns, Cece Kirkorian & Nancy Dickinson)

- 1989a Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report for the Long Island College Hospital Parking Garage Site, Brooklyn, New York. For Alee King Risen & Fleming, Inc. CEQR 87-013K

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- 1991 Archaeological Assessment Of The Taaffe Place Pumping Station and Park Avenue Force Main Project. For Alee King Risen & Fleming, Inc. CEQR 91-162K

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- 1988 Stage 1A Documentary Study, Transitional Housing For The Homeless,

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Pickman, Arnold

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- 1985 Metropolitan Technology Center, Brooklyn, New York, Phase I: Cultural Resources Summary for McKeown and Franz, Inc. CEQR 82-248

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Preservation and Development New York, New York. CEQR  
# 94HPD037K.

# SLUM LORE

*Here we are, surrounded* by the "utterly profligate refuse of humanity, . . . miserable looking buildings, . . . squalid-looking women, brutal men with black eyes and disfigured faces." This is a "square of leprous houses," populated by "cramped hunches full of sleeping negroes," not to mention fecund Irish women and beautiful but hook-nosed Jews. The overall effect? "A sight to make the blood slowly congeal and the heart to grow fearful and cease its beating. . . . Hell itself."

More precisely, we are in Five Points, the notorious downtown neighborhood that sprouted just northeast of City Hall in the 1800s. Though it was leveled a century ago, Five Points's reputation has survived—flourished, in fact—to become a fixture in the city's mythology, a stand-in for slums the way that Tammany has become shorthand for corruption. The words of 19th-century authors, like those quoted above, have been handed down virtually intact to modern-day writers of city almanacs and histories. Five Points is our ancestral slum.

Five Points's reputation has even made its way into popular fiction. In Caleb Carr's *The Alienist*, for instance, it is portrayed as a place of ceaseless deprivation, where chronically drunk, abusive immigrants drive their young sons into prostitution—left to be lured, tortured, and slaughtered by a serial killer. Hell itself, to be sure.

Or maybe not. That, at least, is the hypothesis of a team of 14 scientists—historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists—studying an unprecedented body of evidence: more than 850,000 artifacts recently excavated from a swath of Five Points. And, by evaluating those artifacts along with insurance maps, census data, and city directories from the 1850s, they are sketching an unprecedented portrait of Five Points, one that its chroniclers would find unrecognizable. As the scientists reconstruct pottery from shards and pore over records, they are coming to believe that Five Points was anything but a depraved quarter populated exclusively by perps and victims; instead, they say, it was a vibrant community and the birthplace of urban working-class life.

"We're trying to get beyond the prejudices that have distorted previous accounts," says Dr. Rebecca Yamin, chief archaeologist for the project. "We recognize that the physical and sanitary conditions were extreme, but people were struggling to live respectable lives."

Yamin and her team, who work in the sub-basement of a lesser World Trade Center building, are employees of John Miller Associates, a Philadelphia-based archaeology and architecture firm. JMA was hired by the U.S. General Services Administration to analyze the artifacts, which were excavated in late 1991 and 1992 after a block bounded by Pearl and Worth streets and Park Row was selected as the site of a new courthouse. Federal and city laws require excavation at construction sites known to have historic value.

In fact, the Five Points dig was largely overshadowed by the early 1991 discovery of the African Burial Ground just up the street at Duane and Broadway, where a federal office building was going up. Controversy pushed that project onto the front page, with battles erupting over who would excavate and interpret the hundreds of graves, which revealed so much about the life of New York's early black communities. At Five Points, sci-

entists are interested in comparing artifacts to the avalanche of century-old "interpretation" from missionaries, reformers, and scribes, who usually examined Five Points with a lens distorted to vindicate their many causes. By and large, those intruders believed in a simple equation: Poverty equals immorality; and those living in slums must be rescued, or damned. The slum and its occupants must be destroyed to be saved.

Many of the Five Points artifacts are important not so much for the harrowing stories they evoke, but for the normal, day-to-day life they reflect. In a larger sense, they challenge not only the myth of Five Points, but how we think about the neighborhoods we call slums today. In movies and books, politics and news reports, outsiders alternately romanticize or demonize slums, using them as iconic backdrops for any number of morality plays. But as the Five Points dig suggests, slums are much more deeply com-

plex to some of the country's wealthiest families, including the Lorillards, who were tobaccoists, and the Beekmans, who were bankers. But at the end of the 18th century, tanneries and slaughterhouses crowded the pond's shores, and by 1803, it was so polluted, the city's Common Council ordered that it be landfilled. Ten years later, it was paved over, with Centre Street running up its middle. Even so, the site remained low and marshy, and buildings that were erected over the former pond began to sink and sink. The elite fled.

But not entirely. They remained as landlords, subdividing their erswhile mansions and commercial buildings for rent to the growing population of immigrants, freed slaves, and native-born workers who were moving into the area, making Five Points residents perhaps the city's first tenants given the time-honored privilege of lining the pockets of the rich. Five Points

was first in another way: By 1810, 25 per cent of the Sixth Ward (which included the area that would eventually be called Five Points) was listed in the federal census as black or "alien"—the highest concentration citywide. New York's first multicultural community was born.

It wasn't until 1817, when the city extended Anthony Street (now Worth) east from Centre, that the five-point intersection that came to mark the neighborhood emerged. Landowners eventually tore down their subdivided mansions and replaced them with even more densely populated tenements. Even factories were converted into close, damp apartments. Shops and manufacturing crammed back lots, but it was the first-floor groceries (liquor stores) that became the neighborhood's trade mark. Within a decade, Five Points was synonymous with unseemly behavior.

In 1828, a city board complained that the Points had become a "rendezvous for thieves and prostitutes." In 1829, when some nearby property owners demanded that a cluster of "ruinous" buildings in the Points be razed and replaced with a jail, the Common Council gave New Yorkers an early—and still pertinent—civics lesson: The legislators wanted to keep the buildings because their liquor-store tenants produced "great rent.... What

Five Points circa 1827, lithograph from *Valentine's Manual* (1855)

plicated than most outsiders fathom. They are crucibles for what is best and worst about city life: Rife with exploitation and inequity, these neighborhoods are also cradles of diversity and cultures that enrich a city in subtle ways that most of us rarely notice.

It's an exaggeration to expect that a basement full of trash dug up from cisterns and privies can fully unveil what a century of municipal mythmaking has obscured. But even the most unsurprising finds—like dozens of packages of straight pins and buttons in a neighborhood of tailors—undermine the legend that Five Points residents got by solely on crime and their wiles. More fundamentally, the Five Points artifacts beg the question: How are slums used, by those who live in them, and those who leer at them?

To the unending parade of people who came to gawk, Five Points was a world of mother-daughter prostitution teams, unspeakably filthy Irish, and members of "Ethiopian tribes" who, police learned, were better tamed by a club to their tender shins than to their padded, woolly heads. Charles Dickens—who refused to enter the district with fewer than two policemen—suggested in his 1842 *American Notes for General Circulation* that the local yard pigs must have wondered why their masters didn't grunt and walk on all fours.

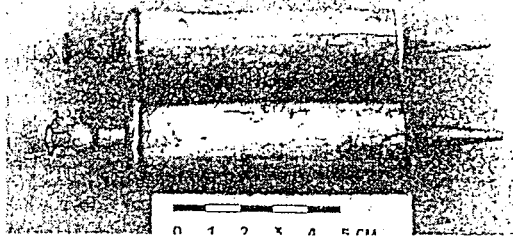
While it's true that Five Points never was much of a pious place, it did begin on a once-rustic spot near the 46-acre Collect Pond, at what is today the site of the criminal courts building. In postrevolutionary New York, the Collect's shores were home

**OPPOSITE:** Among the 850,000 artifacts found at Five Points (from top to bottom, left to right): **FIRST ROW:** bone syringes for health use, from 472 Pearl Street. **SECOND ROW:** two packages of copper straight pins in decorated paper packs, post-1850, found at 8 Baxter Street; several redware and whiteware kitchen vessels, also from 472 Pearl. **THIRD ROW:** midcentury creamer with Staffordshire potter's mark, found at 8 Baxter. **FOURTH ROW:** section of a plate memorializing the

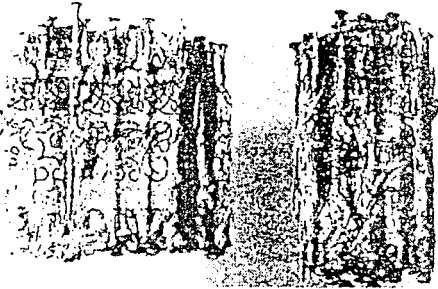
pennant-winning 1889 New York Giants (plate was found in fill from the site's upper strata); clay tobacco pipes from around 1850, probably English-made, from 110 Chatham Street. **FIFTH ROW:** Staffordshire teacup picturing Father Mathew, founder of the temperance movement, mid-to-late 1800s, from 472 Pearl. **SIXTH ROW:** Assorted tooth- and hairbrushes found throughout the site; a decorative hair comb, from 8 Baxter. *Artifacts photographed by Daville Nelson and Paul Reckner, provided by the U.S. General Services Administration.*



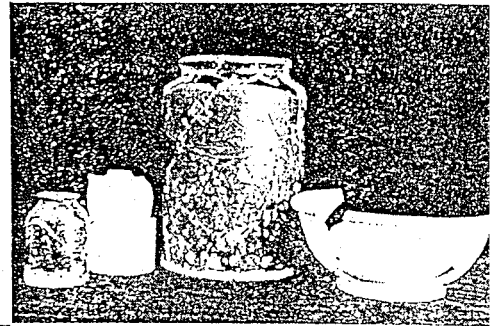
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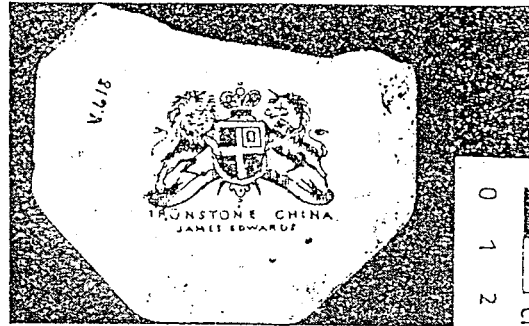
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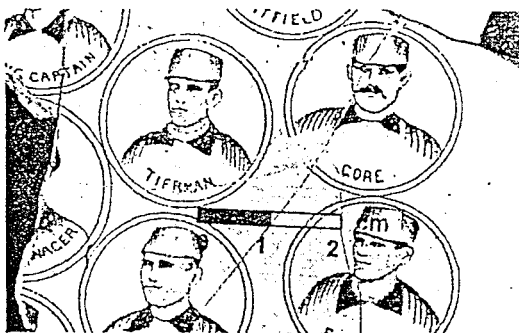
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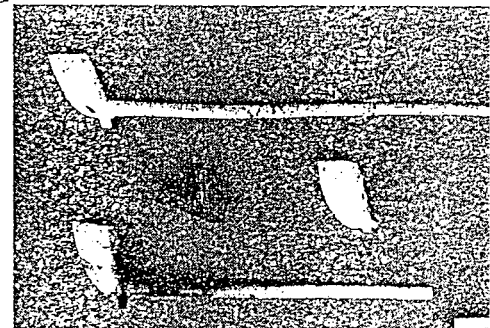
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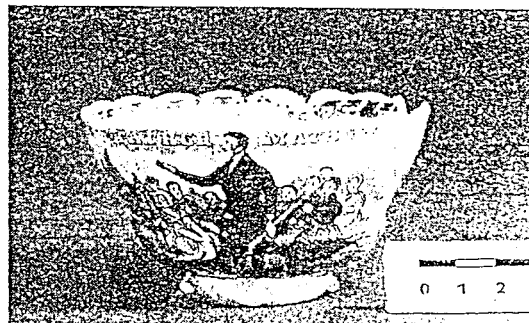
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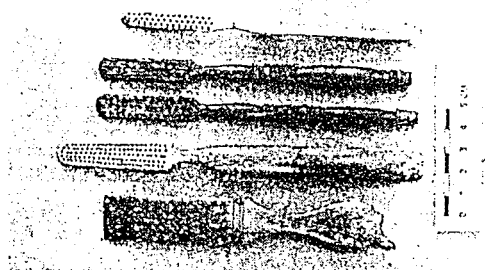
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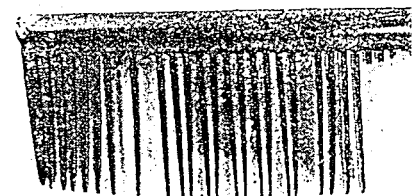
*That Just Won't*



*Go Away*



BY J. A. LOBBIA



has been considered as the Nuisance has in reality increased the Value of the property."

By the 1840s, most Five Points blacks had been driven out by nativist-inspired race riots, though famous "black and tan" bars and dance halls flourished. At midcentury, Five Points was a haven for European immigrants. In 1855—the period from which most of the artifacts come—the Sixth Ward remained the most heavily alien: 75 per cent of its residents were foreign born.

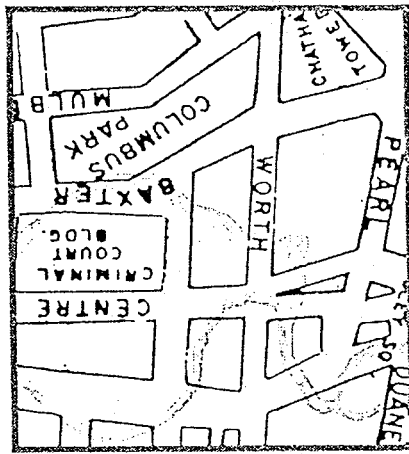
All of New York City, in fact, was undergoing convulsive growth, mostly among immigrants. To a city that has spent much of its life struggling with the question of otherness—foreign-born versus native-born residents, minorities versus the majority, dominant culture versus subcultures—Five Points quickly became New York's first and most obvious locus of outsiders.

Class distinctions grew, too. The best-paying jobs—butchering, printing, and the skilled crafts—generally went to native-born and unionized workers. Immigrants were more tenuously employed in jobs likely to be whisked away by a rough winter or one of the chronic depressions of the mid 1800s. Income disparity was becoming pronounced: Between 1843 and 1856, the annual average per capita income in the city's three richest wards rose \$300; in the poorest, only \$41. One observer warned that New York "no longer [has] a middling class."

In short, the city was becoming a complicated place, and to New York's monied and native-born residents, this exploding, foreign-born proletariat was its most menacing feature. Five Points was simultaneously the worst example of its ruin and the best vehicle for decoding it.

As such, the neighborhood drew crusaders of all sorts. The Ladies' Home Mission, a Protestant group that established its headquarters in Five Points in 1851, blamed Catholicism

and its presumed attendant drunkenness for the ruin of the poor; hard work and conversion would be their salvation. Civic reformer John Griscom decried the unsanitary conditions in tenements as part of his campaign for a city health police force. *New York Tribune* reporter George Foster was particularly fixated on prostitution, especially among children. He un-



Five Points grew near the banks of the Collect Pond (in background). The site was at the modern intersection of Worth and Baxter streets.

doubtedly sold many papers with his rants against a dazzling array of moral turpitude.

The newsman wasn't alone in his mercenary motives. Samuel Halliday, a missionary from the Five Points House of Industry, visited every apartment on three key Points streets in 1860 and concluded in the mission's monthly report: "To me it is a matter of surprise that in the majority of these families there is so much that is decent and, even respectable, for a very large proportion of these families, though poor, are virtuous and

comparatively cleanly: Some of them are models of neatness." In 1861, pushing his book *The Little Street Sweeper, or Life Among the Poor*, Halliday recast Five Points as a "sink of pollution.... Great good has been done by [the House of Industry], but the population about the whole neighborhood still is as bad as it can well be."

New York in the 1850s had no shortage of slums. Due east from Five Points was Cherry Street, which had degenerated from being the city's fanciest colonial address to a waterfront dive. Just north from that was Corlear's Hook, whose reputation for crowding, brawling, and prostitution could rival that of Five Points. So why did the Points become the city's pet slum? Like so many things in New York, one factor was crucial: location.

Although its population was one of outsiders, Five Points was geographically inside, sandwiched in between the popular Bowery beer gardens and elite Broadway theaters, and sitting just atop City Hall and Wall Street. This was the slum New Yorkers couldn't avoid. Its proximity to Park Row newspapers, too, made it the slum editors couldn't resist, sending reporters to lurk about its menacing and exotic quarters. With 14 competing dailies in 1850 and the penny-press war going full force, tabloid journalism spent much of its infancy telling lurid tales of city life.

Before long, Five Points's reputation as dangerous was itself a draw. Uptowners might "dare" themselves to tour the neighborhood, the way a bunch of frat boys might cruise through the South Bronx or Harlem today. And people simply looking for more raucous entertainment than their own neighborhoods offered might end up in Five Points. It became the Times Square of its day, a legend in its own time. By the

1850s, for instance, lore counted a murder a night in the Old Brewery, a building that in 1837 had been converted by a wealthy family to a "rabbit warren" of apartments, rented primarily by Irish and Italian immigrants. Storytellers apparently disregarded facts that counted an average of only 29 murders citywide in those years.

Five Points was not just a prototype of urban ills; it was also a laboratory for schemes to solve them. Some reformers proposed ridding the city of the poor by shipping them to the West; one state agency suggested that the poor be put to work moving a woodpile from one end of an almshouse yard to another—without pay. The state's goal was simple: "All able-bodied poor must work whether profitable labor is available or not." Modern strategies, like welfare or "planned shrinkage"—which aims to rid cities of their poor by making urban life unlivable—sound not so vaguely reminiscent of early civic "improvement" campaigns.

Underscoring these grand plans was a fundamental belief that the poor were to blame for their condition. Ignored were some stark facts of evolving urban life, namely, that many of these problems were social, not individual. Personal corruption did not account for poverty; depressions, low wages, seasonal layoffs, and outlandish rents did. Epidemics of cholera did not erupt because the souls of Five Points tenants were lacking; they erupted because city sanitation was inadequate.

Coupled with these civic shortcomings were the demands of a growing urban capitalism. By 1860, New York was the nation's top manufacturer, and its industrialists required an easily exploited labor pool, particularly one that could counter the growing demands of nativist trade unions. The underclass had become as necessary as it was despised.

A city unable to cope with explosive growth; a burgeoning industrial sector that needed abundant, cheap labor; and the seeds of a predatory real estate market that continues to shape New York today: All these ingredients helped create the slum at Five Points. An urban template had been made.

Anyone who knows the "history" of Five Points would expect an archaeological dig to yield little but corpses, weapons, and liquor bottles. Instead, Yamin's team began reconstructing several imported English tea sets and condiment jars, matched dinnerware and serving pieces, and decorative glassware. It's no wonder they were thrown off.

"When we first began to evaluate these things we thought, 'Are we in the right place? Is this Five Points?'" The doubt stemmed in part from the inexactitude of Five Points's borders—the name applied not only to the intersection, but to the whole neighborhood. But it was also due to the belief that Five Points was a community with little to leave behind—a belief the artifacts challenged. "Clearly, this is the working class, not the down-and-out," Yamin says. "This does not look like an impoverished culture."

Primary documents, in particular a detailed 1855 state census, and annual city directories that list residents by address and occupation, helped put the artifacts in context and ultimately allowed Yamin's team to consider a different kind of Five Points than what legend held. The pairing sometimes confirmed past accounts of the neighborhood but, more often, cast doubts.

According to the state census, for example, Five Points was an overwhelmingly Irish community whose residents had been here for five years or less. Germans were also making tremendous inroads. The rest of the population included American-born natives, blacks, "mulattoes," Italians, Poles, and a smattering of Prussians, East and West Indians. The number of men and women was roughly equal, and the average age was 23, undoubtedly contributing to the area's energy. None of this disputes either contemporary writings about Five Points or the artifacts themselves; in fact, among them are Chinese spoons, seals with Hebrew inscriptions, pipes with Gaelic and German inscriptions, a Spanish coin, and cowrie shells, which are usually associated with Africans.

More at odds with images of Five Points inhabitants as thieves and beggars is information about work life. Census records and the directories show that most Five Points residents worked on the docks or in local factories making carriages, umbrellas, looking glasses, shoes, cigar boxes, and furniture, or in the fast-developing ready-made clothing industry. The average monthly wage for men was \$38; women and children made much less and were even more precariously employed. Quantities of buttons, needles, and an array of fabrics are among the artifacts that suggest the prevalence of tailors and home piece workers.

As for personal health and cleanliness—attributes that were supposedly lacking in Five Points—there are medicine bottles, syringes used for hygiene, hair combs, and toothbrushes, including one with a bone handle inscribed "Extra Fine Paris France."

Not all the artifacts contradict popular accounts of the neighborhood. Nearly 1000 clay pipes were found, fitting the profile of a working-class neighborhood at a time when pipe smoking was so common, cartoonists used a clenched cigar stump or pipe as an idiom for working-class immigrants. The pipes reveal much about their owners' loyalties. Many are inscribed with Irish nationalist symbols, some supporting, others against, home rule. While most are clay penny pipes, there are a few fancy finds, including one with a bowl carved into a jester's head. American Eagles—a symbol of patriotism—are common, but could mean an attempt at assimilation as well as a wry use of a resented icon.

"Somewhere in every culture, there's a place where politics, work life, and ethnicity

meet," says Paul Reckner, who is interpreting the collection for Yamin's team. "A lot of the time in Five Points, that's in the pipes—the Shamrocks and harps, the home-rule slogans, the eagles. It's a question of how you want to identify yourself in your new home."

But perhaps the best evidence to refute Five Points's reputation as totally destitute is the abundance of artifacts and documents that suggest people had some disposable income. City directories and maps show that hundreds of stores and groceries lined the streets and nearby Chatham Square, at the foot of the Bowery. Ready-made-clothes stores proliferated along the Bowery, secondhand shops on Baxter, and cheap furniture outlets and jewelry shops throughout the neighborhood. In fact, even the *Tribune's* Foster couldn't help but enthuse about Crown's, a central Five Points store teeming with fresh vegetables, kindling wood, and molasses. From its rafters hung hams, sausages, and strings

of onions. In one corner were "small cakes" and three-cent pies of apple, pumpkin, or nutmeg.

Besides buying goods, Five Pointers spent money at the beer halls, theaters, and dance halls, saloons that rounded out a social life that centered on ethnic societies, volunteer fire companies, and the political clubs—part of the Tammany—that they fed.

And they obviously ate well, almost certainly much better than they had in their native homes. The dig uncovered an abundance of professionally butchered beef and lamb bones, suggesting that Five Pointers could afford to eat meat regularly—a find that is backed up by many letters from immigrants who wrote home boasting about having meat three times a day (including one 1852 letter from an Irish-born box maker bragging that he wears "as good a suit of clothes as any Gentleman in the City of Cork, and twenty dollars' worth of a watch in my pocket"). And the bones of a New World

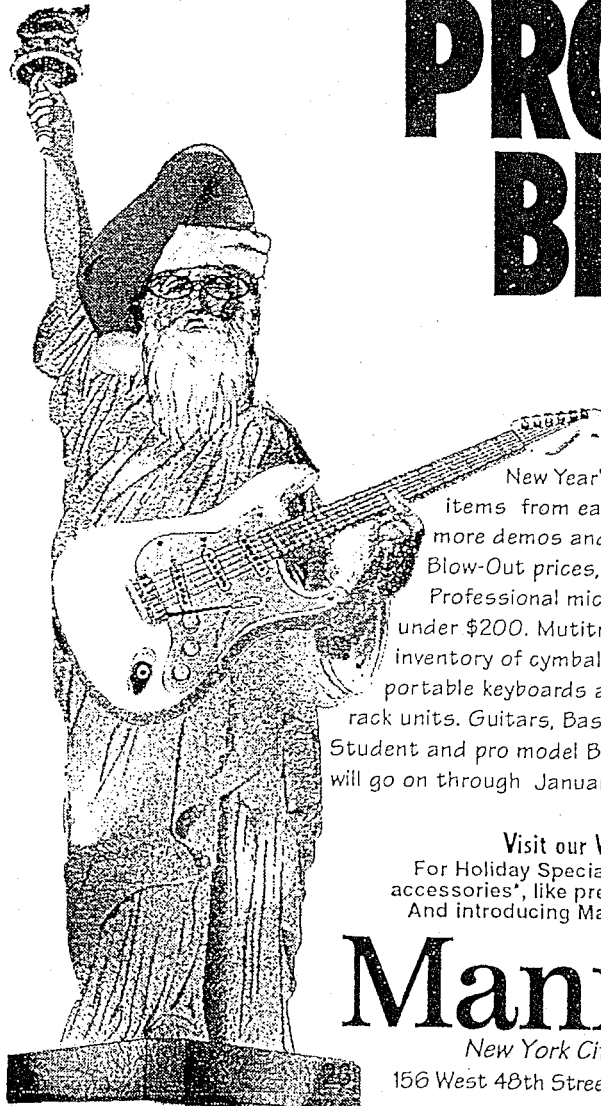
Cebu monkey? We looked in the city directories for the time," says Yamin, "and found dozen organ grinders living on Baxter Street."

Yamin considers a tea cup imprinted with the image of Father Mathew to be the art that best dispels the Five Points stereotype. Father Mathew founded the temperance movement in Ireland in 1838 and later traveled New York to spread the word.

But the cup also raises a problem at the heart of archaeological interpretation: The presence of an artifact doesn't necessarily reveal, or why it was used. The Father Mathew could've been the cherished belonging of a Irish teetotaler, or a whiskey cup for some making a little joke. Hypothesizing is at heart of science, and results more often in possibilities than firm conclusions. It's the possibilities that intrigue Yamin and her staff.

In fact, in a brief paper, Yamin and assistant archaeologist Claudia Milne use a single

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fact—an English tea set—to pose an intentionally unlikely prospect. Citing a Foster passage in which he declares that “it is not unusual there for a mother and her two or three daughters—all of course prostitutes—to receive their ‘men’ at the same time in the same room,” Yamin and Milne suggest this scene: “We must, therefore, imagine the thieves and prostitutes serving tea to their visitors on Staffordshire with the image of Lafayette contemplating Franklin’s Tomb.”

Five Points began to come to an end in 1894, when reformer Jacob Riis convinced the city to undertake one of its first slum clearance programs. The project was intended to eradicate “the Bend”—a crook in lower Mulberry Street that was home to throngs of Southern Italians and literally around the corner from the Five Points. In 1897, the city replaced the packed tenements with Mulberry

Bend Park, “reforming” thousands of immigrants out their homes. In 1911, the name was changed to Columbus Park in their honor.

In 1919 the heart of Five Points was demolished when the New York County Courthouse (now the state supreme court) was built on Worth and Baxter streets (previously the site of the Ladies’ Home Mission and, before that, the Old Brewery). In 1928, Governor Al Smith laid the cornerstone for the New York State Office Building across Worth. With the criminal courts on the site of Collect Pond, and a new federal courthouse atop the Five Points excavation, a neighborhood that came to stand for lawlessness has been replaced by institutions of order. In the end, the ideology of reformers and ministers prevailed. They had “healed” poverty by eradicating a neighborhood.

But even a century later, Five Points continues to hold its allure. There are occasional

Sunday-afternoon walking tours, brisk sales of Luc Sante’s *Low Life*, lurid descriptions in city guidebooks, and a nearby plaque on the New York City Heritage Trail commemorating Five Points as once the “most dangerous” part of the city.

Surrounding Columbus Park are some tenements that survived Riis (who is himself part of the city’s mythology, with his unwavering insistence on reforming how the other half lived overshadowing the fact that the Dane was no small bigot who didn’t seem to much like the people he purported to help). Now, the neighborhood is part of Chinatown, a community whose “otherness” is perhaps more impenetrable than any other in the city. Every morning, elderly Asians come to the park to practice tai chi or mind their infant grandchildren, whose parents are away, presumably at work, many in sweatshops doing the same jobs that once oc-

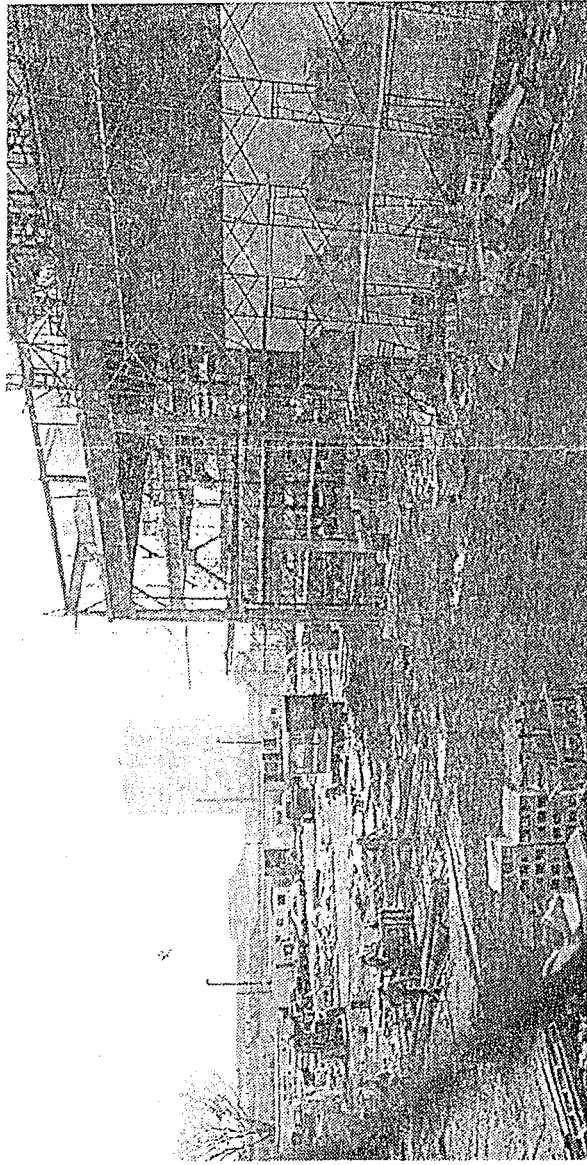
cupied Five Points residents.

The cycle is ironic: Scientists study excavated trash trying to decipher one culture at the same time that another, very similar one thrives in the same space. As the work on Five Points proceeds, it’s hard not to ask what primitive notions continue to shape our ideas about poor people and their communities.

Indeed, the lessons of Five Points are not merely historical. When Nevt Gingrich calls for the comeback of a sense of public shame for teenage mothers, or when Rudy Giuliani devises policies intended to drive out the city’s underclass, they are taking aim at people who live in modern versions of Five Points, from Mott Haven to Bed-Stuy. Here once again is the intractable instinct to see the underclass in caricature rather than in complexity. The politics of today’s right have not advanced over the rhetoric of the 19th century.

J E R S E Y A N A

# A Frustrating Final Chapter in a 19th-Century Graveyard's History



Photographs by Frank C. O'Donnell for The New York Times

Remains dating to the 1800's from the cemetery that made way for the Performing Arts Center are in storage, awaiting a study that may not take place. William I. Roberts 4th, an archaeologist, checking the storage boxes.

By DAVID W. CHEN

NEWARK  
In November 1993, archaeologists exhumed the remains of 21 bodies from the Trinity Church Cemetery to pave the way for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The plan was to study the remains, dating to the early 1800's, from what was believed to be one of the state's first integrated burial grounds.

Two years later, the cemetery is gone, construction of the arts center is well under way, and the remains and their accompanying cultural artifacts — jewelry, shoes, coffin chunks — are still stored in gray boxes and a large freezer in a small storage basement near Military Park, waiting to be analyzed. "It's very depressing," said Paula M. Crowley, laboratory director of Greenhouse Consultants, the archaeological firm hired by the Performing Arts Center. "We figured this would be for a few months, not a few years."

Now, it appears that the analysis will never be done. With the approval of state and Federal authorities, the

Performing Arts Center wants the artifacts sent to either the Newark Museum or the Newark Public Library and the remains returned to the church, where they would be cremated and reinterred.

The reason, the Performing Arts Center says, is that further work would amount to a historical fishing expedition for an archaeological project already beset by high costs. But archaeologists contend that valuable insights could be gained into the dietary, medicinal and other habits of 19th-century Newark residents, black and white alike.

"There's no sense in doing archaeological work without doing a subsequent analysis and report," said William Sandy, who worked on the project with Greenhouse Consultants. "I think this sets a terrible precedent for historic preservation."

Gail Thompson, the center's vice president for design and construction, said that that argument missed the point.

"We discovered how difficult it was to derive the benefit of the information we thought we could gain, and the potential fruitlessness of going in there," she said. "When we weighed against all the other issues

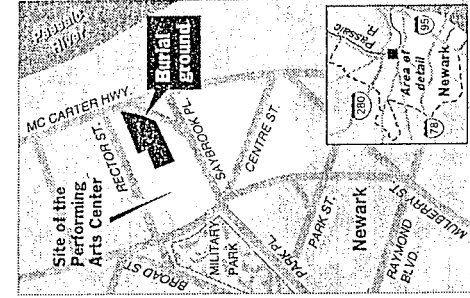
— the project's benefit to the city of Newark, the schedule impact — it just didn't make sense."

No one thinks the New Jersey Performing Arts Center should not be built; to the contrary, archaeologists, city officials and business leaders are eagerly awaiting the \$165 million center, now scheduled to open next fall, as a main ingredient in the effort to revitalize Newark. But the cemetery site itself has had a long history of exhumation, even exasperation, perhaps.

Twice before, in the mid-1940's and the mid-1960's, there were exhumations to make way for new construction or a parking lot; the remains were reinterred elsewhere.

The 1993 exhumation, with corollary archaeological work, was necessitated by the Performing Arts Center. So the State Historic Preservation Office, the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Performing Arts Center agreed to study about 60 of the 250 or so bodies believed to be interred in an area covering 250 by 650 feet.

Initial findings, like a stone family crypt and glass-window "viewing ports" on coffins, indicated that many of those buried were well-to-do



The New York Times

white Episcopalians. But reports suggesting that several black people might also be buried there prompted local groups, including the Council for the Heritage of Africans in Newark (Chain), to urge more anthropological work, similar to that at the African Burial Ground in Manhattan.

But problems dogged the project from the start. In a letter to state officials dated Nov. 5, 1993, the Archaeological Society of New Jersey expressed concerns over what it said were "tremendous improprieties" and "mismanagement and insufficient preliminary investigation" on the part of both the Performing Arts Center and Greenhouse Consultants.

In late 1993, work was halted because of financial considerations. Almost half of the \$1.2 million Federal grant earmarked for a public plaza in the arts center had been spent on archaeological work, with one-third of the cemetery plot still unexplored.

In January, that unexplored area was bulldozed, and whatever remains were still there were cremated, angering archaeologists and city residents.

To analyze the 21 exhumed remains would require perhaps \$100,000 more, archaeologists say. But city officials argue that not much more information can be gleaned, in part because the church already has some records on those who were buried. Hence the suggestion to cremate and reinter the remains next year to observe the 250th anniversary of the church.

On a recent trip, he opened the freezer, revealing trouser and hair samples wrapped in plastic bags. He opened a box containing a cranium and other bone fragments. Next to him was a box with the label: "Child's Burial. Not Fully Assessed."



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
100 OLD SLIP NEW YORK, NY 10005 TEL: 212-487-6800 FAX: 212-487-6723

December 6, 1995

Dear Colleagues:

A draft scope of work for a needs assessment study for creation of a Geographic Information System, archaeological sensitivity model of New York City is enclosed.

As we move into the information age, computerized records are used with increasing frequency to enable identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of properties. The draft scope of work serves as a basis to initiate a discussion on how to best achieve development of a GIS system for managing the City's archaeological, historic, and cultural heritage.

Your comments, suggestions and strategies on how to improve and implement this scope of work would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Pagano".

Daniel N. Pagano, Ph.D.  
Director of Archaeology

# DRAFT - SCOPE OF WORK FOR A NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY OF LPC FOR CREATION OF A GIS OR PAPER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY MODEL OF NEW YORK CITY

A study of existing data, data requirements, possible uses and costs of a proposed GIS should be undertaken as a basis for preliminary planning for implementation of a GIS archaeological sensitivity model of New York City. Such a study can be conducted by LPC or by a consultant in consultation with LPC. The study should address the cost and feasibility of creating both a paper and GIS system addressing both Native American and historic resources. The following are draft specifications for development of a scope of work for preparation of an archaeological sensitivity model of New York City which includes five boroughs covering over 300 square miles.

## I. CONDUCT ASSESSMENT OF DATA NEEDS

### A. Conduct analysis of information needs for information purposes.

1. Provide a description of the types and significance of archaeological resources which can be expected to be identified within the city.
2. Provide a comprehensive bibliography of land-use histories, maps and source documents consisting of the necessary data for defining relevant study units and analytical themes important to understanding the history, prehistory, and material culture of New York City.
3. Define key questions and study units (historic contexts) for understanding historic and prehistoric settlement of New York City (with consideration for NYSHPO historic contexts) to be addressed by GIS system, and specify data needed to answer and address them.
4. Prepare a flow chart with a description of how LPC does spatial analysis and with what data.
5. Describe types of spatial data required to meet information needs to assess a property for historic and archaeological potential.
6. Conduct document analysis and prepare report with information flow charts.

### B. Categorize and evaluate existing data bases (see C. 4. below).

### C. Provide specifications for the new database to be developed as follows:

1. essential components of each data layer
2. specify options for definition of look up table and attribute table data for questions to be answered
3. provide description and illustration of hardware and software resolution options according to scale, levels of detail, and generalization acceptable
4. data source and quality - existing digital or analog data (LPC Environmental Review Tracking System (ERTS), LPC paper files, NPS-NRIS National Register Information System, USGS maps DOI, Buildings Department CD

ROM, BIS, DCP COGIS files, DEP water/sewer files, NYSHPO/DEP files; 19th century sensitivity models, WPA shoreline map of NYC at DGS, boring/engineering data), aerial photographs, ground truth, etc.

5. integration of various data sources

6. provisions for updating

D. Provide technical requirements analysis with identification of system's major elements including hardware, software, institutional component (space, personnel), data access restrictions, and cooperative/license agreements.

E. Provide a report addressing the above referenced items in detail with description of a range of options for budget, timetable and implementation plans.

## II. ASSESS THE INSTITUTION'S DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A. Describe interest, funding, overall potential uses of system. Conduct a LPC, City Agency, general public and archaeological professional user needs assessment.

B. Describe what is and is not possible with GIS. Define project needs, goals, desired results, various options and their feasibility.

C. Explain, and elaborate upon the following list of potential advantages of GIS technology.

1. facilitates inventory and management of cultural (historical and archaeological) resources
2. provides for the integration of vast amounts of spatial and attribute data - enables decision making without requiring archaeological research
3. overhead and cost of maintaining paper file systems and need for further information to clarify archaeological potential of a site surpasses cost of implementing and updating a cultural resources GIS
4. speeds ability to review sites for archaeological potential by being able to access existing survey data quickly
5. the spatial distribution of existing sites and study areas will become clearer once displayed on a screen which will help indicate gaps in records and lack of surveys
6. GIS is ideal for a city-wide cultural resource data base as it can provide a comprehensive system for the management of large, diverse, unwieldy geographic data sets obtained from virtually any data source (site files, conventional maps, aerial and street photographs, remotely sensed imagery, etc.)

D. Provide a report addressing the above referenced items in detail.

October 6, 1995 H:\GIS\GISNOTES.DNP

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - January 24, - March 20, 1996

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Wrought in Common Clay: A Century of New York Stoneware	exhibit		1/19 - 4/14	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	
Human Occupation at Petrus (E. Crete): From Early Minoan IIB Settlement to Late Minoan I Palatial Center	Prof. Metaxia Tsipopoulou	7:45 PM	Wed. 1/24	Institute of Fine Arts, 1 E 78 St.	212-772-4500	free
New York Then and Now: Upper West Side	exhibit		opens 2/7	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	
Anthropology and the Academy: Reflection, Issues and New Visions (Dinner Talk)	Eric Wolf & James Peacock	6 PM	Thurs 2/9	New York Academy of Sciences	212-838-0230 x.234	\$22 member \$27 non \$11 student
Restructuring the Academy: Implications for a Proactive Anthropology	symposium	8 AM - 5:15PM	Fri 2/10	New York Academy of Sciences	212-838-0230 x.234	\$15 member \$20 non \$10 student
SIA Annual Conference on New England Archaeology	conference		Fri 2/10	Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH	603-225-6649	
Conserving Artifacts from the African Burial Ground	Cheryl LaRoche	12 noon	Tues 2/13	New York Unearthed, 17 State Street	212-748-8590	free
What Became of Pott Bakers Hill	J. Geismar, C. LaRoche, C. Milne, & C. Neville	1 PM	Sat 2/24	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	free with admission
Excavations at Ashkelon	Dr. Lawrence Stager	8:15 PM	Thurs 2/29	92nd Street Y	212-996-1100	\$9
Women in and Through Urban Archaeology	L. Cook, C. LaRoche, N. Rothschild, & D. Wall	1 - 3 PM	Sat 3/2	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	\$5 PANYC & museum members, students & seniors; \$7 others
Archaeology of Women's Roles in 19th Century New York	Diana Wall	12 noon	Tues 3/19	New York Unearthed, 17 State Street	212-748-8590	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.

# 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:

- a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D.) from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classical studies or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.
- b. Applicants must have at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation 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 by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).
- 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 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.
- e. Applicants should submit a statement of purpose that includes their interest in New York City archaeology. Members of PANYC have a commitment to protect and preserve the city's archaeological resources and to support research and encourage publication of information recovered from those resources. Members will not engage in illegal or unethical conduct involving archaeological matters. In applying for membership it is expected that an individual is in agreement with these goals. PANYC is not an accrediting organization and is not to be used as such.

Application for membership shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the applicant's resume or *vita*.

We invite anyone interested in New York City archaeology to subscribe to our Newsletter and to attend our general membership meetings and annual Public Symposium.

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to John Killeen, PANYC Secretary, 58 Garnsey Pl., Belford, NJ 07718.

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NAME

BUSINESS

HOME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC (Dues \$15) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter (Fee \$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of additional donation to PANYC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

## PANYC NEWSLETTER

Robert Fitts  
401 East 74th St. Apt 21A  
New York NY 10021