



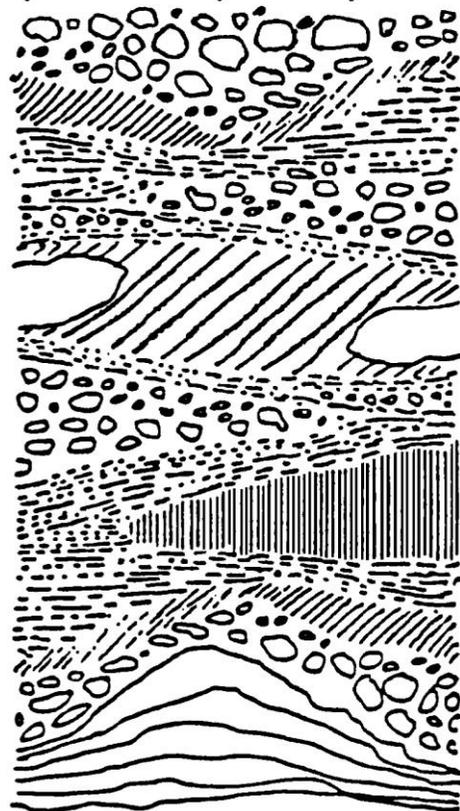
*Symposium on the*

# **ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY**

***Portals to the Past:  
Archaeology at New York City's  
Historic Houses***

**Thirtieth Annual PANYC Public Program  
Museum of the City of NY  
Saturday, April 24, 2010**

*open to the general public*



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC), is a non-profit organization of local professional archaeologists concerned with conserving and protecting the archaeological and historical resources of New York City and educating the community about 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 Zadigian, Manager of Community Programs, and PANYC's Public Program Committee: Joan Geismar, Meredith Linn, Jessica Streibel MacLean, and Linda Stone. We also thank Chris Ricciardi for his photograph of the hallway from Van Cortlandt Manor, used for publicity for this program. We especially thank all who participated in the program and all who attended.

## **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM**

Presented by the Professional Archaeologists of NYC (PANYC) and the Museum of the City of New York

### ***PORTALS TO THE PAST: ARCHAEOLOGY AT NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC HOUSES***

**1:00** *Welcome*

**Meredith Linn, Program Chair**

#### **1:15** *An Archaeology of Freedom at King Manor in Jamaica, Queens*

**Christopher Matthews, Hofstra University**

After the revolution a widespread desire for liberty demanded a radical change in society from the paternalism of the colonial era, which in New York and the rest of the colonies was based in part in slavery. At King Manor, in Jamaica, Queens, archaeology reveals how new ideas about freedom were built by the Kings onto the landscape they created after 1805. Connecting these findings to the well-known anti-slavery federalist politics of Rufus King, this presentation explores how the material world helped Americans understand and experience freedom from the perspective of the elite. For King, freedom was to be found in creating a new basis for the relationship between self-possessed individuals.

#### **1:35** *Archaeology at Weeksville's Historic Hunterfly Road Houses, Brooklyn*

**Joan H. Geismar, Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., LLC**

The Hunterfly Road houses, in what is now the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, are the core of a new major cultural center. After the Civil War, these four small frame houses were home to free blacks and were occupied into the late 1960s. Fostered by the late Joan Maynard, episodic archaeological investigations that began in 1978 and ended in 2003 focused on when the houses were constructed and on the lives of their occupants. Recent artifact analysis combined with historical reconstruction provides context for these lives and offers some answers to the question of "when."

#### **1:55** *Minding the Store: Towards a History of Immigrant Shopkeeping on the Lower East Side, Manhattan*

**Christopher Neville, Lower East Side Tenement Museum**

For twenty years, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum has been researching and interpreting the lives of generations of immigrant families, all through the lens of an 1863 tenement building on Orchard Street. For "Minding the Store," the museum's next major public

exhibit, an interdisciplinary team is currently at work reconstructing the histories of the shops and shopkeepers that occupied the building's basement level. This talk will present a behind-the-scenes look at the process of gathering and synthesizing physical and documentary evidence, ranging from paint layers to oral histories, plasterboard to photographs, archival records to scorched beams.

**2:15 – 2:30** *Break*

#### **2:30** *PANYC Lifetime Achievement Award* **Anne-Marie Cantwell, Awards Chair**

This special award will be given to **Ralph Solecki**, Professor Emeritus of Columbia University and PANYC's first president, for his outstanding contributions to NYC archaeology over the past seventy years.

#### **2:40** *From Private to Public: The Changing Nineteenth-Century Landscape of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx* **Christopher Ricciardi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The nineteenth century was a period of great change in America. The growing Industrial Revolution coupled with the development of the environment changed not only the social structure, but also the physical make-up of the county. Using archaeological evidence from Van Cortlandt Park, in conjunction with documentary evidence, this paper will present an example of how Americans began to think about equality and public space and answer the question, why did the Van Cortlandt's sell and deed 850 acres of land to the City for the expressed purposes of turning it into a park?

#### **3:00** *A Community in the Making: Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island* **Linda Stone, RPA, Consulting Archaeologist**

Staten Island's Historic Richmond Town grew in the 18<sup>th</sup> century from a small hamlet to become the county seat, and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the community was a bustling residential neighborhood and business center. Archaeological investigations of the Mill Pond area revealed remains from late-19<sup>th</sup> to early-20<sup>th</sup>-century structures, a testament to the community that once stood at the former crossroads of the civic center of Staten Island. Features identified include parts of the Hennessy House, Johnson Barn, and Tinsmith Shop. These features speak to the community of people that once flourished in this now seemingly rural locale, a living history museum that is a mix of restored and transplanted historic structures representing over 300 years of occupation.