

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

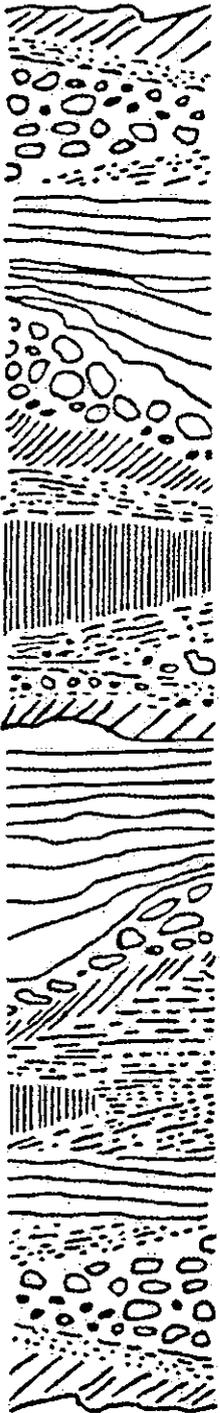
Number 115, September 2004

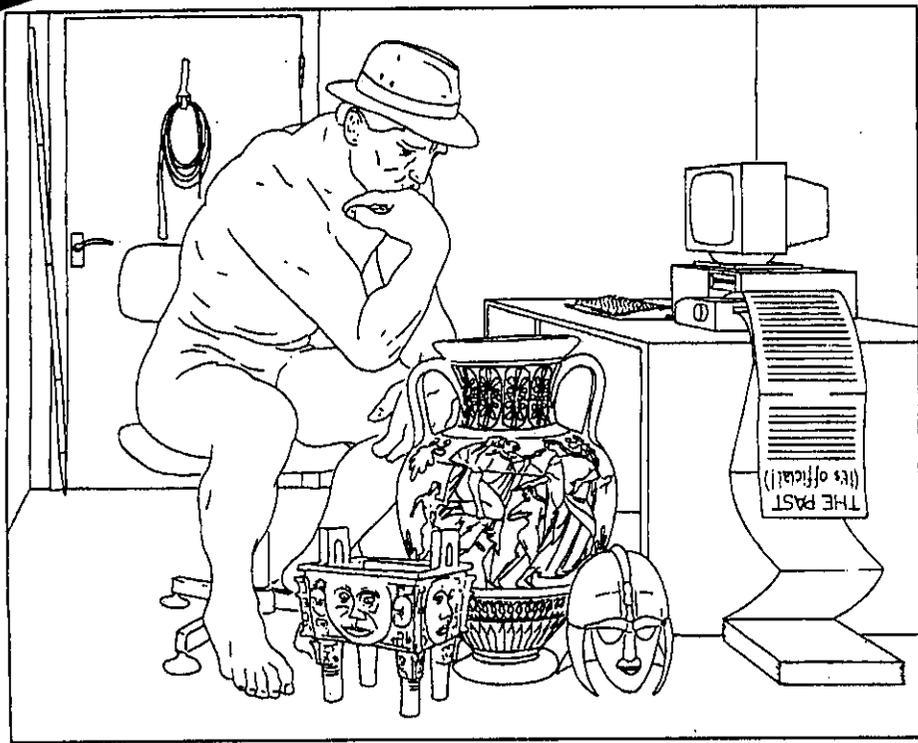
Contents

Minutes, General Meeting, May 18, 2004	1
Correspondence/In the News	3
Humor	6
Events Calendar	36

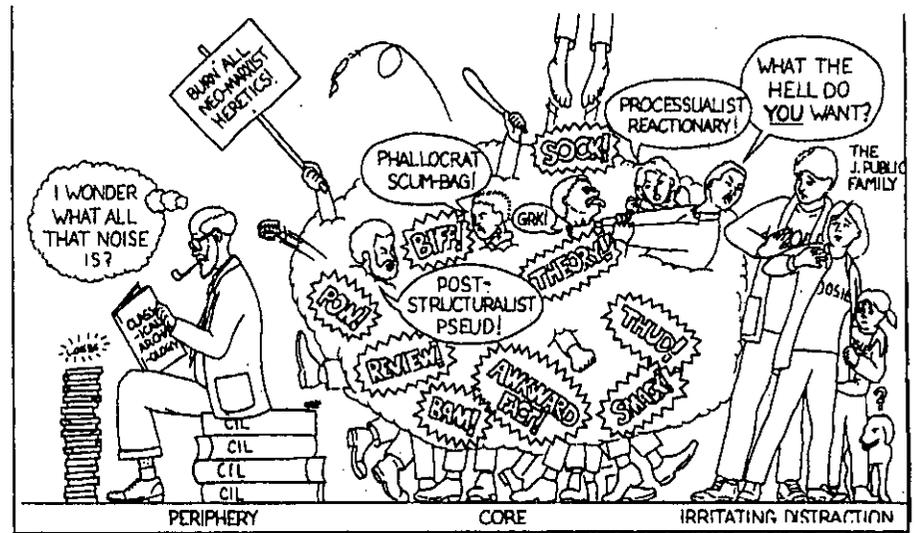
Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

Chris Ricciardi
4110 Quentin Rd.
Brooklyn, NY 11234
Phone: 718-645-3962
Email: ricciardi@att.net

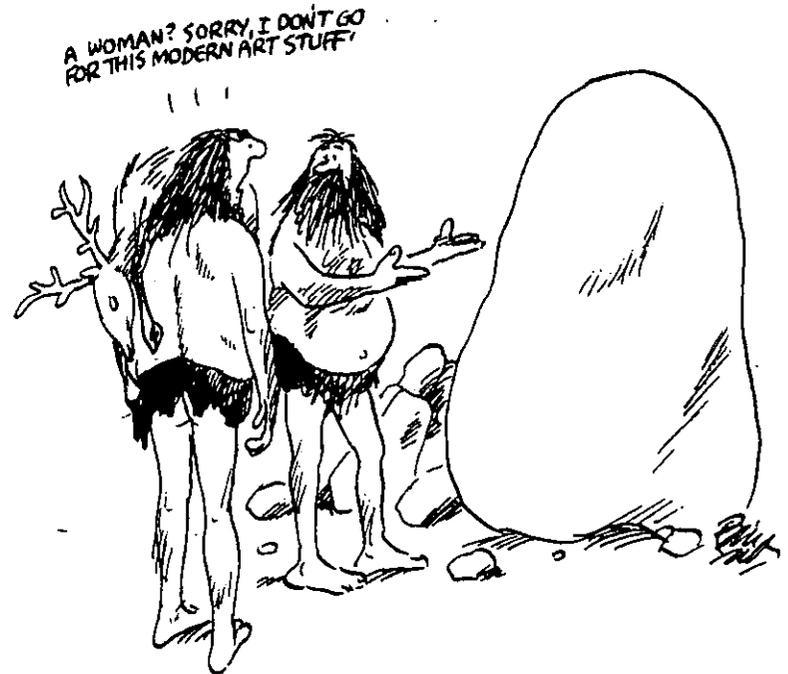




The Reality Gap (I): How some archaeologists would like others to see them (and as they would like to see themselves) . . .



The Reality Gap (II): . . . and one view of archaeologists as they really are.



Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)

Minutes of the General Meeting held May 18, 2004

Notice of upcoming meeting: September 21, 6:30 p.m., Hunter College, rm 710

The May 18th meeting was called to order by Chris Ricciardi at 6:35 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Spritzer presented her report for the year ending 2003. The issue of lapsed membership was raised. Must membership be renewed within the span of a predetermined grace-period or require re-instatement if too long a period had passed? It was agreed that Joan Geismar would check the bylaws. If necessary, an amendment will be written to cover this issue. It was agreed that members whose membership dues were in arrears should make up back dues when renewing their memberships.

President's Report: The new PANYC President is waiting for a date to meet with Amanda Sutphin and Robert Tierney. Regarding the Research and Planning Committee Symposium: Silberman has stated that he does not think it was a good idea to have a joint symposium with PANYC at the LPC. Sutphin suggested that PANYC send him a letter asking him to reconsider. Ricciardi will follow-up. PANYC should get together and discuss what should be covered with Tierney, for instance, what does he see as his role in terms of archaeology? His idea of a joint symposium was much appreciated.

Awards: Cantwell reported that the award for Joan Maynard was presented at the public program on May 2.

African Burial Ground: Nancy Brighton has asked if PANYC wants to be an interested party in terms of the interpretative center. It was moved that PANYC should do so.

City Hall Park: Wall asked that it be noted that she is *not* the chair of this sub-committee. The issue of artifact processing at Brooklyn College was discussed. There is a need for assistance in completing this work, but participants must be registered CUNY students.

Events: The events calendar was not ready, but Kelly drew attention to two upcoming events: The Gowanus Canal Conference would take place June 10 at Brooklyn College.

Transportation: On May 20, there would be a hearing on the new South Ferry Station. It was noted that the draft EIS declared "no issues" but Freeman added that the developers are aware that this is a historic area and will take appropriate steps. Written comments on this issue were due by June 3. The second hearing, June 8, would be on the Fulton Street Transit Center. Stone said that it was important that PANYC comment at this hearing and would benefit from the LPC's back-up.

Governor's Island: There will be workshop June 12, 9-5, that included tours, a welcome and small discussion groups in the afternoon.

Landmarks: Geismar circulated a letter that she had written to the LPC.

Membership: Ricciardi said that he was making a master list of members. Spritzer reported that there are fifty-five paid-up members.

Met. Chapter NYSAA: Spritzer noted that the Met chapter was having difficulty enlisting its officers to be active. She suggested that one meeting per year might be possible. Ricciardi suggested that the organization should consider joining up with MALFA. NYSSA does have the attractive advantage of carrying insurance for volunteer archaeologists.

Newsletter: In the absence of a newsletter editor, it was agreed that the newsletter, with letters, events and minutes, should go out electronically, with a hard copy containing newspaper clippings to be prepared separately perhaps once a year. Ricciardi offered to prepare the hard copy. There was some discussion of the idea that PANYC solicit volunteers for the preparation and mailing of a hard copy of the newsletter and that if no one came forward, it should

be done electronically.

Parks: Stone noted that the last letter to Tierney regarding the Parks Department projects that had “fallen through the cracks” had not received a response but Sutphin has said that the department has become more responsive to the LPC.

Public Program: Dallal reported that there were seventy-six attendees. She objected to the fact that people had been charged at the door for this “free” program the regular admission of \$7. PANYC was not informed of this until the Thursday before the program. Ricciardi suggested that PANYC should write a letter detailing these concerns.

Special Projects: Dallal said she would email the draft guidelines for NFPG -- special projects assistance guidelines - - to interested members.

Old Business: Although Bob Kuhn has left the SHPO, he will continue to work on any project related to WTC funds such as Second Avenue, South Ferry, and Fulton Street. So far, there have been no official plans to replace his position. Stone reported that NYAC had discussed the Parks Department’s intention not hire an archaeologist to be head of the Field Services Bureau. This however, has not been finalized, and Kuhn will still serve on all the major transport projects above listed.

New business: meetings in 2004-2005 will be held: September 21, November 23, January 25, March 22, and May 17.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Celia Bergoffen.



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7823 FAX: 212-669-7818
asutphin@lpc.nyc.gov



Amanda Sutphin, RPA
Director of Archaeology

June 23, 2004

Ms. Paula Mayo
Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

I was very saddened to learn that the Seaport will no longer have a resident archaeologist to educate the public about the archaeological heritage of New York and to maintain your museum's extensive archaeological collections. Over the years Diane Dallal and New York Unearthed were able to fill a void by providing school children and adults with a much greater understanding of how New York evolved from a small trading center, with an accommodating harbor, to the dynamic city it is today.

I very much hope that this measure will only be temporary as it is such a great loss. However, in the meantime, I am concerned about the archaeological collections. How will you ensure that they are properly maintained?

Please let me know if I may assist in anyway.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sutphin

Cc: Peter Neill, President Emeritus
Diane Dallal

40 East 63rd Street
New York, New York
10028
(212) 734-6612
(212) 650-1521 Fax

June 24, 2004

Ms. Paula Mayo
Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

It has come to the attention of the New York City archaeological community that a great disaster is about to befall our profession. Moreover, it will affect the data resource for future archaeological investigations as well as eliminate a "gem" from New York City's tourist attractions. It also will eliminate an irreplaceable asset, the expertise of Diane Dallal—an invaluable human resource—from our profession. Of course I am referring to the imminent closing of New York Unearthed to the public, and the closing of the conservation laboratory to the archaeological profession. This is truly a giant step backwards.

In the 1980s, when the facility was established, it not only provided New York City's archaeological artifacts with a home and an expert to administer to them, it also represented a fitting recompense for potential archaeological resources lost to a developer's machinations. The New York City Landmarks Commission and The Board of Standards and Appeals agreed that a developer who tried to sidestep environmental laws was to be held accountable. New York Unearthed was the result. Since then, the facility has served archaeologists professionally, as it has also offered school children and the general public a unique cultural experience. The facility is even listed as a special cultural attraction for tourists in innumerable guidebooks.

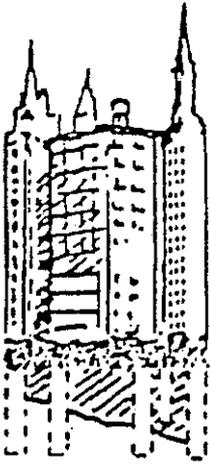
Now, it appears this jewel-like facility will fold, and with it will go the professional expertise of its curator. I understand the Seaport Museum, which has sponsored the operation for years, does not feel it can continue to sustain it, but please do not let this unique New York City cultural institution pass away. Surely, without too much effort, our great city can step in to save it. To abandon it would be tantamount to a crime.

Sincerely,



Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.

The Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City
Larry S. Huntington, Chairman, Board of Trustees, South Street Seaport Museum
Peter A. Aron, Chairman Emeritus, Board of Trustees, South Street Seaport Museum
Yvonne Simons, Vice-President in Charge of Education, South Street Seaport Museum
Kent Barwick, President, Municipal Art Society
Robert Tierney, Chair, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

June 30, 2004

Paula Mayo, Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, New York 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

PANYC



On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, I would like to express both our regret and outrage over the dismissal of Ms. Diane Dallal, Curator of Archaeology at South Street Seaport and Director of New York Unearthed. We are also dismayed with regard to the expectant closure of New York Unearthed at South Street Seaport, a significant repository of archaeological collections.

New York Unearthed was born out of the City laws to protect and preserve our historical and cultural past. Over the years it has not only been a repository of some of the most important archaeological collections in New York City, but it became the center for archaeological research. Researchers from all over the world have come to South Street Seaport and New York Unearthed to delve into New York City's past. Ms. Dallal has served in her position as Curator for over a decade. Her work has earned her the respect and admiration of all who have had contact with her and she has brought great respect and prestige to New York Unearthed and South Street Seaport. As of now, she will no longer be able to continue these important tasks. Her dismissal and the expected closure of New York Unearthed will sadly tarnish all that she has worked for.

As professional archaeologists, part of our responsibility is to preserve the records of what we do. Excavation, by nature, involves the destruction of archaeological sites. That is why repositories like South Street Seaport are vital. Without being able to store, use, and learn from the artifacts of our past, we lose this vital information.

It is our fear that without Ms. Dallal expertly running and maintaining South Street Seaport's repository of artifacts and associated documentary information that the collections will now become off limits to researchers and eventually be lost forever.

We understand that South Street Seaport's main focus is the maritime history of The City of New York, but that history has been uncovered, in part, through archaeology. To eliminate the archaeological component is to take away an integral part of the history of South Street Seaport.

New York Unearthed, as the sole archaeological museum in New York City, has attracted thousands of students and visitors each year. The museum provides a place for all to go to learn about New York's archaeological and historical past. Now, we fear this museum, created out of the need to protect the past, will be gone forever. No longer will the multitude of school children be able to "walk" back in time to learn about how we came to this place called New York.

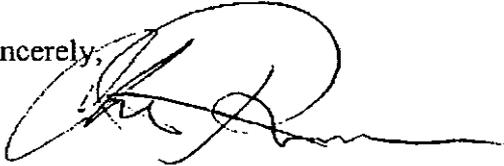
Without an archaeological curator the priceless collections that reside at South Street Seaport will no longer be cared for and available as vital research tools. Although some of these collections are over two decades old, new information is constantly being generated. Much of this is due in part to Ms. Dallal's tireless efforts on behalf of the South Street Seaport Museum, making the collections accessible.

The archaeological collections have been part of many of the exhibits and programs at South Street Seaport. This too will no longer occur without the proper care and conservation given by Ms. Dallal during her tenure. There is no question that the South Street Seaport is losing more than it is gaining by eliminating the archaeological curator position, New York Unearthed, and access to the collections.

We ask that you and the Board of Trustees of South Street Seaport reconsider the elimination of archaeology from the Museum. If you feel your decision is irreversible, we would appreciate clarification on what is to become of the archaeological collections and if there are plans to allow researchers to continue to have full access to them.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Christopher Ricciardi, President 2004/2005
Professional Archaeologists of New York City
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322
(718) 645-3962

cc. Lawrence S. Huntington, Chairman - Board of the South Street Seaport Museum
Peter Neill, President Emeritus - South Street Seaport Museum
Yvonne Simons, VP Education - South Street Seaport Museum
Steve Kloepfer, VP and General Counsel - South Street Seaport Museum
Peter A. Aron, Chairman Emeritus - South Street Seaport Museum Board of Trustees
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
Robert Tierney, Chair - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Amanda Stuphin, Director of Archaeology - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Dr. H. Arthur Bankoff, Advisor to the Chair - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner - New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
Amy Freitag, Deputy Parks Commission - New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
Therese Braddick, Executive Director - Historic House Trust
Kate D. Levin, Commissioner - New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Ruth Pierpont, Director - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Douglas Mackey - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Dr. Christopher Lindner, President - New York Archaeological Council
William Moss, President - Society for Historical Archaeology
Tobi Brimsek, Executive Director - Society for American Archaeology
Bonnie R. Clendenning, Executive Director - Archaeological Institute of America
Peter Young, Editor-in-Chief - Archaeology Magazine
Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director - Historic District Council
Peg Breen, President - New York Landmarks Conservancy
Executive Director - Museum of the City of New York
Peter Sneed - General Service Administration
Mark Dremel - General Services Administration
Don Klima - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Michael K. Trimble, Director, - Curation and Archives Analysis Branch - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



THE CITY COLLEGE
OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
NORTH ACADEMIC CENTER • ROOM 7/112
CONVENT AVENUE at 138th STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10031

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

TEL: (212) 650-6608
FAX: (212) 650-6607

30 June 2004

Ms Paula Mayo, Executive Director
The South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Paula:

I am writing as the archaeologist who was the South Street Seaport Museum's original Curator of Archaeology. As you know, I set up the museum's procedures and policies as to its archaeological collections over a dozen years ago and also worked on the creation of *New York Unearthed*, the museum's extraordinarily successful archaeological program. Today, I often use the museum's archaeological collections in my own research and I have also used (and credited the museum for) photographs of artifacts in the collections in many of my publications (including, with Anne-Marie Cantwell, *Unearthing Gotham: The Archaeology of New York City*, 2001, Yale University Press). Until now, the museum has been the leader in the nation in acquiring and maintaining the archaeological collections from a modern city, making them available to researchers, and incorporating the artifacts from them into exhibits. Each of its collections is unique and irreplaceable. Taken together, they provide tangible evidence of the city's history from the 17th through the 19th centuries

I was extremely concerned to hear about the recent lay-offs at the museum. Aside from the enormous human cost, I am particularly concerned about the archaeological collections. Of course I care about my own professional needs - that the collections continue to be available to researchers like me. In fact, I understand that a researcher from the Netherlands is arriving soon to study the collections. But my primary concern is related to the conservation needs of the collections, needs which Diane Dallal, as the Curator of Archaeology, has been attending to for over a dozen years.

Archaeological artifacts are much more physically unstable than objects in other collections. Each of these artifacts has spent most of its existence (usually centuries for those in the museum's collections) in a particular underground environment, and it adapted to that environment. After the artifacts were excavated, they entered into a new environment, and many of them need continuous monitoring and conservation treatment to ensure that they adapt to that

new environment. If they and their storage facility are not monitored, and the artifacts are not treated as necessary, the very physical existence of the artifacts is threatened. That is one of the most important, though less glamorous, tasks that Diane Dallal has performed so well for the dozen years that she has worked at the museum. The museum cannot afford to put the conservation needs of the archaeological collections on the back burner and assume that they can make up for neglect when they get the money to hire a new archaeological curator. Without that kind of continuous oversight by an archaeologist trained as a conservator who understands the physical needs of the artifacts, parts of the museum's archaeological collections could literally self-destruct.

When the museum acquired these collections, they took on a responsibility to maintain them and to make them available to researchers. Now, in my opinion, they are abrogating their responsibility. I know the museum has had to make some tough choices recently. But I strongly urge that the decision to lay off the Curator of Archaeology be reconsidered. It would be a terrific loss to the city's heritage if the museum allowed their archaeological collections to be destroyed.

Sincerely yours,



Diana diZerega Wall
Professor

- cc. Lawrence S. Huntington, Chairman, Board of Trustees, South Street Seaport Museum
- Peter Neill, President Emeritus, South Street Seaport Museum
- Steve Kloeppfer, VP and General Counsel, South Street Seaport Museum
- Peter A. Aron, Chairman Emeritus, Board of Trustees, South Street Seaport Museum
- Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
- Robert Tierney, Commissioner, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Amanda Stuphin, Director of Archaeology, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Dr. H. Arthur Bankoff, Advisor to the Chairperson on Archaeology, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Kate D. Levin, Commissioner, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
- Peg Breen, President, New York Landmarks Conservancy
- Christopher Ricciardi, President, Professional Archaeologists of New York City
- Dr. Christopher Lindner, President, New York Archaeological Council
- William Moss, President, Society for Historical Archaeology
- Tobi Brimsek, Executive Director, Society for American Archaeology
- Bonnie R. Clendenning, Executive Director, Archaeological Institute of America
- Peter Young, Editor-in-Chief, Archaeology Magazine



July 12, 2004

Mr. Christopher Ricciardi
President
Professional Archaeologists of NYC
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4322

Dear Mr. Ricciardi:

You may have noticed a recent New York Times article about developments at the South Street Seaport Museum. While it is true that we have had to make staff cutbacks, I believe that the full story about the overall health of the Museum remains to be told. Specifically:

- The new Schermerhorn Row galleries are now open with two exhibitions. One highlights the treasures of the Museum's 20,000-object collection, including ship paintings, rare and delicate scrimshaw, ship models and ephemera. The second showcases the Museum's archaeological collection, documenting the lives of the city's earliest inhabitants, the Dutch. There is also an exhibit displaying the only surviving objects from the Five Points site. These 18 artifacts are all that remain of the more than 800,000 objects that were stored in a sub-basement of the World Trade Center and destroyed there on September 11, 2001. These exhibits are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- New York Unearthed, the Museum's archaeology center, will continue to be open for school groups and others who make appointments. The Museum's two-million object archaeology collection will continue to be maintained and made available for study by archaeologists.
- The Museum's maritime research library will be moved into the sixth floor of Schermerhorn Row into space that was not intended for gallery displays. We plan to modernize and reorganize the library and make it available for research projects by students and visiting scholars by reservation, as before.
- The Museum's nine ships, one of the world's largest fleets of historic vessels, will continue to be maintained by the waterfront staff under the supervision of Captain Malcolm Martin. The two schooners, Lettie G. Howard and Pioneer, continue in their active role for public sails of New York Harbor and education sails for groups. Both schooners are certified by the U.S. Coast Guard for public use. The barque Peking and the lightship Ambrose continue to be open for public tours at Pier 16, while the harbor lighter Marion M. continues to be restored at a Staten Island shipyard, with the goal of serving the Museum's education programs as a floating classroom to teach marine biology starting in the fall of 2004.
- This summer the Museum's education programs include four summer camps serving a total of 350 children. In the fall, the Museum will participate in three high schools, the Museum School, the New York Harbor School, and the High School for History and Communication, serving a total of 1,000 students. Overall, the Museum serves a total of 40,000 New York City school children in all five boroughs through its programs on the water and on land.

- The Museum's Elderhostel program grows each year and will serve a total of 1,300 people in programs that range from New York City-based cultural activities to cruises on the Queen Mary 2.
- The Museum's adult programs serve some 6,500 people annually through lectures, book readings, performances and walking tours of Lower Manhattan. Its Family Programs serve some 3,500 children and their parents annually through arts-based programs in the Museum's galleries and onboard its ships.

For the past 37 years, the mission of South Street Seaport Museum has been to preserve and interpret the history of New York City as a world port. It accomplishes this by maintaining a fleet of nine historic vessels; acquiring and maintaining a collection of more than 20,000 objects, artwork and ephemera; operating Bowne & Company, Stationers, a re-creation of a 19th century print shop; operating New York Unearthed, a display of artifacts recovered from archaeological digs in Lower Manhattan; and running an extensive array of education programs for New York City school children and adults. None of these programs and missions have been affected by the recent staff cuts.

The Museum's board of trustees, senior management and staff are committed to ensuring that South Street Seaport Museum continues to play an important role in the cultural and educational life of the residents and visitors of New York City.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Mayo".

Paula Mayo
Executive Director

Shelly Spritzer
Treasurer, Metropolitan Chapter
New York State Archaeological Association
P.O. Box 1503 Murray Hill Station,
New York, NY 10156-1503

July 12, 2004

Paula Mayo, Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

It has come to the attention of the New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) membership that the South Street Seaport will no longer sponsor New York Unearthed and that the museum's very existence is in jeopardy.

The loss of this facility will be a tremendous blow to both the professional and the amateur archaeological communities. This museum is the sole repository of New York City's archaeological collections, but it is much more than that. It is an educational resource for the thousands of children from all over the state who visit the facility each year and a research facility for students. The museum is also a major attraction for New Yorkers and tourists who visit it to learn about our City's archaeological and historical past. It is the only museum of its kind now available to the public.

As a repository, the museum is vital to the preservation of New York's contribution to this country's history and has become a center for archaeological research. It maintains unique comparative collections and, as a result, is visited by scholars from many parts of the country and the world. As you are well aware, the archaeological collections have also been showcased in many of the Seaport Museum's exhibits and have been an integral part of its numerable programs.

The NYSAA is a statewide group of anthropological scholars and historic and prehistoric avocational archaeologists. The concerns of the Metropolitan Chapter are the understanding and preservation of the archaeology and history of New York City. We wonder what will become of these collections? How will they be accessible to scholars? However, these are not our only concerns. We are also deeply concerned about the loss of Diane Dallal, the curator of the collections, whose invaluable expertise will be lost.

While we understand that in this time of financial and political stress budget cuts are inevitable, this is one area that must be saved. It is our responsibility to preserve the records of the City's historical and cultural past. Laws have been passed and agencies have been created to do this. The closing of New York Unearthed will fly in the face of these measures, and an irreplaceable facet of our city's past will be lost forever.

We ask that you and the Board of Trustees reconsider the closing of New York Unearthed. Surely there are alternatives to this drastic action. While we are not a funding organization, our members would assist your efforts to save the museum in any way feasible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shelly Spritzer, Treasurer and Past President, Metropolitan Chapter,
New York State Archaeological Association

cc. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Gifford Miller, City Counsel President
Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Kate D. Levin, Commissioner, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7823 FAX: 212-669-7818



July 28, 2004

Ms. Paula Mayo
Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 2004.

It is reassuring to learn that the SSSM's financial situation is not as dire as has been reported. It is thus even more inexplicable to us why the museum laid off senior staff such as Diane Dallal. We also note that your response did not address the concerns posed by our last letter. Again, we must ask how do you intend to keep New York Unearthed open without the staff? How will the archaeological collections be maintained? How will they be protected? How will you continue to provide the services to the public and scholars as outlined in your letter? You imply that you view archaeology as being integral to the museum's mission; however this is not consonant with your actions. We remain very concerned about curation and access to your research collections and library.

Sincerely,

H. Arthur Bankoff
Archaeology Advisor to the Chairman

Amanda Sutphin
Director of Archaeology

Cc: Peter Aron, President
Peter Neill, President Emeritus
Diane Dallal
Christopher Ricciardi, President of PANYC

Kelly M. Britt
410 South West End Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

July 29, 2004

Paula Mayo Executive Director
South St. Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

It has come to my attention that the South Street Seaport Museum has recently eliminated Diane Dallal's position as curator and caretaker of New York archaeological collections, and the existence of the NY Unearthed Museum is in danger.

This museum serves not only as a repository for some of the most important historical archaeological collections of its kind, but as an educational institution it is invaluable. As a former intern of NY Unearthed, I was taught priceless skills in conservation and artifact analysis not available in a classroom; I created and conducted educational classes on archaeology, gained museum experience with exhibits, wrote scholarly papers for academic purposes, but most importantly gained an even higher appreciation and respect for the preservation of these amazing resources. All under the remarkable supervision of Diane Dallal. I can honestly say I would not have acquired the proficiency in conservation and analysis that I now have without the guidance from Diane and the resources available from the collections at NY Unearthed. To think that future students and scholars will not be given this opportunity is not only heartbreaking to me, but simply, an irresponsible decision for a public educational institution such as the South St. Seaport Museum.

These collections reflect the city's remarkable past through material culture, and they provide an intangible heritage to the people of this city and nation. They provide resources for archaeologists and historians as well as offering educational experience through exhibits and workshops to local school groups and tourists. What will become of these collections? How will they be accessed for scholarly use? How will they be cared for and maintained? What will happen to the NY Unearthed facility and the exhibits? Where will the school groups go to experience New York's past through the exhibits at the unique museum NY Unearthed?

While I understand that financial constraints are significant at this time, I write to you to urge you to find a way to retain Diane Dallal's position as curator. For further advancement on the understanding of New York's history, scholars and students must use these collections and the valuable information they hold. In addition, the public must have access to them through your exhibits and public activities to answer their own curiosities about this city's past as well as experience them for their own enjoyment. You must find a way to keep these great collections alive and the position of curator to

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Britt

Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology, Columbia University in the City of New York
NYAS, Met Chapter Secretary, RPA

CC: Lawrence S. Huntington, Fiduciary Trust CO., International; Chairman of the Board
of South St. Seaport Museum

Peter A. Aron, Preseident, J. Aron Charitable Foundation

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City

Robert Tierney, Chairman, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Kate Levin, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs

Dr. Chris Landner, President, New York Archaeological Council

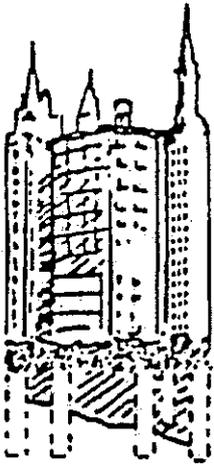
Bonnie R. Clendenning, Executive Director, Archaeology Institute of America

Peter Young, Editor-in-Chief, Archaeology Magazine

William Moss, President, Society for Historical Archaeology

Tobi Brimek, Executive Director, Society for American Archaeology

Adrien Benepe, Commissioner, NYC Dept of Parks and Recreation



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

August 4, 2004

Paula Mayo, Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, New York 10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

PANYC

On behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC), I want to thank you for your response to our letter dated June 30, 2004 with regard to the dismissal of Diane Dallal and the apparent closing of New York Unearthed.

Unfortunately, the standardized form letter crafted in response to all inquiries was unresponsive to the specific issues and concerns voiced in our letter.

PANYC finds it disturbing that you would produce a standardized response. We have spoken with several individuals in different fields, who all received the same form letter. This is indeed troubling since it shows a lack of concern on behalf of the South Street Seaport Museum to function in a responsible manner.

As stated in the New York Times article and in your form letter, the South Street Seaport Museum is currently enjoying the benefits of large donations. Therefore, we are perplexed by your statement that funds to maintain the professional staff and research facilities, that include New York Unearthed, the archaeological collections and the Melville Library, are not available.

PANYC once again requests that you respond to our original letter, specifically:

- What will happen to the archaeological collections stored at the Museum and how will these collections be maintained without a professional curator of archaeology?
- Who, specifically, will provide researchers access to the archaeological collections if there is no one on staff who is familiar with these collections?
- What are the Museum's future plans for New York Unearthed? We are aware that New York Unearthed has been given 15 years of free rent and maintenance by RFR Realty, the owners of 17 State St.

For your convenience I have attached a copy of our previous letter.

Archaeology Magazine recently posted a story about the situation at the South Street Seaport Museum to their web site. This story will also be printed in a future issue of the magazine. I am enclosing this article for your information. The posted Internet address for the article is:

<http://www.archaeology.org/online/features/seaport/>

Since our original letter was sent last month, it has come to our attention that New York Unearthed has indeed been closed. This is contradictory to your statement in your letter of July 12, 2004. Several groups and individuals, including a number of our members, have attempted to call New York Unearthed only to receive no response. On a recent visit to the Museum, the doors were locked. This despite the fact that PANYC was assured that New York Unearthed would remain open.

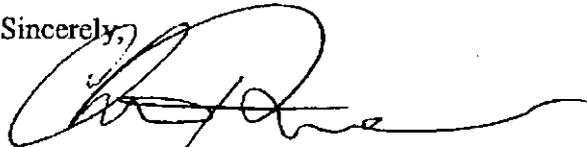
Secondly, PANYC has had a long-standing agreement with the South Street Seaport Museum with regard to our archives. The Newsletters, meeting minutes, Symposium announcements and other documentary information with regard to PANYC is housed at the Melville Library at the South Street Seaport Museum. With the apparent closing of the Library, what will become of our archives? Will they still be accessible and available for future material to be added to the records?

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit museum chartered by the New York State Department of Education, the South Street Seaport Museum is required to maintain its facilities in a manner that meets professional standards. The dismissal of professional curators, the use of unqualified personal (interns and volunteers) to perform their job duties, and the closing of portions of the Museum and research facilities, is not only unprofessional but also does not fulfill the Museum's New York State Charter.

PANYC would like a response that addresses the concerns outlined in both letters. Perhaps a meeting with you is warranted as well.

We look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,



Christopher Ricciardi, President 2004-2005
Professional Archaeologists of New York City

Encl. Letter from PANYC to SSSM dated, 25 July 2004
Article from *Archaeology Magazine* on this issue

cc. Lawrence S. Huntington, Chairman - Board of the South Street Seaport Museum
Peter Neill, President Emeritus - South Street Seaport Museum
Yvonne Simons, VP Education - South Street Seaport Museum
Steve Kloepfer, VP and General Counsel - South Street Seaport Museum
Peter A. Aron, Chairman Emeritus - South Street Seaport Museum Board of Trustees

The Honorable Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
The Honorable Robert Tierney, Chair - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Dr. H. Arthur Bankoff, Advisor to the Chair - New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
The Honorable Adrian Benepe, Commissioner - New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
Amy Freitag, Deputy Parks Commissioner - New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
Therese Braddick, Executive Director - Historic House Trust
Kate D. Levin, Commissioner - New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
David Palmquist, New York State Museum - Chartering Program
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Ruth Pierpont, Director - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Douglas Mackey - New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Dr. Christopher Lindner, President - New York Archaeological Council
William Moss, President - Society for Historical Archaeology
Tobi Brimsek, Executive Director - Society for American Archaeology
Bonnie R. Clendenning, Executive Director - Archaeological Institute of America
Peter Young, Editor-in-Chief - *Archaeology Magazine*
Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director - Historic District Council
Peg Breen, President - New York Landmarks Conservancy
Susand Henshaw Jones - Executive Director - Museum of the City of New York
Peter Sneed - General Services Administration
Mark Dremel - General Services Administration
Don Klima - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Michael K. Trimble, Director - Curation and Archives Analysis Branch, - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mark Granata, President - RFR Realty
Mary Habstritt, President - Roebling Chapter - Society for Industrial Archaeology



**SOCIETY *for*
HISTORICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY**

August 27, 2004

Ms. Paula Mayo
Executive Director
South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street
New York, NY
10038

Dear Ms. Mayo:

New York is one of the world's great metropolises. It is legendary. Indeed, many would see it as THE Metropolis. When good things happen to New York, the reverberations can go right around the world. We all know too well what happens in the opposite situation. In either case, no one can remain indifferent, no one can ignore the ripples. Put the ripples of the ocean in a sea of particular concerns and they become waves for all those living on its shores.

The South Street Seaport Museum has made waves in the sea of archaeology. The recent suppression of several positions – including that of Curator of Archaeology – and the cutting back on programs – such as New York Unearthed – have astounded the Northeast's archaeologists and dismayed those living further afield. It is inevitable that these cuts will lead to the degradation of the Museum's important archaeological collections and to a serious reduction of access to a unique facet of the city's history for both research and educational purposes.

You have received numerous letters attesting to the contribution of archaeological research and archaeological collections to the mission of the Museum. It is thus difficult to understand the rationale of your decision in terms of your responsibilities to the visiting public. But that remains your choice, however unfortunate it may be.

Another point – the conservation of archaeological collections – goes beyond the realm of choice. These collections are a social responsibility that you have assumed in the past and for which you have accepted public and private monies. It seems to the Society for Historical Archaeology that you cannot just close the door on them and expect everything to be all right. A ripple for you, a wave for

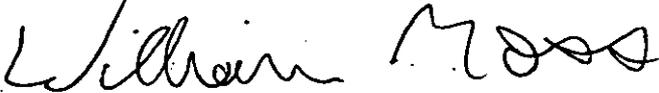
SHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Moss, President
Julia A. King, Past President
Judith A. Bense, President-Elect
Sara F. Mascia, Secretary-Treasurer
Ronald L. Michael, Editor
William B. Lees, Newsletter Editor
Robert Neyland, ACUA Chair
Anne Giesecke, Board Member
Barbara J. Heath, Board Member
Kim A. McBride, Board Member
Daniel G. Roberts, Board Member
Greg Waselkov, Board Member
Martha Zierden, Board Member

us, but neither the charge you have willingly assumed in the past nor the collections you have managed over the years will just go away. We thus hope you reconsider your actions in light of this responsibility. Should you decide not to continue to employ competent personnel and apply appropriate conservation measures, will you find another responsible agency who will do so?

You have received many expressions of surprise and dismay. Given the importance of the issue and the large number of organizations and individuals who have spoken out, it is evident that your actions had consequences going beyond those you had initially imagined. The sea of archaeology does not want to lose its port of call in THE metropolis. We would much prefer encouraging the South Street Seaport Museum to continue to act as a flagship for archaeology in New York and follow your good example than to decry your faltering leadership.

Sincerely,

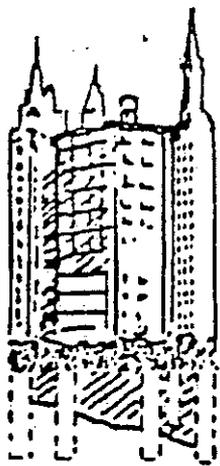


William Moss
President

cc:

Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York
Peter Neili, South St. Seaport Museum
Lawrence Huntington, Fiduciary Trust Co. International
Peter Aron, J. Aron Charitable Foundation
Robert Tierney, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Kate Levin, Cultural Affairs Commission
Bernadette Castro, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peter Sneed, General Services Administration
Don Klima, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
Christopher Lindner, New York Archaeological Council
Lynne Sebastian, Society for American Archaeology
Nan Rothschild, William Duncan Strong Museum of Anthropology
Christopher Ricciardi, Professional Archaeologists of New York City
Peter Young, Archaeology Magazine

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.



PANYC

May 25, 2004

MTA NYC Transit
2 Broadway, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Attn: South Ferry Terminal Project

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding the archaeological resources associated with the South Ferry Terminal Project. As Section 5.13.5.1 of your May 2004 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) indicates, "The project corridor possesses a high potential for historic archaeological resources spanning from the 1620s through to the early 20th century. Specifically...Dutch and British military occupation of Fort Amsterdam/George, post-Revolutionary War construction of Battery Park covering 1790 to 1865, and the construction of the 9th Ave Elevated Railway in 1870..." Clearly there is the potential to impact resources that are unique and extraordinarily significant to the early European settlement of not only Manhattan but of the United States.

The Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) written to address potential impacts to resources indicates that an Archaeological Resources Management Plan (ARMP) will be developed. This document needs to be developed as soon as possible to ensure that all issues are addressed and to allow adequate time for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review. We highly recommend that archaeological staff of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) also have input to and review of the ARMP.

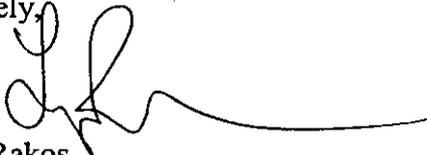
As you are aware, excavation in Lower Manhattan can be logistically very difficult due to depth of fill and the high water table. Archaeological excavations under such conditions require a tremendous amount of care both for safety of the archaeologists and to ensure that resources are identified and properly recorded. This generally translates into the need for more time to conduct such work than is required on dry shallowly buried sites. This being said, Stipulation IV (E) of the Draft PA indicates that archeological excavation will be conducted "in tandem with construction activities" and that "appropriate language" will be included in the contract documents. It cannot be stressed enough that the procedures and timing for the archaeological investigations must be clearly set out in the plans and specifications so that the construction contractor provides adequate time for excavation. Insufficient detail in the P&S could jeopardize the resources and greatly impact your construction schedule. It is highly recommended that the

Cultural Resources Manager, to be hired by MTA as per Stipulation II of the PA, attend any pre-construction meetings so that introductions can be made and issues can be discussed. Again, we recommend that archaeological staff of the New York City LPC review of the contract documents as well as SHPO.

Of considerable concern is the fact that Stipulation IV (C) of the PA indicates that any resources present will be subject to data recovery as "preservation in place... is deemed unlikely for this project as track alignment and structure have no tolerance for movement." Alternatives to the proposed action were briefly mentioned in the Draft EA. Potential impacts to archaeological resources by those alternatives were not mentioned. Archaeological resources might be found within your proposed action area that may be of significance not just to New York City and the State but also to the Nation as a whole and may warrant preservation in place. Perhaps your project should have produced an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an Environmental Assessment or the archeological testing should have been conducted earlier to accurately determine what the resources are and to address them with the consideration they deserve.

PANYC will continue to monitor this work as your project proceeds as we have a tremendous interest in the archaeological investigations proposed for the South Ferry Terminal project. Thank you for providing the opportunity for comment.

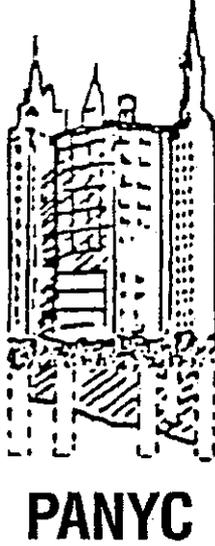
Sincerely,



Lynn Rakos
Chair, PANYC Transportation Committee
230 6th Avenue, Apt. 4
Brooklyn, NY 11215

CC:

Mr. Bernard Cohen, FTA
Ms. Bernadette Castro, NYSOPRHP
Ms. Amanda Sutphin, NYCLPC



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

June 24, 2004

Mysore L. Nagaraja, P.E., President
MTA Capital Construction
2 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Attn: Fulton Street Transit Center

Dear Mr. Nagaraja:

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding the archaeological resources associated with the Fulton Street Transit Center (FSTC). In general we agree with the findings in the Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment prepared by the Louis Berger Group, Inc. (October 2003), however we take issue with a few omissions as well as conclusions that were presented in the report and that were subsequently incorporated into your Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

The conclusion in the Phase 1A report that there was little development in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) prior to mid-19th century is erroneous. It is known historically that settlement in Manhattan had expanded into the APE by the mid-18th century. Clearly Figure 4 in the Phase 1A report, the Maerschalk map of 1755, indicates substantial settlement in the project area. Subsequent maps (Figure 5, Ratzen 1867 and Figure 6, Burr 1836) depict only municipal buildings and churches as individual structures. The developed areas are simply stippled and can easily be misconstrued as open land. We conclude that there is in fact the potential to encounter 18th century archaeological resources within the APE.

Secondly, omitted from the report is the potential to expose, beneath the streets of the APE, segments of New York City's earliest urban infrastructure. As such, this is a manifestation of New York's urban development. Water pipes, of wood, were introduced into the FSTC project area by the beginning of the 19th century and sewer installation is documented as early as 1847. We recommend that, should this infrastructure be encountered during construction, a qualified archaeologist be provided time to record what remains through photography and measurements. This provision should be incorporated into the MOA and be included in the construction documents.

As per stipulation IV of the MOA should any unanticipated archeological resources be encountered during construction, work shall cease in that area, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be notified and a qualified

archaeologist will investigate the discovery and determine the course of action. To expedite the process we recommend that the contractor or MTA retain a professional archeologist who will be on-call to address such issues if they arise. Provisions for this work should be clearly stated in your construction documents. It is also recommended that construction staff, or at least the resident engineers and construction foremen, be briefed, ideally by an archeologist, on the types of resources that might be encountered so that they are aware of what to look for when excavating.

PANYC will continue to monitor this work as your project proceeds. Thank you for providing the opportunity for comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Rakos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynn Rakos
Chair, PANYC Transportation Committee
230 6th Avenue, Apt. 4
Brooklyn, NY 11215

CC:

Mr. Bernard Cohen, FTA
Ms. Ruth L. Pierpont, NYSOPRHP
Ms. Amanda Sutphin, NYCLPC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

July 1, 2004

Mr. Donald Appel, Records Officer
FOIA Unit
NYC HPD
100 Gold Street, Room 5U9
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Appel:

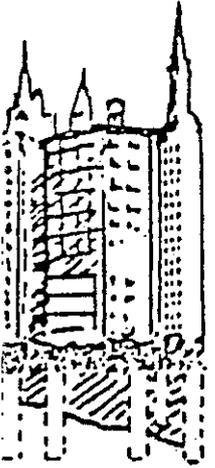
I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to request a copy of the Environmental Assessment Statement and supporting documentation for the NYU Downtown Hospital Project. I believe the CEQR number is 04HPD015M.

Please send the information requested to the address below. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

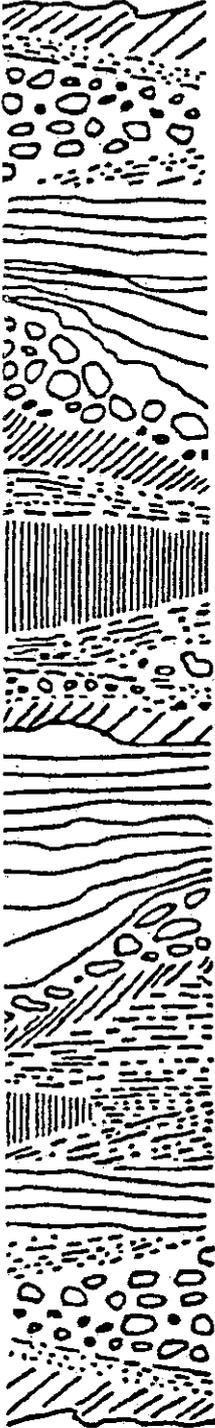
Sincerely,



Lynn Rakos
230 6th Avenue, Apt. 4
Brooklyn, NY 11215



PANYC





NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

George E. Pataki
Governor

August 6, 2004

Ms. Linda Stone
PANYC President 2003/04
249 East 48 Street, #2B
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Stone:

Thank you for your letter of March 23. I apologize for the delay in my response. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) was pleased to have the opportunity to promote Dr. Robert Kuhn to the position of Assistant Regional Director of the Saratoga/Capital District Region after seventeen years of service in our Field Services Bureau. This was a much deserved promotion for Bob. However, the agency recognizes the challenges that this transition presents for the Field Services Bureau and is currently working to address the issues raised by Bob's departure.

I assure you that OPRHP recognizes the importance of archaeology to the mission of the Field Services Bureau. As we evaluate staffing and management issues in the wake of Bob's departure, ensuring that the bureau's archaeology program is adequately represented will be a high priority. Maintaining the leadership role in archaeology that this office has developed in the state and nation will continue to be our goal.

Thank you for your insights and recommendations. I appreciate the many positive contributions you have made to archaeology in New York City and your leadership over the years.

Most sincerely,

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner
State Historic Preservation Officer

July 8, 2004 Thursday
Correction Appended
Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Column 6; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 715 words

HEADLINE: Museum At South St. Reduces Staff To Cut Budget

BYLINE: By ROBIN POGREBIN

BODY:

Still hurting financially from the 9/11 attack, the **South Street Seaport Museum** is eliminating several major staff positions to reduce its budget by \$1 million, the museum's chairman said this week.

Among the five full-time and two part-time employees dismissed as of July 1 were the museum's ship historian, a 32-year employee; its waterfront director; and its archaeology curator. Since the 2001 attack, the museum has cut its staff to 33 members from 53.

"To put this museum on a break-even basis, we've had to cut back the payroll," said the chairman, Lawrence S. Huntington, a retired Wall Street executive. "This spring we realized we had to really behave in a financially responsible way."

Like all the city's cultural institutions, the museum -- just a few blocks from ground zero -- suffered a decline in attendance and donations after the attack, but attendance was falling even before then. Annual attendance is down to 450,000 from 700,000 a decade ago, said Paula Mayo, the executive director.

Since Sept. 11, the museum has struggled to balance its budget, even as it completed a \$20 million upgrade of Schermerhorn Row, a strip of eight historic buildings along Fulton Street. The museum had a \$700,000 deficit in 2003.

The redevelopment of the World Trade Center site, which could benefit the museum, is several years off.

The museum is moving its library into the Schermerhorn buildings, which were renovated in part to house a permanent exhibition on the Port of New York, and may install its offices as well.

The city gave the museum \$200,000 this year, and has budgeted \$600,000 for it next year. But city officials are not yet prepared to meet the museum's request for \$750,000 in annual operating support toward its \$5 million budget.

"The city's invested a lot of money in the museum in the past couple of years," said Kate D. Levin, the cultural affairs commissioner. "We're waiting to see what their future plans are to see if it's possible to be more helpful."

Norman Brouwer, the ship historian, who oversaw the museum's library, was dismissed on June 22.

"I'm very disappointed," Mr. Brouwer said. "The purpose of the place was serving as the maritime museum for the Port of New York. I wonder what's happening to that."

Mr. Huntington said that moving the offices to the renovated buildings would not cut into the exhibition space, as some employees feared.

"We're not really eliminating programs; we're rationalizing the work force," he said. "We're going to get the job done with fewer people."

Also let go was Diane Dallal, the director of the museum's archaeology center, called New York Unearthed. "We have over two million artifacts," Ms. Dallal said. "I was told to just leave them and walk away. It breaks my heart."

Several archaeologists who have used or contributed to the museum's collection said they were concerned that no one would look after it or explain it to students and researchers. "Diane was not only the conservator, but she made these collections available and understandable to people who want to do research," said Joan Geismar, an urban archaeologist. "This is one of New York's historical treasures."

Mr. Huntington said the archaeology collection would still be accessible. "We'll find somebody to be in charge of it, and anyone who wants to look at the artifacts we have can do so," he said. "It was never going to be the center of the South Street Seaport collection," he added. "It's not necessarily related to the seaport's mission, even though it comes out of the ground of Lower Manhattan." The seaport's mission, Mr. Huntington said, was explaining history through New York's port.

The nine historic ships that have largely defined the South Street Seaport are rapidly deteriorating because of inadequate upkeep, the museum says. Mr. Huntington said that raising money for maintaining ships was not an easy sell. "Nobody wants to support them," he said. "They live in salt water, and if they're not cared for, they sink."

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com>

CORRECTION-DATE: July 12, 2004

CORRECTION:

An article on Thursday about job reductions at the **South Street Seaport Museum** in Manhattan, where attendance and donations have declined, misstated the timing of its two most recent contributions from the city and the amount of one. The city provided \$200,000 for the last fiscal year, which ended June 30 - not for this year. It has allocated at least \$60,000 (not \$600,000) for the current fiscal year, which began July 1 - not for next year.

LOAD-DATE: July 8, 2004

◀ [prev](#) Document 3 of 3

July 2 - 17th, 2004

Seaport Curators Fired on Short Notice

MUSEUM'S FINANCIAL CRISIS TRIGGERS HARSH ACTIONS

LIBRARY AND ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS READIED FOR STORAGE

Norman Brouwer and Diane Dallal, curators of world-class collections at South Street Seaport Museum and longtime staff members, were among those fired last week by museum executive director Paula Mayo as instructed by a board of directors forced to adopt a new regime of austerity after years of financial problems. Also let go were waterfront director Jim Clements, curators Sharon Holt and Mary Anne Caton, and a receptionist.

Ms. Holt and Ms. Caton were the third team in a decade to work at curating the future permanent exhibit "World Port New York." Ms. Caton said even if the museum brought in new curators, the exhibit was still several years from being mounted.

Mr. Brouwer is an internationally known marine historian who has built the museum library from a few dusty bookcases when he arrived in 1972 to a world-class repository of tens of thousands of books, photographs, drawings, blueprints, and models. He is the author of the authoritative third edition of "The International Register of Historic Ships," and is working now on a book about the Port of New York. Ms. Dallal runs the museum's archaeology department and oversees more than two million objects unearthed in Lower Manhattan excavations, some of which may be seen in the inaugural exhibit at the Nicuw Amsterdam Gallery about the domestic life of early Dutch settlers. She is based at New York Unearthed, the museum's urban archaeology center at 17 State Street that features a laboratory where scientists and students have been able to examine artifacts.

"This is a great loss for the arche-

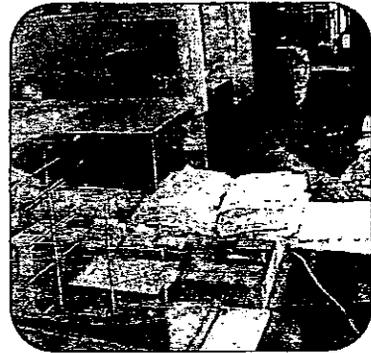
ological community," said Ms. Dallal, who has been at the museum for 12 years. "It's overwhelming. It's a disaster. We don't know what the fate of this gem is going to be, but we do know that the data won't be accessible."

Several blocks away, Mr. Brouwer is starting to pack up 32 years of work at 213 Water Street. Like Ms. Dallal, he was given one week's notice. He and many other historians, writers, and maritime buffs are worried that the library — a key part of the city's history, the only collection that fully documents the history of the Port of New York — will become inaccessible.

Reached on June 25, Ms. Mayo spoke briefly about the upheaval. "Because of some difficult financial circumstances we have been forced to cut our base operations," she said. She declined to be more specific, other than saying, "the library will remain open if people want to use it."

Many people involved with the situation say that museum management plans to empty and then sublet 213 Water Street. Mr. Brouwer has been told that the library will be packed up in August. Even though museum directors have said they hope to reopen it on the sixth floor of the recently renovated, temperature- and humidity-controlled Schermerhorn Row building, he and others are skeptical. "The library won't be accessible, the way it sounds," he said.

— Taciturn and modest, Mr. Brouwer was nevertheless persuaded to describe some highlights of the maritime collection he has amassed for the museum. "Well, a lot of stuff was rescued," he said. "Shipyards closed and I salvaged things. A



Historian Norman Brouwer, at the South Street Seaport Museum library.

lot of books came from corporate libraries or marine-related organizations like the American Bureau of Shipping that used to be on Broadway. Then there's the Fletcher collection. They were marine engine builders on West Street in the 1800s. They built engines virtually unique to the United States. Side wheel steam engines. I got to know the foreman of the yard and when the yard was closing, I went in and took a look and found beautiful hand-drawn parts of steam boat engines. That's over 15,000 plans right there." Numerous private collections have been donated to the museum, as well. Author and photographer Francis Duffy, vice president of the Maritime Industry Museum, who has used the library in his work and has also donated to it, is concerned about the fate of his large-scale 4x5 photographic negatives of maritime activity in New York Harbor that date back to the 1950s. "Eliminating the library as a resource is a blow to serious maritime researchers," he said. "I've used it since 1976 in my work."

Mr. Brouwer understands the need to save money and consolidate, but he still expresses "profound disappointment at all the work unfinished."



ARCHAEOLOGY

A publication of the Archaeological Institute of America



shop@ARCHA

Home

Subscribe!

News

Shop

Events

Links

Contact Us

Free Info

Advertise

online features

Archaeology Sunk at Seaport Museum

by Evan Walker

July 29, 2004

Controversial firings leave fate of artifacts uncertain.



[LARGER IMAGE]

The South Street Seaport Museum entryway in Schermerhorn Row in Lower Manhattan (Photo by Evan Walker)

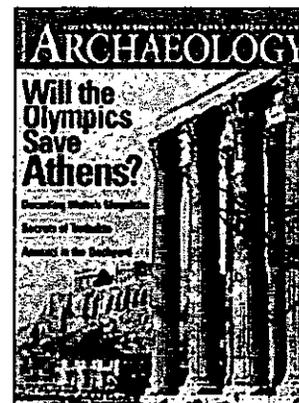
At the end of June, the South Street Seaport Museum dismissed seven employees on short notice. The staff members fired included the museum's archaeologist, Diane Dallal, and its nautical historian, Norman Brouwer, who had been employed there for 32 years. The cutbacks put into doubt the future of New York Unearthed and the nautical library, two of the museum's most important public and research facilities. Ironically, the firing took place even as the museum was advertising a "sneak peak" at its new \$20 million renovation of Schermerhorn Row (the historic row of buildings that houses the museum, restaurants, and upscale shops).

In addition to being the museum's curator of archaeological collections, Dallal ran the New York Unearthed archaeological center and conservation laboratory. The archaeological collections—more than 2 million artifacts from sites in the city—are permanently housed at the South Street Seaport Museum. Artifacts went to New York Unearthed's glass-enclosed conservation laboratory for curation, conservation, and study. There, the public could observe archaeologists and conservators at work. "One of the highlights of New York Unearthed's educational programs for school children was the chance to visit the lab, see the artifacts being catalogued and conserved and to meet and speak with 'real' archaeologists," says Dallal, "I was told that this program was the most popular of all the South Street Seaport's educational programs." What will become of the collections and New York Unearthed, the city's only archaeological museum, is unknown. "When I learned that my position was being 'eliminated,' I expressed extreme concern about the collections, many of which needed conservation," says Dallal. "I was told to just leave them."

The dismissals have many New Yorkers up in arms. ARCHAEOLOGY Magazine has received numerous letters and emails from archaeologists, institutions, and citizens voicing concern. Christopher Ricciardi, president of Professional Archaeologists of New York City wrote in a letter to the museum, "It is our fear that without Ms. Dallal expertly running and maintaining South Street Seaport's repository of artifacts and

CURRENT ISSUE

July/August 2004



ONLINE CONTENT

Exclusive Features

Ancient Olympics Guide, NYC Seaport Museum, Canine Case Closed?

Latest News

Daily archaeological headlines

Interactive Digs

Elden Pueblo, Arizona; Sagalassos, Turkey; Tiwanaku, Bolivia

Reviews & Shows

Jean Lecomte du Nouy, *Magna Graecia, Troy*

Interviews

Dennis Stroughmatt, David Stronach, Eric Shanower

Search

Subscribe Today!

- New Subscriptions
- Give a Gift

associated documentary information that the collections will now become off limits to research and eventually be lost forever." Rebecca Yamin, principle archaeologist and director of the Five Points Project, an excavation in Lower Manhattan, states in a letter to the museum that the possible loss of the archaeological collection there "has catastrophic implications for the preservation of the city's archaeological heritage as well as for the invaluable educational resource it provides for both New York City's school children and for scholars from all over the world." City University of New York professor Diana Wall, who was the original curator of archaeology at the South Street Seaport Museum, also expressed her concern in a letter. In referring to Diane Dallal's duties as a curator, Wall states that "the museum cannot afford to put the conservation needs of the archaeological collections on the back burner and assume that they can make up for neglect when they get the money to hire a new archaeological curator." Without "continuous oversight by an archaeologist trained as a conservator who understands the physical needs of the artifacts," writes Wall, "parts of the museum's archaeological collections could literally self-destruct."



- Renew Subscription
- Customer Service

Support archaeology.

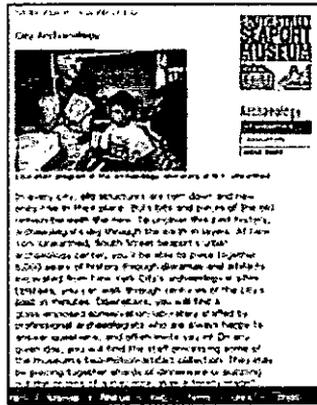


Join the AIA!

Learn more...



[LARGER IMAGE]



[LARGER IMAGE]

New York Unearthed is no longer open to the general public, but only to school groups by appointment. (Photo by Evan Walker)

In a July 8, *New York Times* article, retired Wall Street executive and museum chairman Lawrence S. Huntington said, "To put this museum on a break-even basis, we've had to cut back the payroll." Huntington stated that the archaeological collection was not specifically part of the museum's focus. "It's not necessarily related to the seaport's mission, even though it comes out of the ground of Lower Manhattan."

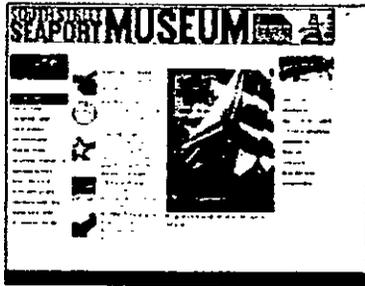
Dallal disagrees. "The truth is that these collections contain structural remains of the piers and wharves of the early port, the landfill it was built upon, merchandise sold by nineteenth-century waterfront merchants, remains of the 1835 fire, the earliest remains of Dutch New Amsterdam, just to name a few of it's important components." In fact, one of the inaugural exhibitions in the renovated facility is *Nieuw Amsterdam: Dutch New York as Represented in the Archaeological Collections of South Street Seaport Museum*. Opened in June, the exhibit features numerous artifacts uncovered from Lower Manhattan archaeological sites. (*Nieuw Amsterdam* was curated by Dallal.)

How significant are the South Street Seaport Museum's difficulties? According to the *New York Times* article, the museum had a \$700,000 deficit in 2003. Huntington told the *Times* that the latest staff cuts were necessary to trim \$1 million from the budget. The museum's funding comes from many different sources, including New York City and heavyweight corporate sponsors such as ADP, AIG, American Express, Verizon, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, Con Edison, Prudential, Merrill Lynch, JP Morgan Chase, and the New York Stock Exchange.

Paula Mayo, the museum's executive director, pointed to lower attendance as an explanation of the museum's financial troubles, as well as the need to eliminate employees. She told the *Times* that annual attendance is down to 450,000 from

Privacy Policy - Contact Us - Advertise
 © 2004 Archaeological Institute of America
 Web hosting donated by Hurricane Electric 

700,000 a decade ago, a 40% drop. It is unclear how these figures relate to those in an interview with Peter Neill, the museum's president until his March 2004 resignation, in the May/June 2004 issue of *Stanford Magazine*. Concerning "paying participants" to the museum, that article states that before 9/11, "nearly 500,000 people per year were paying participants in SSSM programs." Then, "that number dropped to zero after 9/11; it has now climbed back to around 385,000." This suggests that the number of paying participants has returned to 77% of pre-9/11 levels. (Admission to the museum is currently \$8 for adults, \$6 for students/seniors with ID, and \$4 for children ages 5 to 12.)



At the end of July, the museum's website still featured a book by historian Norman Brouwer, a long-time staff member who had been fired a month before.

[LARGER IMAGE]

The museum has also benefited from political and financial support post 9/11. Through a project to revitalize Lower Manhattan, New York Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton secured \$500 million of a \$2 billion grant for the redevelopment of nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and families. According to an October 2002 Schumer press release, \$4.6 million dollars was specifically set aside for "history and heritage," including the South Street Seaport Museum.

An April 2002 press release announced a \$5 million grant from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to help boost the economy of Lower Manhattan through the expansion of the South Street Seaport Museum. New York Governor George E. Pataki also expressed his support for the project and the museum in the press release noting, "This is one more way in which my administration is revitalizing lower Manhattan, and helping to build a stronger future for this extraordinary area of New York City."

And according to an October 2003 press release, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg worked successfully for the \$47 million "historic redevelopment" of Lower Manhattan. Through this project, the city restored several historic buildings along Front Street at the South Street Seaport, and provided \$5 million toward the restoration of the South Street Seaport Museum. Bloomberg stated in the press release that, "the Historic Front Street Project is a fitting complement to the renovation at the Seaport Museum just a few blocks away, and I am proud that the City has played a part in both of these important projects."

It is clear that despite lower (though apparently rebounding) attendance, the museum enjoys considerable support, both financial and political, within the New York City community. This raises a number of questions. Was the cutting of archaeology a choice—as opposed to cutting elsewhere or seeking more funds from government or corporate sources—rather than a necessity? Museum chairman Lawrence Huntington's comment to the *Times* suggests it was in part choice, based on a narrow view of the museum's purpose. If so, who made this decision and when was it taken? More important, given such a decision, was any thought given to the disposition of the collections and the fate of *New York Unearthed*?

Diana Wall noted in her letter to the museum's Paula Mayo that "when the museum acquired these collections, they took on a responsibility to maintain them and to make them available to researchers...now, in my opinion, they are abrogating their responsibility." And Chris Ricciardi stated in his letter, "we understand that South Street Seaport's main focus is the maritime history of The City of New York, but that history has been uncovered, in part, through archaeology.... There is no question that history has been uncovered, in part, through archaeology.... There is no question that the South Street Seaport is losing more than it is gaining by eliminating the archaeological curator position. *New York Unearthed*, and access to the collections."

ARCHAEOLOGY will follow this story as it develops.

- Click here for the text of the letters sent to the South Street Seaport Museum and for the museum's response.

Evan Walker, an anthropology and geography major at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is an intern with ARCHAEOLOGY.

CNETTA
Newsletter
March 2004

African Burial Ground Project

In 1991, archaeologists and construction workers rediscovered the remains of the African Burial Ground, located in Lower Manhattan, during the excavation for the construction of a federal office building at 290 Broadway. In use for most of the 18th century, the African Burial Ground is the largest and oldest known Colonial era cemetery used by enslaved and free blacks. After removing over four hundred individuals, the General Services Administration, under pressure from the community and Congress, stopped excavation and redesigned the office tower to avoid impacting the remaining portion of the cemetery in 1993. Since that time, a research team centered at Howard University in Washington, D.C., has been studying the human remains and their associated burial artifacts. The research team recently completed their analysis, which enabled the remains to be reburied in the remaining portion of the cemetery.

On September 30, 2003, the Rites of Ancestral Return commenced with a tribute ceremony at the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University with four individuals, a woman, man and two children, in coffins, representing all of the deceased. The four individuals were then taken to Baltimore, Maryland, Wilmington, Delaware, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Newark, New Jersey on October 1st and 2nd for tributes in each community. On Friday, October 3, 2003, the four coffins were taken by flotilla from Jersey City, New Jersey, to Wall Street, in Lower Manhattan, where, after a brief ceremony, they joined a procession of five horse-drawn wagons carrying the remaining coffins up Broadway to the memorial site at Duane Street. The wagons were escorted by members of a number of diverse community organizations who, acting as pallbearers, transferred the coffins from the wagons to crypts, located at the burial site. After the coffins were placed into the crypts, a viewing and vigil commenced to provide members of the public an opportunity to pay their respects. On the following day, October 4, 2003, an internationally attended, public tribute was held to conclude the Rites of Ancestral Return ceremonies with the lowering of the seven wooden crypts containing the human remains and associated artifacts of 419 individuals.

The Howard University research team is currently completing three technical reports dealing with their research of the history, archaeology and skeletal biology of the site and the individuals recovered. According to the current project schedule, the final report manuscript for the history and skeletal biology reports will be completed by September 2004. The final report manuscript for the archaeology technical report will be completed by winter 2005. When they are completed, each report will have been reviewed by a panel of experts in each technical discipline. After all of the report manuscripts are completed, a separate volume integrating each of the technical reports as well as a popular report will also be prepared.

In addition to the preparation of technical reports, the General Services Administration, in association with the National Park Service, is working with the community to develop an interpretive center and memorial for the site. Updates and information can be obtained from the project website at www.africanburialground.com.

From: "William Sandy" <billsandy1936@h...>

Date: Wed May 19, 2004 9:41 pm

Subject: Discovering New York's African Burial Ground- A Response to Castagna and Tyler

In a recent article published in the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Newsletter (March 2004) Joanne Castagna and Lattissua Tyler erroneously report on the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the New York City's African Burial Ground. Their article claims that construction workers had a role in discovering this important site. Nothing could be further from the truth. The ONLY role of construction workers was to operate a trackhoe, to remove fill, under the continuous direction of archaeologists. The archaeologists were implementing an investigation carefully planned by the late, great, Ed Rutsch and his team from Historic Conservation & Interpretation, Inc. Ed had about 30 years experience in NYC archaeology at this point, and knew a lot about getting below deep fill to look for sites. I know what happened because, unlike Castagna and Tyler, I was there.

In their article "St. Louis and NY Army Corps of Engineers Districts Partner On One of the Greatest Archaeological Discoveries of Our Time" Castagna and Tyler claim

"In 1991, GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region headquarters in New York City began excavating for a proposed new federal government building in Lower Manhattan, between Broadway and Duane Streets. It was during the excavation that an 18th century African burial ground was unearthed.

GSA hired archaeologists to investigate the find."

This is simply not the way it happened. Instead, Ed Rutsch hired experienced historians and archaeologists to research the site and wrote a report long before construction began. Then a detailed plan for searching for burials was developed long before any construction. I defy Castagna, Tyler, or anyone else to prove this is not how it happened. This is not the first time this preposterous report has surfaced, let us hope it is the last. If someone documents how this great discovery happened they will find the truth is much more interesting than fiction.

Bill Sandy, RPA

From: Pipesml@a...

Date: Thu May 20, 2004 7:49 am

Subject: Re: [nyac-l] Discovering New York's African Burial Ground- A Response to Ca...

I was also there when the first intact human remains were uncovered in Republican Alley. I stood with Phil Perazio as the ground was carefully scraped back in **full expectation** of finding remains - and we were not disappointed. What was surprising was finding intact burials outside of the Alley.

Sissie

From: kittarch@s...

Date: Sun May 23, 2004 5:55 pm

Subject: RE: Discovering New York's African Burial Ground- A Response to Castagna and Tyler

As indicated by Sissy Pipes, I was the one in immediate charge of the work at the African Burial Ground, as Ed Rutsch's site supervisor. I left the project once it became primarily focused on the removal of burials. I have long wanted to write the 'inside story' of this investigation. However, due to the press of other responsibilities, including my return to graduate school, I've not yet found the time.

For the record, let me first agree with the other posted statements that we fully anticipated that some burials, and other archaeological deposits as well, would likely be preserved in portions of the block. The scale of the intact area did come as a bit of a surprise, however.

The main point I want to make is that our investigation began well before the initiation of construction. In fact, the whole process would have gone more smoothly had it not been for delays and outright obstructionism on the part of the GSA and their construction contractor, who saw the CRM investigation as a waste of time and money. Some of the stunts they pulled to try to get us off the job were truly amazing. Throughout, Ed Rutsch stood firm against the attempted intimidation. If not for him, the discovery would, in fact, have been made during construction, making the whole situation a lot more ugly.

Philip A. Perazio, M.A., RPA

Senior Principal Investigator

Kittatinny Archaeological Research, Inc.

609 Main Street, P.O. Box 1117

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Phone: 570-421-9525; FAX: 570-421-9527; Cell: 570-350-8018

Email: pperazio-kar@s...

From: "George J. Myers, Jr." <georgejmyersjr@yahoo.com>
To: Big_Ed@yahoogleroups.com
Date: Thu, 20 May 2004 22:25:06 -0000
Subject: [Big_Ed] =?iso-8859-1?q?Re:_Discovering_New_York=12s_African_Burial_Ground-
_A_Response_to_Castin_and_Tyler?=
.....

As a researcher at Grossman and Associates, Inc., back in (the) 1989, I was involved in a test excavation of a location in City Hall Park, the location of a purported "First Almshouse" which I would question, this "first" appellation, something history has ascribed, other wards of the early City may have contained others. That test was near it's cemetery. I also worked later on the re-excavation of the "power conduit" between the Surrogate Court and the Tweed Courthouse in City Hall Park later with Linda Stone, MA. Further, as an employee of Parsons, Inc., I was involved in the clearance excavations of the "Almshouse Cemetery" location again in City Hall Park, as the park was combined into a "New York City Commons and African Burial Ground" historic district, which in my opinion should be expanded to include the location of Janes and Kirtland Co., iron foundry which in the Bronx, forged the Civil War era US Capitol Dome, and assembled it in Washington, D.C., with scaffolding and horses, for a little over \$1 million.

One of the projects involved the transportation of yards of excavated dirt to the location of the new Stuyvesant High School I think where the soil was screened by volunteers (or paid?) of the school after classes. I recall being asked about this time about the location of the "Negroe Burying Ground" next to the "Collect Pond" site of potteries and water springing still in basements on Chambers Street, once flooding "The Tombs" former gaol, next to the "Rope Walk," a long shed where hemp and "manila" were woven into long ropes for ships. A similar one was in the Cooper Square neighborhood, Peter Cooper, important for laying the second trans-Atlantic cable which succeeded after the failure of the first.

Saturdays seem to be different in the New York Times newspaper. I think they are printed more for the "locals" after the "canals" of people leave the island of Manhattan, perhaps in the summer to create ones on Fire Island. Anyway, I recall there was an article in that newspaper about the Federal site, which made no mention of it's "impending" significance. As covered by the TV press later, the site was cast in a "cover-up" kind of reporting. My grand dad was a real estate reporter and lost his wheelchair assistant, his son, in a Hall of Records elevator accident during the last World War.

Sincerely,
George J. Myers, Jr.

"Who breaks a butterfly upon a wheel?" - Alexander Pope

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT September 2004

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
EXHIBITS:						
Monarchs of the Sea: Celebrating the Ocean Liner Era	Exhibit	Perm. Exhibit		South Street Seaport Museum 207 Front Street New York, NY10038	www.southstreetseaport.org or 212.748.8766	\$5 adults under 12 free members-member card
Brooklyn Works:400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn	Exhibit	Exhibit		Brooklyn Historical Society 28 Pierrepont Street Brooklyn, NY 11201	www.brooklynhistory.org or 718.222.4111	\$6.00 Adults \$4.00 Students/ Seniors
Continuum: 12 Artists	Exhibit	April 26, 2003- November 1, 2004		National Museum of the American Indian-Gustav Heye Center Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House One Bowling Green New York, NY 10004	www.nmai.si.edu	Free
The Language of Native American Baskets: From the Weavers' View	Exhibit	September 20, 2003- January 9, 2005		National Museum Of American Indian-Gustav Heye Center, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House One Bowling Green New York, NY 10004	www.nmai.si.edu	Free
Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the making of the Americas	Exhibit	December 12, 2003-		South Street Seaport 207 Front Street New York, NY10038	www.southstseaport.org	Free
Drinking Glasses, Delft Tiles, Toys, And Table Scraps: Vivid Mementos Of Life In Dutch New York At South Street Seaport Museum	Exhibit	June17, 2004-		South Street Seaport Museum 207 Front Street New York, NY10038	212.873.6715	Admission to the museum is \$8 adults; \$6 students/seniors with ID; \$4 children 5-12; children under 5 and Museum Members free. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.
Totems To Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts Of The Northwest And Southwest	Exhibit	October 30, 2004-		American Museum of Natural History Central Park West at 79 th Street New York, NY 10024-5192	http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/totems/?src=e_h	Suggested Donations

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT September 2004

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
---------------	-------	------	------	----------	---------	-----

LECTURES:

A Conversation with Jane Jacobs: Her Work, Her Life, and New York City	Lecture and Reception	Tuesday, September 21, 2004- POSTPONED -TBA	6:30 p.m.	The Museum of the City of New York 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street New York, NY 10029	212.534.1672 x 3393	\$20.00 for Museum members, seniors, and students; \$25.00 for non-members.
Robert Sullivan: Rats – Observations on the History and Habitat of the City’s Most Unwanted Inhabitants.	Lecture	Thursday, September 23, 2004	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Merchant House Museum 9 East Fourth Street New York, NY 10003	212.777.1089 or email nyc1832@merchantshouse.com	\$15.00-non-members-\$10.00-members
Patricia McAnany, Boston University (Brush Lecture) Ancient Maya Chocolate Farmers in the Sibun Valley, Belize	Lecture-AIA	Thursday, October 14, 2004	6:30 p.m.	Institute of Fine Arts 1 East 78 th Street New York, NY	http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php	Free
William Murray, University of South Florida (Haupt Lecture) The Search for the Battle of Actium Where: Alexander Onassis Foundation Cultural Center, 645 Fifth Avenue, 6:30 PM	Lecture-AIA	Monday, November 1, 2004	TBA	Alexander Onassis Foundation Cultural Center 645 Fifth Avenue New York, NY	http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php	Free
Kevin Baker: Paradise Alley New York during the 1863 draft riots: angry underdogs, arrogant bourgeois, and pigs squealing in the streets. Readings take place in the Museum’s Greek Revival parlors and are followed by a booksigning and reception	Lecture	Thursday November 11, 2004	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Merchant House Museum 9 East Fourth Street New York, NY 10003	212.777.1089 or email nyc1832@merchantshouse.com	\$15.00-non-members-\$10.00-members

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA:

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology	Conference	October 15-17, 2004		Kingston, Ontario Canada	http://www.smcn.edu/Academics/soan/cneha/ANNMTG.HTM	
Anthropological Association of America-2004 Conference	Conference	November 17-21, 2004		San Francisco, CA	http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs.htm	
Society for Historical Archaeology-2005 Conference	Conference	January 5-10, 2005		York, England	http://www.sha.org/About/Conferences/mt2005.htm	

If any members have events that they would like listed, please contact Kelly Britt at 717.393.6425 or email at kb239@columbia.edu
Or by mail 410 South West end Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603