

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

No. 151

November 2011

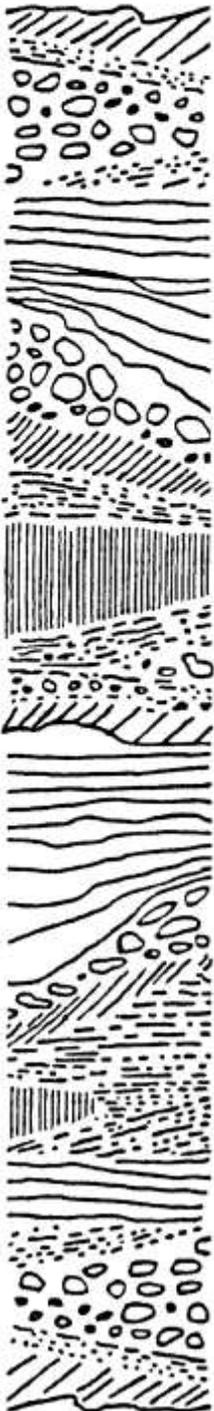
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Next Meeting:

November 9, 2011
Neighborhood Preservation Center
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY
6:30pm

Newsletter Editor:

Christopher Ricciardi
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322
Phone/Fax: (718) 645-3962
Email: chrisricciardi@optimum.net



PANYC General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011

In attendance: Rakos, Dallal, Britt, Cantwell, Geismar, Pickman, Spritzer, Stone, Wall

Secretary's Report: General meeting minutes from March approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$3,610.85 currently in the bank. Britt will resend membership dues reminder. Discussion took place regarding possible dues increase. Following discussion, a motion was made to keep annual dues at \$15.00 until PANYC finds a project on which to use the increased dues (i.e. a publication or symposium). Seven voted yes and two abstained.

President's Report:

- 1) Rakos attended the Landmarks public meeting on City Hall Park regarding the discovery of possible steps to the Bridewell Prison. The existing Binding Report already details the mitigation for the project and the commissioners voted that the measures previously approved would be implemented for this new discovery. Rakos did note that two people on the commission were in favor of exposing the archaeological features for display. Rakos will check with Amanda Sutphin as to when Landmarks holds a public meeting versus a public hearing.
- 2) Rakos also attended a meeting on the Gowanus Canal. As part of the Superfund process, communities may establish Community Action Groups (CAG) with an independent facilitator using EPA funds. The Gowanus Canal CAG has an archaeology sub-committee. Rakos attended the first archaeology sub-committee meeting with John Vetter who is the archaeologist for EPA. A recent remote sensing survey identified several boats in the canal but their significance has not yet been established. There were two reporters at the meeting, one being Gary Bussio from the Post. Rakos asked him how archaeology could get more positive legitimate press. He contacted her to see about a story. Rakos has asked for PANYC members interested in speaking with him to let her know. Rakos signed a letter prepared by Wall and Geismar about DORIS [Department of Records and Information Services] in which PANYC supports it as a separate agency.

Committee Reports (only those making a report are mentioned)

Awards: Chris Ricciardi nominated Rockmore Contracting Corporation for the Special PANYC Award for Outstanding Contributions Made by a Non-Archaeologist to New York City Archaeology. They were presented with this award at the PANYC Public Program.

Blog: Rakos resigned from Blog committee. This committee is now eliminated.

Education: (Reported by Rakos) Linn and MacLean have put together the list of recommended education resources from PANYC members re: NYC archaeology to be given to Christina Reith, NYAC Education Committee chair for its use and for use at the NY State Museum. The list will also be added to the PANYC website. List was requested to be sent to the membership for comments one last time.

Events: A request made by Pickman to put Events Calendar in portrait format to make it easier to put on website.

HHT: (Reported by Rakos) Jessica McKenzie, Barnard College student and intern at HHT for the spring semester this year, developed a newsletter about archaeology at the Lott House (finds included a rediscovered path from the house to the privy, remains of a possible summer kitchen, a possible cache related to African-American spiritual practices, and a few fun 20thc. artifacts like a dog's license and Pepsi bottle). They are planning to upload it to Facebook and send it out as a "Constant Contact" (email) newsletter. The HHT has also posted other info re: archaeology on its Facebook page.

Municipal Arts Society: Geismar reported that there have been no meetings lately so nothing to report.

MET Chapter: (Reported by Rakos) Talk next week by Joel Klein (Wed, May 25, 6pm, CU) about his work with the 9/11 families preserving the archaeology of Ground Zero. Please join us! Linn still has copies of Ralph's book so if anyone is interested in purchasing one, or knows anyone who might be interested, please let her know. Makes the perfect Fathers' Day gift!

Newsletter: (From membership) Thanks expressed to Ricciardi (not in attendance).

NYAC: Stone reported there will be a revised website for NYAC which will be updated and the contact for this is Doug Perrelli.

Geismar and Stone, members of NYAC board, reported on discussion about serving as a concurring party to the MOA for the Admiral's Row project in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Several issues arose that were discussed at the recent NYAC meeting that carry over to PANYC:

- 1) Is there a conflict of interest for PANYC regarding Vice President Diane Dallal's position at AKRF because AKRF is preparing the EA?

There continues to be some questions as to what it means to be a concurring party? What are the implications? Discussion ensued regarding *concurring* party versus *consulting* party- NYAC's lawyer was contacted about these issues and said:

- 1) There is no conflict of interest concern as long as people recuse themselves from discussions and any voting.
- 2) Lawyer didn't really address what it means to be a concurring party. Stone will follow-up with lawyer for more information.

NOTE: Final MOA is not available yet for this project.

PANYC needs to determine if our comments were incorporated into the final MOA.

PANYC has a draft MOA that we sent comments on.

Parks: Geismar resigned from the Parks committee after 20-some years! She was thanked

for her time serving as committee chair. We are looking for a replacement. If you are interested please contact Rakos. Geismar noted that there is work coming up at Battery Park and Fort Greene Park.

Public Program: Thank you to Rakos for organizing the Public Program. Members commented they liked the new format with no break and recommended changing it for next year as well-4 speakers, no break, each paper 15 minutes with 5 minutes of questions, or a 20 minute paper. Only break is for the award presentation. Stone commented that it was nice to have a speaker outside the discipline of archaeology and Pickman suggested we still leave time for questions.

Question arose as to archiving information from past public programs. Rakos will check with Ricciardi regarding what he received when he collected the past newsletters.

Website: Abstracts from the public programs will be placed on the website. Our archived and scanned newsletters will soon be added to the website. Many thanks to Chris Ricciardi and Alyssa Loorya for gathering the old newsletters and getting them scanned. Thanks also to Wall and Geismar, who provided the newsletters.

Old Business:

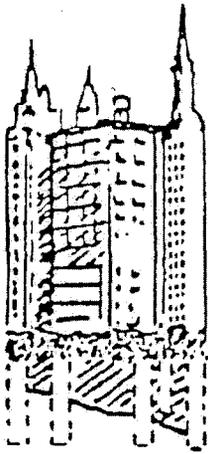
- 1) **PANyc Public Archives**-Geismar tried calling and emailing Molly Nora regarding PANyc public archives at the Seaport Museum, but received no response.
- 2) **Brooklyn Navy Yard**-(see above under NYAC)

New Business/Announcement:

- 1) **Symposium**-Rakos suggested that perhaps PANyc might put together a symposium that would increase our engagement with the public—perhaps during Archaeology Week/Month/Season. Ideas circulated regarding public education and other topics that might entice new members to join. Please contact her with ideas for a topic.
- 2) **Alliance for Response**-Britt made a general announcement regarding an organization called Alliance for Response that works with cultural institutions and organizations to help prepare them in the event of an emergency or disaster. She thought some members might be interested in joining. Britt will send out email to membership.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly M. Britt, PANyc Secretary.



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

October 6, 2011

Army National Guard Directorate (ARNG-ILE)
Attn: Rebecca Klein
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204

PANYC

Dear Ms. Klein,

Enclosed please find five (5) original signed copies of the signature page for the Admirals Row Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) is satisfied with ARNG's handling of the archaeological aspects of the Admirals Row project and wishes to become a concurring party. We are gratified that you have incorporated our suggestions regarding archaeology into the Final MOA. We regret that other historic preservation issues on the Admirals Row Project were not resolved as satisfactorily. We trust that going forward you will continue the conscientious handling of the archaeological issues and conduct other aspects of the project in a like manner.

We look forward to continued participation.

Thank you.

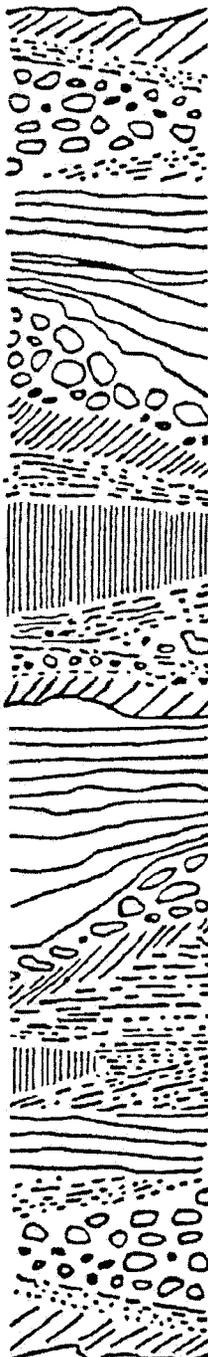
Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar
PANYC Executive Board

Linda Stone
PANYC Oversight Committee Chair

cc via email:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Historic Districts Council
Municipal Art Society of New York
National Trust for Historic Preservation
New York Landmarks Conservancy
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation



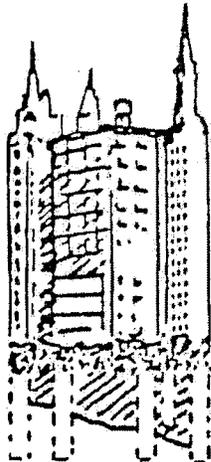
ADMIRAL's ROW – BROOKLYN NAVY YARD NEWS:

To read the current Environmental Assessment for the Brooklyn Navy Yard – Admiral's Row – Project area, please visit:

http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/buslinks/admiral/pdf/FinalEAwAppend_072811.pdf

and download the pdf file to your computer.

The project's Memorandum of Agreement, including archaeological stipulations, can be found on page 347 of the document.

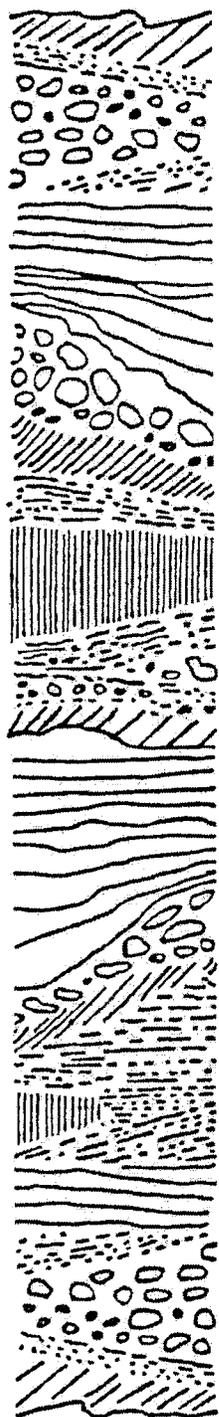


Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

October 19, 2011

Georgia Tech Foundation
760 Spring Street, NW
Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30308

PANyc



Good morning:

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANyc) to offer the enclosed donation of \$100 in support of Georgia Tech-Lorraine in memory of Michael Cohn. Mr. Cohn was an educator and very active in New York City archaeology for many decades, but he also had a keen interest international relations. It was his wish that donations be given to Georgia Tech - Lorraine to help carry out that mission.

Please accept this donation in Mike Cohn's memory.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Rakos
PANyc President
230 6th Avenue, Apt 4
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(917) 515-4154

CC: Sue Cohn

B.C.

Dear miss know-it-all,

4/2/94



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BONE APPETITE?

What do you say to an
Archaeologist who sleeps,
drinks and eats excavating?



4-2

6/1/94

[The Brooklyn Historical Society Blog](#)

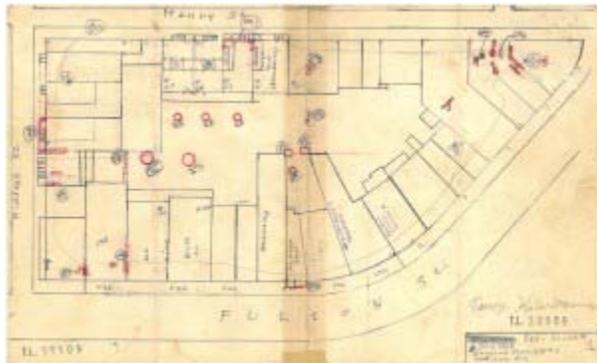
Digging Deep Into Brooklyn's Past

Written by Matthew Gorham on October 3rd, 2011

When I was a child, I was convinced for awhile that I would one day grow up to become an archaeologist. That is of course until I came to the cruel realization that archaeological work tends to involve a lot less of [this](#), and a whole lot more of [this](#). Unlike me, Terry Lymon was deterred neither by the tedium of some archaeological work, nor by a lack of professional training and education in the field, and his papers are one of my favorite collections that we've uncovered over the course of the [hidden collections project](#).

Little is known about Terry Lymon, a New Jersey native, Brooklyn resident, and self-taught amateur archaeologist who supported his hobby by working odd jobs. In the summer of 1965, Mr. Lymon and several assistants (including the Director of the Long Island Historical Society at that time, Dwight B. Demeritt) undertook an archaeological excavation on the parcel of land bounded by Fulton, Middagh, and Henry Streets, which had recently been razed for the construction of Cadman Plaza North. The Terry Lymon papers (ARC.057) document this project, and provide a detailed glimpse into the history of this little corner of Brooklyn Heights.

Below is a map hand-drawn by Mr. Lymon that shows the block where the excavation took place. The areas marked in red indicate the specific sites where Mr. Lymon and his team did their work.



Map of the Cadman Plaza North excavation, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.

The collection also includes 46 black-and-white photographs of Mr. Lymon's team at work. It's not known if Terry Lymon is one of the people depicted in any of these pictures.



99 • 100 •

Photograph of an unidentified group at dig site #18, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.



99 • 100 •

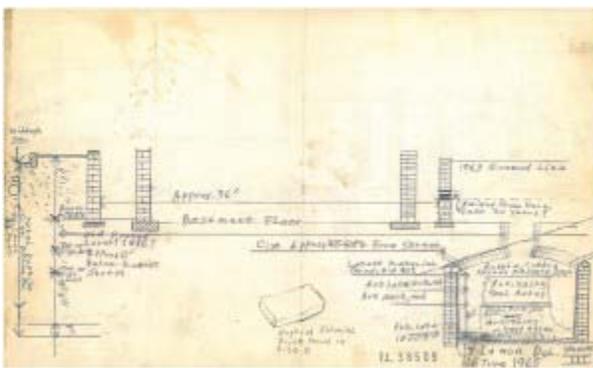
Photograph of an unidentified person at dig site #18, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.



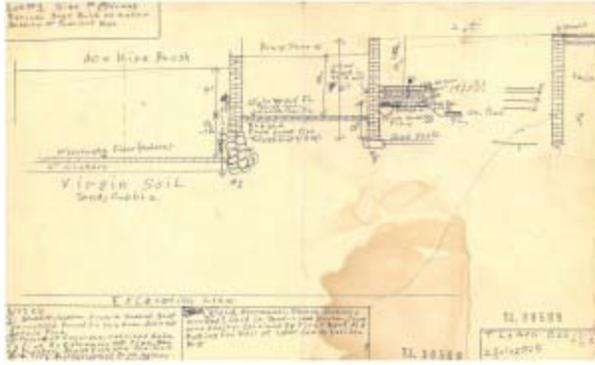
Photograph of an unidentified man at dig site #18, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.

During the dig, Mr. Lymon and his team uncovered all sorts of artifacts and remnants of human occupation, including traces of building foundations, dry wells and cisterns, and personal possessions of past residents dating back to the early 19th century. In addition to the photographs and map above, the collection includes a number of hand-drawn diagrams of the dig sites themselves, as well as the artifacts that the team unearthed.

These first two diagrams show cross-sections of a couple of the dig sites, indicating the types and approximate dates of the objects and structures discovered at each one, and the depth underground at which they were located.

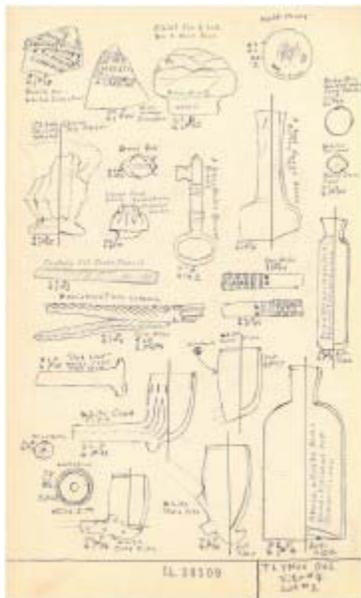


Cross-section of an unidentified dig site at the Cadman Plaza North excavation, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.



Cross-section of lot #1, site #6 at the Cadman Plaza North excavation, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.

Mr. Lymon also made true to size illustrations of all of the small objects that were uncovered during the excavation. This one shows a half-penny coin, several smoking pipes, pieces of whale bone, a brass bell, two marbles, and a skeleton key, among other things.



Artifacts from lot #1, site #6 at the Cadman Plaza North excavation, 1965. Terry Lymon papers, ARC.057. Brooklyn Historical Society.

As an archivist, looking through Terry Lymon's papers can be rather humbling. Whereas I'm lucky enough to actually *get paid* to steep myself in Brooklyn's history all day, Mr. Lymon was able to do so only during those precious hours when he wasn't working to make ends meet. The passion for archaeology that was his only motivating factor is clearly evident in the hard work and attention to detail that he put into this excavation project.

I've often wondered what ever became of Terry Lymon, and whether he lead any other archaeological digs in Brooklyn, but the research I've done has yielded only scant bits of information. In the fall of 1965, the Long Island Historical Society hosted a lecture by Mr. Lymon and his team on the Cadman Plaza North excavation, as well as an exhibition of some of the artifacts they discovered. Then in 1966, Curator John S. Kopper of the Henry Whitfield State Museum in Connecticut drew up a formal proposal to build upon Mr. Lymon's work with a more large scale, professionally-lead excavation of the site. Whether this project ever came to fruition is unknown, and beyond this, it would seem that Terry Lymon simply disappeared into the historical ether. If anyone out there has any information about Terry Lymon, or if the man himself happens to be reading this, we'd love to hear from you.

Posted in [Brooklyn Past & Present](#)

PANyc Events Calendar

Event	Topic	Speaker	Time	Date	Location	Contact
American Anthropological Association's (AAA) 110 th Annual Meeting	Traces, Tidelwaters and Legacies			Nov 16, 2020	Montreal, QC	
Exhibit: Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn	The exhibition explores enormous transformations in the world's politics and culture between the 1763 triumph of the British Empire in the Seven Years' War and the end of the Napoleonic Wars.			Nov 11-April 15th, 2012	The New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West	http://www.nyhistory.org/
Exhibit: Context/Contrast: New Architecture in Historic Districts 1967-present				Oct 7-Dec 31st, 2011	The Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St.	http://www.brooklynhistory.org/visitor/contact.html

MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER/INFORMATION:

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to:

Kelly Britt
PANYC Secretary
191 73rd Street - #202
Brooklyn, New York 11209
Email: kellymbritt@gmail.com

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP (+FOUR): _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC and would like to receive the application form _____

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

I wish to make an additional donation to PANYC _____

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in digital (e-format) _____

I wish to receive the PANYC Newsletter in printed (mailed) form _____

If you have any questions please email: panyc2006@yahoo.com