

**HISTORIC PLACES/PUBLIC SPACES:  
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW YORK'S  
HISTORIC SITES**

Sunday, April 18, 1999 at the Museum of the City of New York

**NINETEENTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM**

**WELCOME**

Diane Dallal, South Street Seaport Museum, Chair, PANYC  
Public Program 1999

**ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE ATTIC: UPSTAIRS IN THE  
SCHERMERHORN ROW BLOCK**

Steven H. Jaffe, South Street Seaport Museum

The Schermerhorn Row block built in 1810-12 on the East River waterfront of lower Manhattan, is the centerpiece of the South Street Seaport Historic District and Museum. Over nearly two centuries, its buildings have served successively as merchants' countinghouses, warehouses and offices for coffee and fish dealers, and hotels for seamen. Curator and historian Steven H. Jaffe will explore the vestiges of these past worlds as they survive in the architectural fabric and fixtures of the Row's upstairs loft spaces.

**MANHATTAN "MIKVAH" MYSTERY: BATH  
HOUSES ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE**

Celia Bergoffen, Archaeological Consultant

The Eldridge Street Project is restoring the synagogue, built in 1886, which was the first temple erected by Ashkenazi Jews on the Lower East Side. Its congregation was interested in upholding traditional Jewish observances against the rising tide of the Reform Movement; it seemed reasonable to suppose that they would have respected the all-important laws governing the use of the Jewish ritual bath, or "mikvah." The existence of a bath house nearby, suggested that it might also have housed a ritual pool. No references to this bath house were found among the synagogue's records, however, nor any accounts of any other mikvah connected to Eldridge Street.

**BURIALS FROM GOVERNORS'S ISLAND**

Meta Janowitz, Louis Berger and Associates (LBA)

In the summer of 1994 the coroner was called to the U.S. Coast Guard Support Center on Governor's Island when excavations for an electrical utility trench encountered parts of a skeleton. The coroner determined that the remains were indeed human and not recent. The Coast Guard arranged for LBA to conduct an intensive data recovery investigation of the area. Burial shafts were found in the vicinity of the trench and six skeletons were eventually recovered, all buried without either coffins or shrouds. Osteological and paleopathological analysis of the bones revealed some parts of the life histories of these late eighteenth-century New Yorkers.

Break (2:20-2:35) (15 minutes)

**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY EXCAVATIONS AT ROSE  
HILL MANOR IN THE BRONX**

Alan S. Gilbert, Fordham University

For the past 14 years, students at Fordham University in the Bronx have had the opportunity to learn fieldwork techniques at the Rose Hill Manor, a significant historic site located on the college campus. Remains investigated to date have provided information about the sequence of building and modification. Artifacts from the later levels of the site represent the day-to-day activities of boys at St. John's College, including their writing implements, tableware, soda and medicine bottles, games, and articles of personal grooming.

**GIULIANI NEXT TO HISTORY: THE  
ARCHAEOLOGY IN CITY HALL PARK**

Sherene Baugher, Cornell University

Surrounding Mayor Giuliani's City Hall are silent reminders of New York's colonial past. Buried in the ground are the remains of several British military barracks, an 18th century workhouse known as the Bridewell, a colonial jail, a paupers burial ground, and the kitchen of the colonial almshouse. Archaeologists began to unearth remains of these buildings in 1989. This paper discusses the location of various sites in City Hall Park as well as the findings from some of the archaeological excavations, especially material associated with the almshouse. Some of the social issues that concerned colonial New Yorkers continue today, along with a return to some remarkably similar solutions.

Questions from the Audience

**SCENES FROM THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM**  
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