



Symposium on the

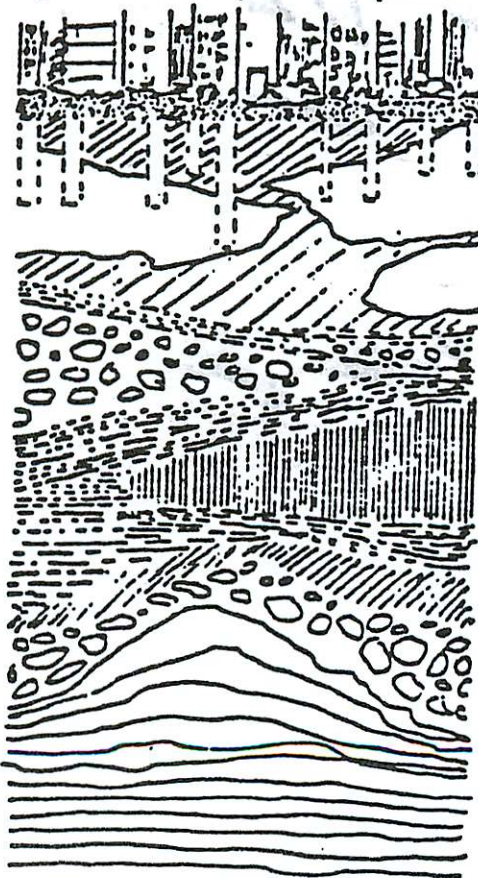
ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY

EIGHTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM

Presented by the Professional Archaeologists
of New York City
The Museum of the City of New York
103rd Street and Fifth Avenue

Saturday, 26 March 1988

open to the general public



We wish to thank those who helped make this year's PANYC symposium possible. We are particularly grateful to the Museum of the City of New York, and especially to Beverly Bartow, Susan Gangwere, and other members of the museum's staff, as well as to those who participated in the program and all those who attended.

The 1988 PANYC Symposium Committee
Karen S. Rubinson, Chair
Joan Geismar
Sydne Marshall
Celia Orgel

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY: FROM ABSTRACT TO CONCRETE

The six speakers at this symposium will explain why and how archaeology is done in New York City: what reasons sites are chosen, who excavates them, what do we find, do we expect what we find, what happens to the things excavated, what can we learn from them?

Questions from the audience will follow each speaker's presentation, with additional time for final questions at the conclusion of the program.

1. The Abstract Beginning

Dr. Sherene Baugher, Urban Archaeologist, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

Dr. Baugher will discuss the environmental laws and regulations which require much of the archaeological work, the state and city plans and models which predict sensitive areas, and the nature of the process within New York City. Each aspect will be illustrated by slides of the city itself, historic maps and documents, and archaeological field works and finds.

2. Learning on the Job: Academic Archaeology

Dr. Frederick A. Winter, Director of Archaeological Services, Key Perspectives and Associate Professor at Brooklyn College

This paper focuses on academic archaeology in New York City. Many sites in Brooklyn have been excavated by Brooklyn College field schools, including the historic sites of Gravesend and the 18th century Christian Duryea House, as well as Amerindian sites in Marine Park and Jamaica Bay. The pace and nature of excavations and research within the academic environment contrasts greatly with the kind of archaeology discussed by the third speaker.

3. Digging Long Hours, Often in the Rain

Mr. Terry H. Klein, Assistant Director, The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Assocs.

Mr Klein will talk about contract archaeology, that is, archaeology which is required by Federal and State agencies if public money is involved and usually by private developers if their sites are affected by the New York City Environmental Quality Review process. Short deadlines influence the archaeology done in the contract environment. The paper is illustrated with historic sites excavated by Louis Berger in Lower Manhattan and Staten Island.

4. Digging Above Before (and After) Digging Below

Dr. Joan H. Geismar, Archaeological Consultant

Before excavation is done, regardless of the auspices or kind of site, a documentary history of the site must be compiled. Dr. Geismar will illustrate the various kinds of documents archaeologists consult, including maps and books, as well as records from many City and State agencies and bureaus, among them Water Supply, General Services, Surrogates Court, Buildings, and Archives. Dr. Geismar will show how these records are combined to tell the story of a site, using as example a 19th century site in Greenwich Village.

5. What Do You Do With All That Stuff?

Meta Janowitz, Materials Specialist, Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates

Once excavations have been completed -- or in the case of very large sites, while excavations continue -- the archaeological materials which are found are conserved and analyzed. Ms. Janowitz shows how everything from seed and bones to pottery and glass tell us information about the past. Using materials from a recent Staten Island excavation of a "gentleman farmer," Ms. Janowitz will illustrate how to read a site's history from its artifacts, once the artifacts have been cleaned and conserved.

6. So What's New?

Dr. Diana diZerega Wall, Curator of Archaeology, South Street Seaport Museum and Professor, City University of New York

Dr. Wall will illustrate one of the most important facets of urban archaeology -- presenting the prehistory and history of our city as seen through archaeological materials to New Yorkers. Exhibitions of archaeological materials are increasing in New York City, from site-specific examples such as that at the site of the original city hall or Stadt Huys or the one soon to be mounted at Barclays Bank to the wide-ranging plans of the South Street Seaport Museum, which has become the repository from most of the large archaeological collections recently excavated in Manhattan.

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