

Symposium on the ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW YORK CITY

Searching Beneath Our City's Streets

Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)  
in association with The Museum of the City of New York

Saturday, May 1, 1982  
Museum of the City of New York

Arthur Bankoff  
Welcoming Remarks

Ralph Solecki  
Archaeology in New York City and Environs, A  
Reminiscent View of the Past and Hopes for the Future

Ann-Marie Cantwell  
Method and Theory: Planning an Archaeological Excavation

Sherene Baugher-Perlin  
The Law and New York City Archaeology

Break

Joan H. Geismar  
Recent Field Investigations on the 175 Water Street Block

Diana Rockman  
Laboratory Analysis of the Artifacts from the Telco Block

Nan Rothschild  
Raiders of the Lost Ark and Urban Archaeology

Arthur Bankoff  
Closing Statements

ABSTRACTS

Archaeology in New York City and Environs, A Reminiscent View of the Past  
and Hopes for the Future.

Ralph S. Solecki  
Columbia University

After a long period of neglect, archaeology in New York City got off to a very hopeful start early in the 20th century. Museum professionals and educated amateurs alike produced substantial work as measured by the standards of their time. There was a low point in field work until the period just before WWII and following it, when interested students and private individuals discovered local archaeology. However, with the growth of the city, available prehistoric Indian and other sites diminished, resulting in a slackening of field investigations. Today we are seeing a new kind of archaeology, some of it in the shadow of our

sky-scrapers. This work deals with problems of urgency, related to building and construction activities in the city. The work involves a professionalism on a scale unprecedented in the history of local archaeology. The resurgence of interest in New York City archaeology, although curtailing some freedom of choice in projects, nevertheless is yielding a harvest of information such as we have never hoped for before.

Method and Theory:  
Planning an Archaeological Excavation

Anne-Marie Cantwell  
Rutgers University  
Newark, New Jersey

This paper will deal with some of the problems archaeologists face in planning excavations. Examples will be given from current excavations at the Hamilton Fish site in the St. Marks Historic District.

The Law and New York City Archaeology

Sherene Baugher-Perlin  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

The City Environmental Quality Review (C.E.Q.R.) requires that archaeological issues be addressed as part of the environmental review process. This procedure will be discussed and specifically how it was applied to the major digs in lower Manhattan. In addition, a predictive model which will enable the Landmarks Preservation Commission to flag potential archaeological sites thereby giving more time for a detailed examination of a site will be discussed.

Archaeology In The South Street Seaport Area Of Lower Manhattan

Joan Geismar and Diana Rockman  
Soil Systems, Inc.

Joan H. Geismar and Diana Rockman of Soil Systems, Inc. will discuss recent field investigations on the 175 Water Street block; Diana Rockman will discuss the laboratory analysis of the artifacts from the Telco block.

Raiders of the Lost Ark and Urban Archaeology

Nan Rothschild  
Barnard College/Columbia University

It is clear that archaeology has a wide appeal for a major segment of the public. This discussion will center on ways in which archaeologists and interested non-archaeologists can interact, and what responsibility archaeologists have to a public audience. It will also suggest areas of research in which the combination of materials recovered from the ground and information from historical sources can provide insights into past ways of life and patterns of development in New York City which cannot be learned from either type of material alone.