

Abstracts of Papers to be Presented
Before PANYC's Annual Symposium on the Archaeology
of New York City

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Museum of the City of New York

Coring The Apple
Testing for Deeply Buried Archaeological Sites in New York City

Arnold Pickman
New York University

Two processes of land modification in New York City - the natural rise in sea level since the end of the last glaciation and the filling-in by man of marshy and submerged land - can result in the burial and preservation of archaeological sites. To detect the presence of such sites, archaeologists have made use of core drilling equipment. Data gathered for engineering purposes has been used to reconstruct the past shoreline of the Hudson River and determine the most likely locations of prehistoric habitation on land which is now submerged. In other locations in the City, archaeologists have used core drilling equipment to locate archaeological sites which are now buried beneath deep deposits of landfill.

What Do We Find and Where Did It Come From?
Some Engineering Techniques Found at 175 Water Street

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.
Independent Consultant

Excavation on the 175 Water Street block in lower Manhattan revealed several 18th and early 19th century engineering techniques that are not clearly documented in our city's historic literature. Research suggests ancient roots for the methods of landmaking and stabilization found on the block. It also suggests the resource-fulness of our city's early "engineers". And, finally, one facet of this engineering process graphically illustrates the interaction and cooperation occurring between members of New York City's 18th century merchant elite.

Marine Archaeology of the New York Harbor:
An Introduction

Norman Brouwer
Curator of Ships and Marine Historian
South Street Seaport Museum

This paper discusses finding surviving evidence of types of vessels which were important to the development of New York and for which plans or detailed information no longer exist. Usually the wide variety of crafts used were illustrated in prints and early photographs. For many, little more will be known other than these prints and photographs without viewing the actual specimens. The focus of this paper is on the working craft to which little scholarly attention has been paid and about which little is known.

The History of Two New York City Afro-American Communities:
Historical Archaeology and the Public

Roselle E. Henn
CUNY - Graduate Center

Two modern city neighborhoods are actively pursuing their histories. Archaeology has provided an important focus for historical research involving community members on many levels. This paper will recount the development of local interest and involvement in archaeological investigations in two 19th century Afro-American communities, Weeksville (central Brooklyn) and Sandy Ground (Staten Island).

Buried 17th Century New York:
The Rediscovery of the Dutch West India Company Warehouse
at Pearl Street

Joel W. Grossman, Ph.D.
Greenhouse Consultants

Seventy archaeologists working through the winter of 1984 under heated plastic domes 8 feet beneath Pearl Street used high speed infrared computer transits, overhead stereo photography and advanced conservation techniques to record the layout and stratigraphy of the original shoreline settlement of New Amsterdam, over a four week period during January '84. Sealed beneath eight foot deep 19th century brick basement floors and buried under layers of 18th century rubble was the original 1625 land surface which revealed the remains of four stone buildings, wooden and yellow brick structures, and a total of 42,529 historic artifacts which included Contact Period Indian pottery, beads and a unique bark basket filled with both Dutch and Indian goods together with marbles and a wooden Chinese checkers-like game board.

A Report on Field Investigations
at the GSA Site, Jamaica, Queens

Debra C. Bodie
New York University

Phase III excavations at the GSA site were conducted between July 6 and July 29, 1983. The purpose of these excavations was to further sample archaeological evidence of the historic occupation of the block, particularly as this was reflected in deposits dating to the 19th and 20th century commercial growth of the block. The 19th century development of the block was principally oriented toward the creation of hotels and related commercial enterprises, such as taverns, livery stables, and blacksmith shops. As anticipated, backyard and stable yard deposits were found, as well as several pits containing 19th century hotel and tavern-related refuse. The archaeological information for the GSA site, therefore, adds to our knowledge of the commercial and ultimately suburban growth of Jamaica, Queens.

Deep Holes and High Finance on Wall Street:
Archaeological Investigations of the Barclays Bank Site, Manhattan

Bertram Herbert and Terry Klein
Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

The construction of a major banking center at Wall, Water and Pearl Streets has provided an opportunity to study life along New York City's 18th century waterfront. The location of this new banking center was the site of businesses and homes of merchants and druggists. Archaeological study of this site has produced artifacts and remains of buildings once used by these entrepreneurs. Artifacts recovered during excavation included large quantities of ceramics, glass, clothing items, jewelry, and food remains. Study of these artifacts and building remains will contribute to our understanding of life in the 18th century city, and how it changed as a result of historical events and processes. This archaeological study was financed by the London and Leeds Corporation for Barclays Bank International.