



Professional Archaeologists of New York City Newsletter No. 80

April 1997

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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 16 April 1997

Room 1127 Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.

Executive Board: 6:10 PM

General Membership: 6:30 PM

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Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting 5 February 1997

President Joseph Schuldenrein called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M. The following committees will report: Action, Awards, Events, Exhibit, Met. Chapter, Nominations, Newsletter, Research and Planning, and Public Program.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with the following correction: under PROGRAM: perspective should be changed to prospective.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stone reported a balance of \$1,218.78 in the PANYC account.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Schuldenrein reported sending a letter to the City Council public hearing regarding Martins Field Playground in Flushing. Stone reported she did a documentary study on the site which was a cemetery for the poor from 1840-1898. The City Council held a hearing to ask the Parks Department to discontinue use as a playground and to have the site Landmarked. Geismar sent a letter on her own behalf relating her work at Gethsemane Cemetery in New Jersey and said the situation and hearing were reminiscent of the African Burial Ground. Stone said the larger issue for Parks is that there are a number of city parks built on top of historic cemeteries and asked if PANYC should do anything about it. Geismar said these issues may also come up in the Brooklyn Navy Yard hearing next week.

Schuldenrein reported a victory for the NYS Dormitory issue. He sent a letter to Commissioner Castro about the inappropriateness of circumvented compliance. The victory signifies that terrorism, in the form of law suits works for archaeology.

ACTION: Harris said the CORP is preparing an MOA for wetlands and wanted to know if the Action Committee would respond. The group felt it was a good idea. Spritzer said she was only receiving dredging notices from the CORP and would welcome other opportunities to comment.

AWARDS: Cantwell said the committee is still looking for award nominations.

EVENTS: Wall announced a talk at the Philadelphia Museum on this Saturday. Stone announced the upcoming Met Chapter meeting.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: Stone reported that the exhibit plans are proceeding nicely. There have been a lot of meetings and we met our

fund-raising goal. Stone also suggested that she and Harris coordinate mailings for the Public Program scheduled for April 13 and the Exhibit which begins April 2.

**NOMINATIONS:** Schuldenrein will speak with Dallal and nomination forms will be sent to membership. A committee was formed with members Schuldenrein, Dallal, Rakos and Yamin.

**PUBLIC PROGRAM:** Harris said the program title is "Reclaiming Vanished Voices: The Archaeology of 19th Century New York City." She said MCNY inaccurately announced a program co-sponsor when there is none. They also incorrectly reported a time of 1-5 PM when it will be shorter, with 15 minutes each going to six presentations by Rob Fitts, Heather Griggs, Mike Bonasera, Joan Geismar, Roselle Henn, Kate Morgan and Becky Yamin, with Diana Wall providing concluding comments.

**RESEARCH AND PLANNING:** Rothschild reported that the committee is planning a forum on graduate education in archaeology for next fall. Schuldenrein and Klein will be speakers. They are also looking for a hard-liner against a role for CRM in graduate training. Rothschild will be speaking on the opposite position. Other speakers are also being solicited. The program will be at Columbia and will be tape recorded for possible publication.

**PARKS:** Geismar spoke to Scott Heyl of the Historic House Trust. She hasn't received anything in writing but they are working on something and Heyl has not forgotten us.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Schuldenrein discussed Bob Grumet's presentation from the last meeting requesting PANYC involvement in his planned volume on NY archaeology. He said the executive board recommended that individual members can comment and provide PANYC as their affiliation, without speaking for the organization. Schuldenrein said he would send a letter to Grumet to this effect.

Geismar reported that the Poillon-Seguine-Britton House - 361 Great Kills Road, Staten Island is coming up for LPC hearing again next week. She has recommended intensive testing and wanted to comment. President Schuldenrein will send a letter.

No further business was brought before the general membership. The meeting was adjourned prior to a presentation by President Schuldenrein on Geoarchaeology in NYC and Vicinity.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Stone, for Diane Dallal, PANYC Secretary 1996-97.

## Current Research in the New York Area

### Manhattan

Baruch College

Submitted by Robert Fitts and Rebecca Yamin, John Milner Associates



In February 1997, John Milner Associates conducted Phase II archaeological investigations at the Baruch College site, located on Block 880 (bounded by Lexington Ave, Third Ave, 24th St, and 25th Street). During the second half of the nineteenth century, this block was the center of Manhattan's horse trade. Stables and horse auction houses lined 24th and 25th Streets, while the avenues contained private homes and hotels/taverns catering to members of the cattle industry.

Eleven backhoe trenches were used to identify significant archaeological remains. In all, 4,399 square feet, or 18 percent of the site, was tested. Although much of the site was disturbed by twentieth-century construction, remains of nineteenth-century stables were uncovered in two lots.

At 141 East 24th Street, a cobble surface, believed to be the floor, or sub-base for the floor, of a stable and a u-shaped brick drain probably used by the same stable to conduct waste from the stables

to the street, was uncovered. On the adjacent lot, 143 East 24th Street, excavations revealed two brick drains overlaid by a mortared surface. One of these drains led to a five-by-six foot brick-lined pit, believed to be a receptacle for animal waste.

Because of the high degree of twentieth-century disturbance on the site, and the extensive Phase II excavations, Phase III excavations were deemed unnecessary. John Milner Associates is currently working on the Baruch College report, which should be available upon request later this year.

### New York Harbor

New York and New Jersey and Harbor Navigation Study

Submitted by Lynn Rakos  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

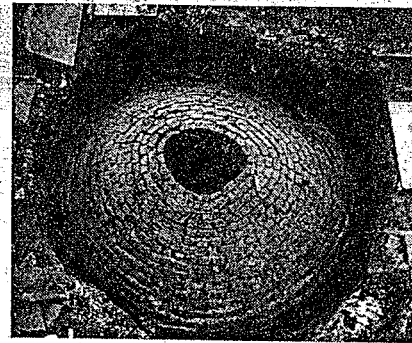
Two harbor-wide studies are being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps) for the Port of New York and New Jersey. The New York and New Jersey and Harbor Navigation Study is being conducted to document the need for Federal deep-draft navigation improvements for the port, while the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP), is currently being developed for the New York Harbor Bight Apex Region to determine the methods and locations for the disposal of materials dredged from harbor. Both studies have upland, near-shore and off-shore components which will require a number of cultural resource investigations. Remote sensing surveys of the New York Bight Apex were undertaken last summer to collect geophysical data for the DMMP study. The remote sensing data will be used to aid in the identification of now

submerged landforms that might have buried evidence of prehistoric occupation prior to inundation and will also be used to locate potential shipwreck sites and other marine resources. Documentary research, archaeological testing, sediment corings, magnetometer surveys, diving inspections and other studies as appropriate will be undertaken as these projects continue. Upland infrastructure locations and disposal sites will also be considered and will be subject to cultural resources investigations as the areas become more clearly defined. Most of the data gathered for this study as whole, including cultural resource information, will be entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS), by the U.S. Army Corps Waterways Experiment Station and the New York District which will, in time, be available to other local, state and federal agencies. Provisions will be made to ensure the protection of identified resources before the digital data is distributed. Coordination with interested parties and the public will be an important component of both projects and the Corps is currently seeking groups and individuals who will participate in the scoping process. Comments and questions will be readily received by the Corps and PANYC will be kept apprised of the cultural resources studies as they proceed. Corps archaeologist Lynn Rakos is coordinating the cultural resource component of these projects and she can be reached at (212) 264-0473.

## Brooklyn

35 Wyckhoff St.

Submitted by Robert Fitts



Landscaping in the backyard of 35 Wyckhoff St. in the Cobble Hill section of Brooklyn revealed a brick domed cistern. This large cistern was eight feet in diameter and turned out to be nearly nine feet deep. During March 1997, Robert Fitts and a cast of many volunteers (including PANYC member Diana Wall and students from CUNY) spent their weekends digging the feature. Excavations revealed that the cistern with filled in with furnace debris and household rubbish after 1863. Recovered artifacts include white granite tableware, numerous wine/liquor bottles, a large faunal assemblage, and a pair of wing tipped shoes in nearly perfect condition. The household responsible for depositing this assemblage has not yet been identified, but all evidence indicates that it was a middle class family with young children. A report should be issued in early 1998. Those wishing a copy should contact Robert Fitts.

NOTE- The faunal assemblage for the 35 Wyckhoff St site is available for analysis. It would make an ideal MA thesis. Interested parties should contact Robert Fitts.

chitecture and a journal called *The New City*, architects and urban planners Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Jean-Louis Cohen, Jean-François Lejeune, Allan Shulman and Neal Payton discuss the relationship between modern architectural and traditional urban streets, blocks and squares.

**The Shoulders We Stand On: Race, Radicalism and American Women's History** Barnard College, Sudsberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, Broadway at 118th St (854-2067). Subway: 1, 9 to 116th St. 5pm. **THE** Barnard College Center for Research on Women's lecture series lightens up a bit with a tongue-in-cheek slide-lecture by Louise Bernikow, author of *The American Women's Abolition: An Inspiring and Irreverent Women's History*.

**Macy's Spring Flower Show** See Thu 27.

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** See Thu 27.

**New York International Auto Show** See Sat 29.

## Walking Tours

**Rockefeller Center Municipal Art Society** (935-3960). Meet at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave at 51st St (935-3690). Subway: 6 to 51st St; E, F to Lexington-Third Aves. 12:30-2pm. \$10; students, seniors and members \$8.

## TUESDAY 1

### Urban Affairs

**Leah Rabin** 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave at 92nd St (996-1100). Subway: 6 to 96th St. 8pm. \$18. Yoo-hoo, Netanyahu! While you wring your hands over your sketchy attempts to rework the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, your martyred predecessor's widow keeps traveling the world, defending the policies you've criticized. Yitzhak Rabin's wife, Leah, speaks today at the Y about her new book, *Our Life, His Legacy*.

**April Fool's Day Demonstration Against State Welfare Reform** City Hall Park, Chambers Street Park Row and Broadway, second floor (631-4263). Subway: N, R, 4, 5, 6 to City Hall. 1pm. **THE** Some of the same groups at yesterday's Racial Justice Day march may return to City Hall today for this lunchtime rally against George Pataki's plan to attach more conditions and restrictions to welfare.

**Macy's Spring Flower Show** See Thu 27.

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** See Thu 27.

**New York International Auto Show** See Sat 29.

## Walking Tours

**Greenwich Village Municipal Art Society** (935-3960). Meet at the Washington Square Arch, Washington Square Park at Fifth Avenue and Waverly Pl. Subway: N, R to 8th St. 12:30-2pm. \$10; students, seniors and members \$8.

## WEDNESDAY 2

### Urban Affairs

**George Stephanopoulos** New School for Social Research, Tishman Auditorium, 66 W 12th St at Sixth Ave (229-5488). Subway: F to 14th St. 10pm. After getting out of the White House while the getting was good, Bill Clinton's presidential assistant has come home to roost in NYC, where he's finishing his book, performing talking-head chores for ABC and studiously avoiding interviews with everyone except *The New York Times*—until the book comes out, of course. "Reflections on American Politics" is the topic of his talk today, which takes the form of a chat with New School *World Policy Journal* editor James Chace.

**Peekaboo Festival Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 2 Columbus Circle, Broadway at W 59th St (265-9600). Subway: A, C, B, D, 1, 9 to 59th St-Columbus Circle. Noon-midnight through Apr 8, seven-day pass \$50. More than 60 new musical acts, plus staged readings of eight original plays and musicals, are on tap for this weeklong festival of



**Deeper and deeper** New York may be where millions have come to reinvent themselves, but the city itself has a shady past that is usually kept covered up. With "We Dig New York: The Professional Archaeologists of New York City," the Museum of the City of New York tells the tales of major excavations—how archaeologists fought for the right to dig, what they found and how much might still be hidden underground. The African Burial Ground has been the most important find, but one of the earliest took place in 1904, when William L. Carver, above, found the remains of a Revolutionary War campsite on the Harlem River shore at 201st Street. See Wed 2.

new talent. The producers have mounted the festival as a way of previewing new talent; panel discussions with entertainment industry execs are planned throughout the week. The festival has booked seven 12-hour days of programming. Day passes may be made available closer to day one, so be sure to call for a schedule.

**Cartier: 1900-1939** Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave at 82nd St (535-7710). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Tue, Thu, Sun. 9:30am-5:15pm; Fri, Sat 9:30am-8:45pm through Aug 3. Suggested donation \$8, students and seniors \$4, member and under 12 free. The Met launches its high-profile retrospective of Louis Cartier's Deco-era "decorative art"—or what the hoi polloi call jewelry. See photo, page 33.

**Samaritan Benefit Awards Dinner** New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway between 45th and 46th Sts (735-0404). Subway: N, R, S, 1, 2, 3, 9, 7 to 2nd St-Times Sq. Reception 6pm, silent auction 6-8:30pm, dinner 7pm. \$250. Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee are honorary chairs of this benefit for Samaritan, a youth counseling service in Astoria, Queens. A silent auction includes items donated by Betty O'Donnell, Bette Midler and Mary McCormack.

**We Dig New York: The Professional Archaeologists of New York City** Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave at 103rd St (534-1672). Subway: 6 to 103rd St. Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm, Tue (school groups only) 10am-2pm, through Sept 14. Suggested admission \$5; students, children and seniors \$3; families \$8. In the decade or so since the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) helped convince landmarking officials that significant treasure might have survived beneath the world's most heavily urbanized metropolis, an unbelievable amount of booty has been found in the most unlikely places: Two tons of 300-year-old New Amsterdam artifacts from underneath 85 Broad Street; Civil War-era middle-class items beneath Fort Greene in Brooklyn; and, of course, the human remains in the downtown African Burial Ground. Starting today, the Museum of the City of New York presents some of this century's greatest local finds, along with photos from major excavations.

**The Noguchi Garden Reopens** Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, 32-37 Vernon Blvd at 33rd Rd, Long Island City, Queens (718-204-7088). Subway: N to Broadway. Wed, Thu, Fri 10am-5pm; Sat, Sun 11am-6pm.

Suggested admission \$4, students and seniors \$2. The garden dedicated to the sculpture of Isamu Noguchi, the man responsible for the 24-foot red cube outside Marine Midland Bank in Lower Manhattan, reopens today after its winter hiatus.

**Macy's Spring Flower Show** See Thu 27.

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** See Thu 27.

**New York International Auto Show** See Sat 29.

## THURSDAY 3

### Urban Affairs

**Third Millennium Welcomes Back George Stephanopoulos** Josephina, 1900 Broadway between 63rd and 64th Sts (979-2001). Subway: 1, 9 to 66th St. 8pm, \$45, includes open bar. Third Millennium, a public policy group bent on getting Gen Xers involved in the political process, throws itself a fund-raising fete and honors the baby-faced former presidential assistant.

**And the Ethical Humanist Award Goes To...Senator Paul Wellstone** New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 W 64th St at Central Park West (874-5210). Subway: 1, 9 to 66th St. 7pm. **THE** Not only has Wellstone, the Democratic U.S. senator from Minnesota, never stopped calling for universal health care for all Americans, but he also voted against Bill Clinton's welfare bill. For this, he'll receive the New York Society for Ethical Culture's Ethical Humanist Award at tonight's function. Previous winners include Mario Cuomo, who got his award for his resistance to the death penalty.

**Jackie Robinson: Race, Sports and the American Dream** Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus, corner of DeKalb and Flatbush Aves, Brooklyn (718-488-1010). Subway: D, Q, M, N, R to DeKalb Ave. Through Apr 5, hours TBA; three days \$105, day one \$40, day two \$60, day three \$20. Roger Rosenblatt delivers the keynote address at this three-day conference marking the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's integration of Major League baseball. Ten former Brooklyn Dodgers, including Joe Black and Carl Erskine, join in on some of the talks, along with former ballplayers Bobby Thomson and Lou Brock, writers Dave Anderson and Jimmy Breslin and a host of scholars including Robinson biographer Arnold Rampersad. Brooklyn Borough

President Howard Golden will also turn up, presumably to keep beating the drum for the borough to bring the Dodgers back from Los Angeles once and for all.

**NARAL/NY Gala Awards** B. Smith's Restaurant, 771 Eighth Ave at 48th St (343-0114). Subway: C, E to 50th St. 6-8pm, \$125. New York City Department of Health Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, *Elle* magazine founder Christy Haubegger and pro-choice activist Wendy Mackenzie receive honors from the local office of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

**Russian Folk Festival** BAM, Majestic Theater, 651 Fulton St between Ashland and Rockwell Sts, Brooklyn (307-4100). Subway: D, Q, 2, 3, 4, 5 to Atlantic Ave, C to Lafayette St, G to Fulton St, B, M, N, R to Pacific St, 3 to Nevins St. Thu 3-7pm, Apr 4 8pm, Apr 6 2pm. 7pm. \$15-\$35. Seven authentic Russian folk ensembles present traditional dances, musical pieces and rituals at this year's festival, which is titled "From the Village Fair to the Stage." Because of Russia's large size and regional isolation, these dances are said to be much the same as those performed centuries ago.

**New York at Night** Metronome, 915 Broadway at 21st St (683-6700, ext 217). Subway: N, R, 6 to 21st St. 7pm-1am; \$100, advance tickets \$85. Black tie optional. Following the string of "Blues in the Night" benefits held in the past four years, United Cerebral Palsy throws what it calls a "sequel" fund-raiser. The perks include an open bar, buffet dinner, live jazz and the ubiquitous cigar room.

**Macy's Spring Flower Show** See Thu 27.

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** See Thu 27.

**New York International Auto Show** See Sat 29.

**Peekaboo Festival** See Wed 2.

## Walking Tours

**Miracle Tour of 34th Street** See Thu 27.

## Heights & Sights

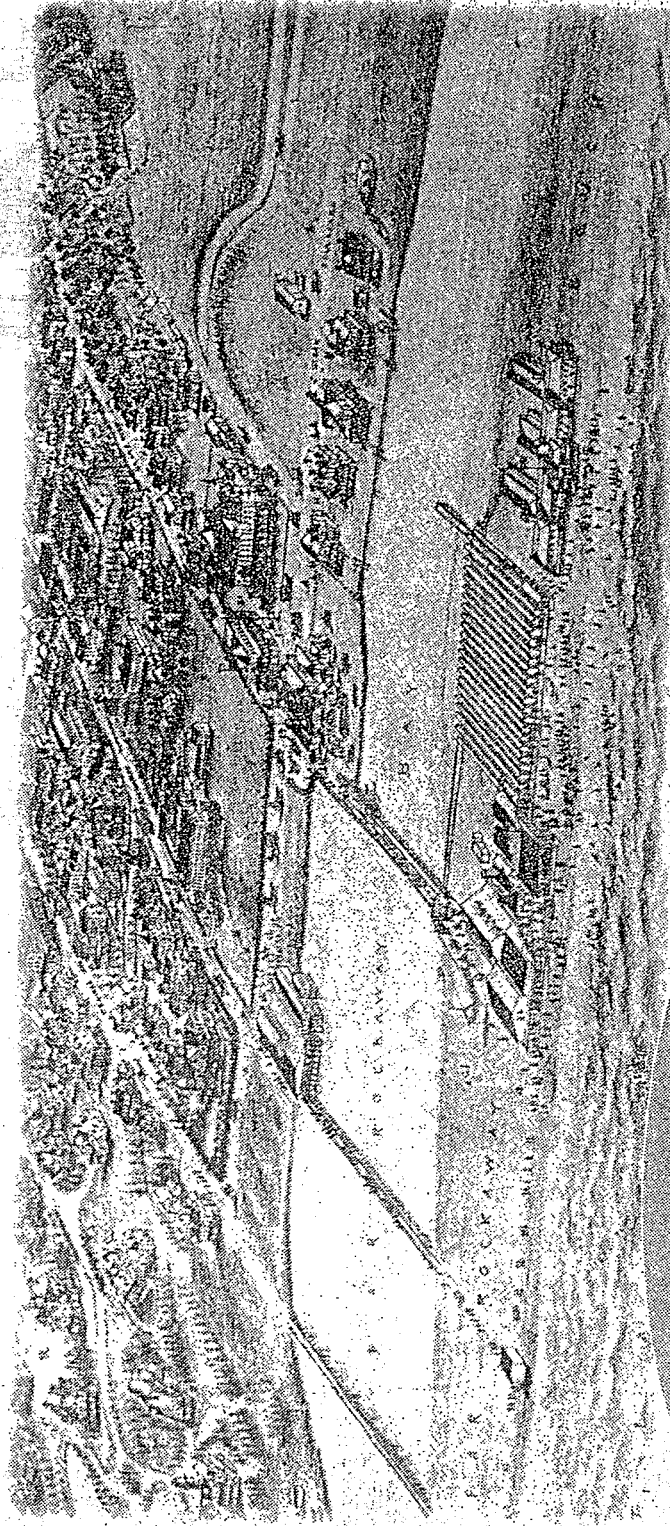
**Central Park 59th-110th Sts, Central Park West-Fifth Ave** (360-3444). Even the most jaded New Yorkers get whimsical about visionary Frederick Law Olmsted's 834-acre refuge from the urban jungle. This time of year, try ice skating at Wollman Rink (63rd St and East Drive, 996-1010).

**City Hall** Chambers St near Park Row and Broadway (788-6865). Subway: N, R, 4, 5, 6 to City Hall. Self-guided tours Mon-Fri 10am-4pm. Governor's Room closed noon-1pm. Tours booked for groups (mainly school children grades 3 and up). **THE** Home to the New York City Council—and, until this latest administration, the offices of the mayor—City Hall features historic charms inside and frequent grandstanding on its steps. The Governor's Room has portraiture by, among others, Trumbull; most rooms have antique furniture. A quick visit should include a peek at the lobby's rotunda, which boasts a marble, self-supporting twin spiral staircase.

**Empire State Building** 350 Fifth Ave at 34th St (736-3100). Subway: B, D, F, Q, N, R to 34th St. Observatories open 9:30am-midnight daily; last tickets sold at 11:25pm. \$4.50, seniors and children under 12 \$2.25. Since the attack at the 80th-floor observatory in February, extra security measures have been added to all tourist levels of the building. In 1931, it was the world's tallest building at 1,250 feet (1,454 if you count the lightning rod). Aside from the views, two big-screen flight simulators are accessible daily. **New York Skyride** (10am-10pm; \$9, children and seniors \$7) and **Transporter: Movies You Ride** (9am-11pm; \$8.50-\$14.50, children \$6.50-\$10.50). •Through Mon 31: The lights turn yellow and white for Easter.

**General Grant National Memorial** Riverside Drive at 122nd St (666-1610). Subway: 1, 9 to 125th St. Wed-Sun 9am-5pm; free. President Ulysses S. Grant's memorial bears a return visit, having recently received federal money for a face lift. Chilean artist Pedro Silva designed the multicolored mosaic benches outside.

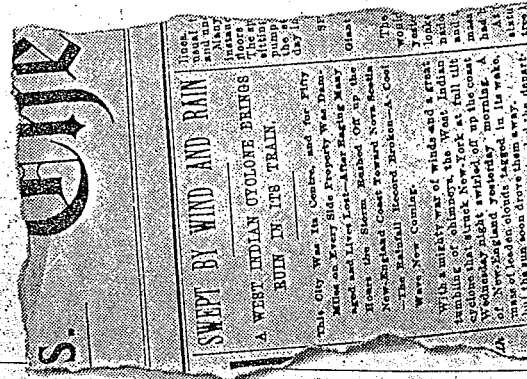




From "History and Views of the Rockaways," Pettit, left; above, from "History of the Rockaways," Alfred H. Bender

Hog Island, also known as Far Rockaway Beach, was a popular resort, especially for city politicians, in the late 1800's. Once a developer's dream, it sank in 1902. After the

Below, an account in The New York Times of the hurricane that destroyed Hog Island in 1893. Only The Brooklyn Daily Eagle had the story the first day.



# The Little Island That Couldn't

## Queens Spit Tried to Be a Resort but Sank in a Hurricane

By NORIMITSU ONISHI

The mysterious island began surfacing off the southern coast of the Rockaways around the Civil War, according to local lore and dusty historical pamphlets. Once it reached its full size in the 1870's — about a mile long, a couple of hundred feet wide and 1,000 feet offshore — it caused a stampede among developers.

For five cents, ferries carried pleasure-seekers to the island, where they changed into modest swimming costumes inside bathing houses. After dipping their toes in the cool Atlantic, they drank, ate and reveled at the island's restaurants. One restaurant, owned by a Patrick Craig, became a summertime favorite among Tammany Hall powerbrokers, who decided the fate of major New York City issues on this barrier island. But after storms battered it in the

1890's, the island sank into the ocean. Such was the short, happy life of Hog Island.

Hog Island — its shape resembled a pig's back — was doomed to survive only in the oral history of Rockaway old-timers, remembered, if at all, as the would-be Atlantis of the New World. Then last year, a series of events as unusual as Hog Island's brief history collided to thrust it into the heart of hurricane research by a Queens College professor, Nicholas K. Coch, a 6-foot-7½-inch man whose business card says "forensic hurricaneologist — no category storm too small."

On a routine field trip to study erosion in the Edgemere section of the Rockaways in Queens last spring, students of Professor Coch (pronounced kotch) stumbled on artifacts — broken plates, beer mugs, bricks, coal, fragments of dolls and, ominously, the

wick of a hurricane lamp — embedded in the sand. After some detective work, the professor and his students discovered something that neither they, nor almost anyone else, knew: that a barrier island existed a century ago off the coast of Edgemere but was destroyed. And they came to believe the artifacts were a window onto that lost corner of New York.

The discovery also suggested to Mr. Coch, 59, a coastal geologist, that Hog Island was destroyed by the fury of a forgotten Northeast hurricane in August 1893. At a meeting of the Geological Society of America today in King of Prussia, Pa., Mr. Coch is scheduled to argue that epic hurricanes, though rare, have ravaged New York more frequently than previously believed. The last one killed 600 people in

Continued on Page B5



# The Queens Spit That Tried to Be an Island Resort but Sank in a Hurricane

Continued From Page B1

New York and New England in 1938, and six decades of peace have dangerously lulled Northerners.

For Mr. Coch, Hog Island was the smoking gun: only a major hurricane could virtually destroy an island. He had warned for years of the destructive powers of northeast hurricanes. Even a lower-intensity hurricane, Category 2, he said, could have disproportionately destructive effects in New York because strong winds off the Northeast coast could jolt it, and because the hurricane could slam into Long Island, which juts out into the ocean at nearly a right angle. Category 5 hurricanes, the strongest, are never seen in the Northeast's cool waters.

Yet his warnings were greeted like Cassandra's and earned him the nickname Dr. Doom from disaster-management specialists, inspiring no fear despite the professor's booming voice, his size 15 shoes, his towering height. ("Informally, I might be the biggest coastal geologist in the country, skeletally at least," one of his jokes went. "Having height is good. When the hurricane surges rise, I'm the last one to go.")

Now, Mr. Coch believed that he had evidence to rank the 1893 hurricane among the biggest ones on record for the area — 1938, 1815 and 1635 — and that there were others of that size. Some, like the one in 1893, were forgotten because the full force of the hurricanes hit areas that were sparsely populated at the time, like the southern shores of Long Island, Queens and Brooklyn.

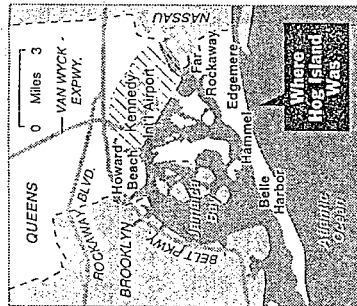
"Now we have millions of people to offer to the God of the Sea," Mr. Coch intoned in his office last week, leaning back in a customized chair with a four-foot-high backrest that looks like the throne of a king or a pope. "God, I love saying that," he added after a two-second pause. "Offer to the God of the Sea."

Mr. Coch began to disappear after the hurricane of 1893.

## Covering the Storm on Hog Island

At 8 P.M. on Wednesday, Aug. 23, the hurricane of 1893 blew into New York, and the race was on among the city's newspapermen. Which paper would inform and enthrall readers the next morning? Apparently, only one: The Brooklyn Daily Eagle. Judging from a random look at microfilm in the New York Public Library, which failed to note whether the copies were early or late editions, most sheets reported on the storm in their Friday editions. The Times redeemed itself, however, with what looked like the most comprehensive coverage, with datelined articles from several spots in Westchester County, New Jersey, Long Island — and Hog Island. Others barely mentioned the little island, if at all. But The Times devoted about 500 words to it in its Friday and Saturday issues, describing how Stephen Stillwagon had rescued Patrick Craig's family in "a story of heroism."

In Manhattan, The Times reported Friday, "hundreds of chimneys were tossed down like playthings, and roofs were ripped off as if with a knife." Telegraph wires tell "like cotton strings."



The National Hurricane Center in Miami lists the August 1893 storm in its records, but few details survived, said Max Mayfield, a hurricane specialist there.

"I've read his articles, and there's no doubt that the professor knows what he's talking about," Mr. Mayfield said. "Sometimes I think he's a voice crying out in the wilderness. But I guess if I lived in New York, I might be worried about other things than hurricanes. It's just a matter of time, though."

It was the sea's twin powers to create and destroy that Mr. Coch's students were studying in Edgemere, the most heavily eroded stretch of beach in the Rockaways. After the northcoasters in December 1992 and March 1993 devastated the coastline, the United States Army Corps of Engineers replenished the beach with sand dredged at sea. It was in the sand that Mr. Coch's students recovered about 100 pieces. Perplexed at first, the students surmised the relics were not from this

century, recalled Tomas Llogys, 23. Then Lloyd Kiefer, 22, examined old maps and newspapers in which he found references to Hog Island.

Mr. Coch later assigned Edward Diaz, 22, to date the artifacts without informing him of Hog Island. A shattered aquamarine bottle had "1893" on it, with the last digit chipped off. Some pieces revealed their manufacturers — "Greenwood China" of Trenton, N.J., "Wedgewood, England" on another. From the breakdown of expensive and cheap ceramic fragments, Mr. Diaz believed it was possible to determine that they had come from a hotel or restaurant. "My picture of the place is that it was for the average Joe," Mr. Diaz said.

Nothing is certain, of course, in recreating the past. Emil R. Lucev, born in the Rockaways 63 years ago and the historian for The Wave, the peninsula's 104-year-old weekly, said the artifacts could have come from west of Edgemere and Hog Island because the Army Corps of Engineers dredged in that area. Mr. Coch said that was possible, but because of the dates, the items were surely relics of the 1893 hurricane.

In recent months, a fuller picture has begun to emerge of Hog Island, which was created by the westward drift of the sea and sand. In the 1870's, owners of bathhouses and restaurants on the mainland found that their shore was no longer an ocean beach because of this new barrier island. Bitter lawsuits erupted over ownership of the island, especially between two Irishmen, who became known as the "Everlasting Litigants," Mr. Lucev said.

"They settled it by drawing a line straight out into the water from the mainland," Mr. Lucev said. Hog Island — actually a peninsula



Prof. Nicholas K. Coch shows some artifacts from Hog Island at his Queens College laboratory.

also known as Far Rockaway Beach — prospered in 1917, Alfred H. Belot wrote in "History of the Rockaways" that Hog Island, and especially the establishment run by Patrick Craig, had become the 1890's version of the Hamptons. "Many conferees of great import to New York City took place in this out-of-doors annex to Tammany Hall, and it was at this time that the village was called familiarly in certain political circles the Irish Saratoga."

But everything changed on the night of Aug. 23, 1893. What the news-

papers described as a hurricane, cyclone or gale, which had moved from south of Norfolk, Va., to New York in 12 hours, lasted through the morning and devastated the area, flooding lower Manhattan and uprooting more than 100 trees in Central Park. On Hog Island, the damage was estimated at \$30,000. "The pavilions on Hog Island were smashed and washed away," The New York Times reported. "Several bathing-houses adjoining Caffery's Cosmopolitan Pavilion were washed out and broken in pieces."

Hog Island was also the site a dramatic rescue, according to The Times. Patrick Craig and his wife and daughter were trapped inside their "frail cabin" on the island. "Death seemed imminent either from the raging waves or the falling timber." But a man named Stephen Stillwagon swam to the mainland, returned to Hog Island in a boat and put the family inside. "They were swamped twice, but pushed on until at last they were rewarded by seeing Mrs. Craig, with her little one in her arms, step upon solid earth out of the reach of the hungry sea."

Diminished, Hog Island re-emerged a few times in the 1890's. Some tried to rebuild on it. After a couple of northeasters, however, Hog Island sank into the Atlantic in 1902.

Over the years, Hog Island became shrouded in myth among Rockaway seamen and old-timers, some of whom attributed magical powers to it. In the late 1930's, Mr. Lucev said, children from a Brooklyn orphanage walked at low tide onto the shoals where Hog Island used to be. The sea suddenly swept over them. Seven drowned.

"Every time a sandbar or shoal forms out there," Mr. Lucev said, "every time a ship runs aground, we call it the ghost of Hog Island."

BILL EGBERT AND MICHAEL D. GOLDBABER

## Owners Like What's Developing At Landmarks Commission

Battles between developers and preservationists are New York's answer to the Dodgers-Yankees feuds of 40 years ago, so it came as something of a shock when Donald Trump decided that the "philosophy" of Jennifer Raab, the city's Landmarks Preservation Commissioner, "meshes with what I think."

Another New York tradition bites the dust. Ms. Raab's two-plus years at the Landmarks Preservation Commission's helm certainly have been different from most that preceded it. Some in the real estate world praise her for opening up downtown to preservation and for making preservation compatible with development. But her critics charge that she is far too friendly to developers, and that the commission has lost sight of its preservationist mandate.

In fact, a study of the commission's decisions indicates that Ms. Raab rarely designates a building as a landmark if the owner is opposed. By contrast, owners resisted about a third of the designations in the decade before she took office in 1994. Critics believe that owners have been given veto power over landmark designations. "The question is: When does being user-friendly begin to undermine the integrity of the [landmarks] law?" asked Anthony Wood, a leading preservationist.

Ms. Raab's office canceled several telephone appointments to discuss the issue.

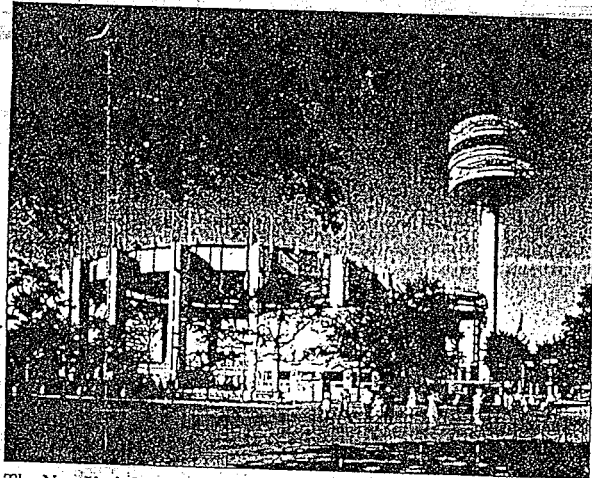
By all accounts, Ms. Raab's greatest achievement is the landmarking of 17 downtown buildings, including Mr. Trump's office tower at 40 Wall Street. The commission has committed itself to designating four other buildings downtown, an area which former Landmarks Commissioner Kent Barwick noted was once off-limits to preservationists.

"Raab has been able to do what other chairs have not been able to do," said Suzanne O'Keefe of the Alliance for Downtown New York Inc., a business improvement district that worked closely with the landmarks commission to establish the Stone Street Historic District.

But Robert A.M. Stern, director of the historic preservation department at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, is more skeptical. He pointed out that the downtown buildings slated for landmarking are much bigger than anything that could replace them under current zoning laws. He suggested that the owners have lit-

tle to lose from designation.

To be sure, under Ms. Raab's tenure, the designation process has been eerily free of the conflict that usually accompanies landmark designation. A survey of designation reports for the decade prior to Ms. Raab's appointment shows that 61 individual landmarks, or 28 percent of the total, were designated over formal owner opposition. An ad-



The New York State Pavilion, a relic of the 1964 World's Fair, may yet fall to the wrecking ball unless preservationists act soon.

ditional eight were designated despite owner reservations.

But of the 21 individual landmarks designated under Ms. Raab, only one was designated over owner opposition, the Bennett building at 139 Fulton Street. All of Ms. Raab's designations have sailed smoothly through the City Council.

Gene Norman, landmarks chair for six years under former Mayor Edward Koch, expressed dismay when he was told of preservationists' charges that the commission is too friendly to owners. In his day, he said, owner opposition did not affect the decision to proceed with designation. "It was not a signal that said, 'Go away.'"

### 'SHARED SENSE OF VALUES'

Ironically, Ms. Raab earned her preservationist stripes when, in 1992, she helped defeat a plan by Peter Kalikow, former publisher of the *New York Post*, to demolish four landmarked buildings on the Upper East Side.

Since then, critics say, Ms. Raab has drifted closer to the side of the owners, and she has brought the landmarks commission with

her. "We used to think of the commission as our friend, as having a shared sense of values," said Eric Allison, president of the Historic Districts Council. "Now the commission seems to view us as the enemy, or at least not its friend. Now the real estate community is the commission's friend."

Under Ms. Raab's predecessor, Laurie Beckelman, the proportion of landmarks designated over owner opposition declined slightly. One former commissioner suggested that Ms. Beckelman and her aides began to "look over their shoulders" after a series of traumatic disputes with the City Council.

William E. Davis Jr., a member of the commission who served under both Ms. Beckelman and Ms. Raab, said that under Ms. Beckelman, commissioners would slow the designation of a building if the owner opposed it, but they would not stop it. "Today they would," he said. "If the owner opposed it, Raab wouldn't move forward."

Stephen Raphael, a current member of the commission, acknowledged that the panel tries to avoid storms with the City Council. "We've stopped if we thought [a designation] would be overturned," he said. "The attitude was, 'Why bother if we knew there would be this opposition?'"

Preservationists have been raising concerns about Ms. Raab ever since she was chosen to chair the commission despite her lack of experience in the field. Although she had helped thwart Mr. Kalikow, she was known more for her political connections than her work in landmarks preservation. She was issues director of Mr. Giuliani's unsuccessful 1989 campaign and has maintained a close relationship with the Mayor since. "She's the first [commission] chair to have such a tangential relationship to the physical development of the city," said Professor

One building has already been lost. The grand amphitheater known as the Aquacade was one of two structures left from the 1939 World's Fair in Queens. Preservationists proposed the ornate site for designation, but the commission dropped the issue, and the Aquacade was later demolished because Queens Borough President Claire Shulman opposed the designation. Jeffrey Kroessler, president of the Queensborough Preservation League, said Ms. Raab personally told him she was unwilling to hold a hearing without the consent of Ms. Shulman who, as Borough President, acted as owner of the site.

Mr. Kroessler fears that the same fate may befall the New York State Pavilion, a carousel-shaped structure with stately slip-formed pillars, on the 1964 World's Fair grounds. Professor Stern included the pavilion on his list of "35 Modern Landmarks in Waiting" published last November.

### TOUGH ON ENFORCEMENT

Ms. Raab does get good marks from preservationists for enforcement of landmarks laws. In fact, Ms. Raab's efforts corrected a grave weakness of the commission, according to Jeffrey A. Saunders, a preservationist of Jackson Heights, Queens. Mr. Saunders said that the 1965 law that created the landmarks commission passed only because the commission was given very limited direct enforcement powers. As the commission began designating historic districts in areas with especially aggressive merchants, said Mr. Saunders, many commercial tenants simply ignored the commission's regulations. He cited the example the Jackson Heights Historic District, designated in 1993. In the months after designation, the commission's estimates showed that over 90 percent of alterations to landmarked buildings were carried out with no regard for the commission's regulations. "To her credit," said Mr. Saunders, "Jennifer Raab grabbed hold of the situation."

In response to the widespread violations, Ms. Raab increased inspection personnel even as the commission's staff was being cut by one-third, and she is helping persuade the City Council to pass a bill allowing the commission to levy fines for the first time. "It's an extraordinary effort that is long overdue," said Mr. Saunders.

In Mr. Norman's day, a survey department sought out meritorious buildings for designation. Budget cuts slowly eroded the survey department until, shortly before Mr. Giuliani took office, the department was eliminated, its final staff member and function transferred to the research department. The commission now leans heavily on proposals from outside groups—and outside groups have the impression that owner opposition is unwelcome.

Purists say that, whatever the consequences, to use political feasibility rather than merit as the criterion for designation goes against the letter and spirit of the landmarks law. "The commission is beginning to function as if we have a different law than the one we have," said Mr. Wood. "It's reaching the point where preservationists will begin to explore their legal options."

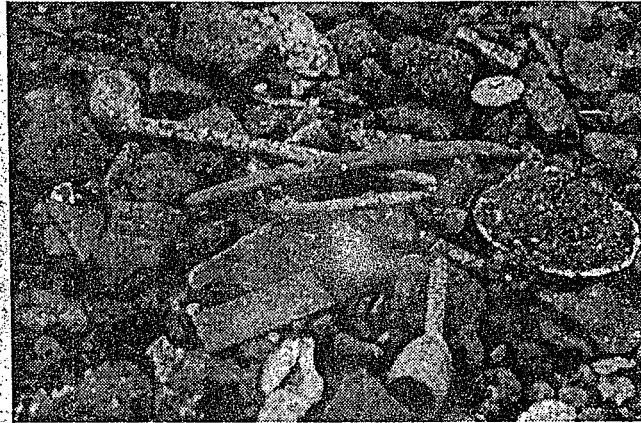
While preservationists are left guessing, owners are granted preferential access to drafts of rules and designation reports, according to Mr. Wood and Mr. Allison. Asked to respond to the charge that the Real Estate Board of New York Inc. sees rules drafts before public comment begins, board official Carol Trezza said only, "No comment."

Now the [Landmarks Preservation] Commission seems to view us as the enemy ... Now the real estate community is the commission's friend.

—Eric Allison, president of the Historic Districts Council

Stern. "She's not a preservationist. She's not an architect. She's not even a developer. She's a lawyer."

Preservationists are divided over the commission's new tack. Some say Ms. Raab's scrupulous avoidance of political controversy has allowed her to designate more buildings, including buildings in once taboo areas. Others believe that the new trend in landmark policy will leave great buildings vulnerable to demolition. "There are buildings that we know are landmark quality but have not come up for designation," said Roger Lang, head of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, a private preservationist group. Mr. Norman observed that the great theaters of Broadway would never have been designated as landmarks had he allowed owner opposition to derail the process.



Artifacts from the Atlantic Terminal excavation site.  
Photographed by Robert Fitts, Courtesy of PANYC

*We Dig New York: The Professional  
Archaeologists of New York City  
April 2, 1997 - September 14, 1997*

PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City)  
and the Museum of the City of New York

cordially invite you

to the Opening Celebration of  
*WE DIG NEW YORK: PROFESSIONAL  
ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY*  
in the New York City Community Gallery of MCNY

Friday, April 11, 1997  
3:00 - 4:30 pm

For more information call, MCNY at (212) 534-1672, ext. 206



Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street, New York, NY 10029



PRESENTS

***TRASH OR TREASURE:  
ARTIFACTS IN THE COLLECTION OF  
THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM***

**Diane Dallal**  
Met. Chapter Secretary

Tuesday, May 13, 1997  
6:30 PM  
New York Unearthed, 17 State Street

Join us for a presentation and a private tour of New York Unearthed Museum and Conservation Lab. Ride the Unearthing New York Systems Elevator down through the layers of a simulated archaeological "dig". Chapter Secretary Diane Dallal will host this special event.

PLEASE POST



PRESENTS

## **19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NEW YORK CITY WORKSHOP**

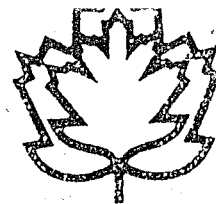
Tuesday, June 10, 1997

6:30 PM

CUNY Graduate Center, 42nd Street, West of Fifth Ave.  
Brockway Room (Room 1131)

Overwhelming response to our February presentation, *19th Century: A Hidden Treasure*, has prompted us to schedule this workshop to provide a forum for members and guests to air ideas. We hope this workshop format will allow us to formulate more specific recommendations regarding the historic archaeological resources in our own "backyards".

PLEASE POST



Palisades Interstate  
Park Commission  
Bear Mountain, N.Y.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### 1997 HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 18, 1997, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Skylands Manor Annex, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, NJ

#### TREASURES AT RISK: FORGOTTEN, LOOTED, DESTROYED ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES

A recent inventory of Native American archaeological sites within Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks, New York, revealed systematic looting of well-known and accessible rockshelters. Such looting means the loss of information, the artifacts and their in-situ context.

Even more distressing was evidence of careless disregard for these sites by hikers and park visitors. Rockshelters have been turned into picnic and camping spots. Campfires and latrine pits damage the ground surface.

In Northern New Jersey and Southeastern New York, we have a good sense of the treasures we possess in our open space, our woodlands, our hills and mountains. This land, however, has seen thousands of years of human occupation. The traces left behind are non-renewable resources which deserve the same protection and preservation we offer the natural resources of the area.

#### HOW CAN WE PROTECT, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THESE RESOURCES?

Join the Trailside Museums, Bear Mountain, NY and the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society in a Symposium to discuss this problem.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

We are soliciting papers on the topic of archaeological and historical sites at risk, both descriptive accounts of site destruction and papers discussing programs and projects designed to combat these problems. We welcome examples from both private and public sectors. Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes in presentation. We find that slide illustrations work well to convey the impact of damaged sites. Please send abstracts of proposed presentations to:

Edward J. Lenik, Program Chair  
Sheffield Archaeological Consultants  
P.O. Box 437, Butler, NJ. 07405-0437 Phone: 201-492-8525.

Mr. Lenik is an NJHHS member and the Honorary Curator of Archaeology at the Trailside Museums, Bear Mountain, NY.

Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 1997.



PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - April 15 - June 15, 1997

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
We Dig New York: The Professional Archaeologists of New York City	exhibit		4/2-9/14/97	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	
SHA & Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology	conference		4/16-20	Williamsburgh, VA	757-221-1059	
The Goddess in Archaeology	Cristina Biaggi	8:15 PM	Thurs 4/17	92nd Street Y	212-996-1100	\$18
Toys from Trash	Gary McGowan	6:00 PM	Thurs 4/17	South Street Seaport, 171 John St.	212-748-8590	\$3 admission
Archaeological Society of Connecticut	Spring meeting		Sat 4/26	Fairfield Historical Society	203-226-4611	
Council on New England Archaeology	conference		Sat 4/26	Old Sturbridge Village, MA		
Getting Around in the Old Days	Vincent Seyfried	2:00 PM	Sat 4/26	King Manor Museum, Jamaica, Queens	718-206-0545	\$2
Under the Streets: An Urban Archaeology Walking Tour		1:00 PM	Sat 4/26	Meet at City Hall Steps	212-534-1672	\$9/\$7 students
New York Toy Stories	exhibit		thru 4/27	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	\$5,\$3 admission
NYIA-Archaeology: Preserving Cultural Heritage	exhibit		5/1 -onward	Queens Botanic Garden, Flushing	718-815-3460	donation
New York State Archaeological Assn.	Annual meeting		5/2 - 5/4	Ft. William Henry Motor Inn, Lake George, NY	518-747-2926	
Roebbing Chapter SIA Boat Tour	several	10 AM-6 PM	Sat 5/3	Liberty Landing, Jersey City	609-267-4039	\$45
Near Eastern Archaeology	Thomas Levy		Sun 5/4	Westchester	914-472-0874	
The World That Kidd Made: A Symposium on the Life and Times of Captain William Kidd	symposium	6:30 PM	Tues 5/6	South Street Seaport, AA Loeb Bldg, 171 John St.	212-748-8757	
Trash or Treasure: Artifacts in the Collection of the South Street Seaport Museum	Diane Dallal	6:30 PM	Tues 5/13	NY Unearthed, 17 State Street		free

continued

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Quarantine!	Howard Markez	1:00 PM	Sat 5/17	New-York Historical Society	212-873-3400	\$5 admission
Rediscovering the Past	Scott Heyl & Linda Stone	1:00 PM	Sat 5/17	King Manor Museum, Jamaica, Queens	718-206-0545	\$2
Roebing Chapter SIA Bike Tour		10:00 AM	Sat 5/17		609-267-4039	
Mistress of the House, Mistress of Heaven: Women in Ancient Egypt	exhibit		thru 5/18	Brooklyn Museum of Art	718-638-5000	\$4, \$2, \$1.50 admission
Pinkster	family program	2:00 PM	Sun 5/18	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	\$5 admission
Recovering Maya Paintings at Banampak	Mary Miller	8:00 PM	Tues 5/27	National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South		\$10
An Unquenchable Thirst: Springs and Wells of New York City	exhibit		thru 6/1/97	New-York Historical Society	212-873-3400	\$5, \$3 admission
SIA Conference			5/29-6/1	Houghton, MI	906-487-1889	
The Streets & Beyond-photographs of the people and streets of New York throughout the century	exhibit		thru 6/8/97	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	\$5, \$3 admission
19th Century New York City	workshop	6:30 PM	Tues 6/10	CUNY Grad Ctr, Rm 1131		
The Glory of Byzantium	exhibit		thru 7/16	Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-879-5500	\$7, \$3.50
Under the Black Flag: Life Among the Pirates	exhibit		thru 7/17	South Street Seaport Museum, 171 John St.	212-748-8757	\$3 admission
Before Central Park: Life & Death of Seneca Village	exhibit		1/29-8/10	New York Historical Society	212-873-3400	\$5 admission
Blood Upon the Water: Contemporary Piracy on the South China Seas	exhibit		thru Sept.	South Street Seaport Museum, 171 John St.	212-748-8757	\$3 admission

If any members have events which they would like listed, please contact Linda Stone by phone or fax at (212)888-3130 or by mail 249 E 48 St. #2B, New York, NY 10017.

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the purpose of the organization and who meets the following criteria:

- a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D.) from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classical studies or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.
- b. Applicants must have at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experience will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).
- c. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on a case by case basis.
- d. All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership.
- e. Applicants should submit a statement of purpose that includes their interest in New York City archaeology. Members of PANYC have a commitment to protect and preserve the city's archaeological resources and to support research and encourage publication of information recovered from those resources. Members will not engage in illegal or unethical conduct involving archaeological matters. In applying for membership it is expected that an individual is in agreement with these goals. PANYC is not an accrediting organization and is not to be used as such.

Application for membership shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the applicant's resume or *vita*.

We invite anyone interested in New York City archaeology to subscribe to our Newsletter and to attend our general membership meetings and annual Public Symposium.

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 John Killeen, PANYC Secretary, 58 Garnsey Pl., Belford, NJ 07718.

NAME

BUSINESS

HOME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC (Dues \$15) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount of additional donation to PANYC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

200 East End Ave, #2M  
New York, NY 10128

Chris Ricciardi {s}  
2073 New York Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11210-5423

