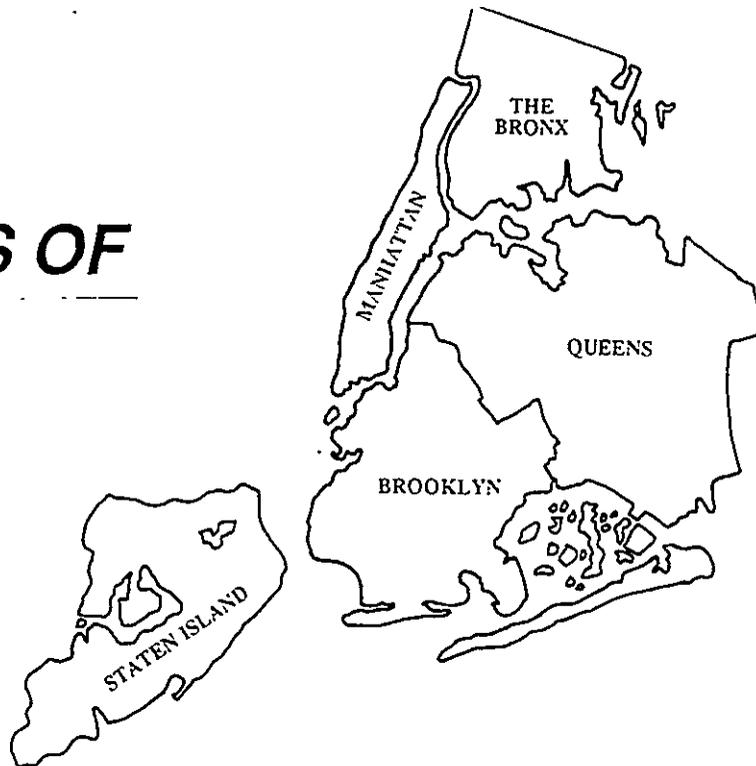


PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY



Newsletter No. 55

September 1991

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Material for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to Rebecca Yamin, editor, Ebasco Environmental, 160 Chubb Ave., Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071. To ensure inclusion in the next issue, please submit material at least 5 days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: September 25, 191
Hunter College, Room 710
General Membership: 7:00 PM

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting May 15, 1991

Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the 3/15/91 accepted, with a correction under President's Report, item 2): correspondence circulated from Thomas Brinker, ...

TREASURER'S REPORT: Spritzer reported a balance of approximately \$2,000.00 in the PANYC account.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1) Rothschild has sent letter to Orin Lehman, Commissioner of NYS Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, expressing concern over recent loss of Dept. archaeological staff and urging the strongest commitment to preserving the historic and archaeological past. 2) Rothschild has sent letter to Thomas Jorling, Commissioner of NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, expressing concern over recent cut in the archaeological staff in the Dept. and urging the strongest commitment to preserving the historic and archaeological past. 3) Rothschild has sent letter to Laurie Beckelman, Chair of NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), concerning April 23, 1991 LPC meeting agenda item regarding 250 Water Street. This block is considered one of the archaeologically most significant blocks left in Manhattan and LPC was, again, urged to show caution and sensitivity toward these resources when reviewing the proposed Milstein parking garage.

MEMBERSHIP: Richard Porter has not forwarded clarification of field school and laboratory training, therefore the application is still pending. Draft of new membership application not available.

ACTION: Bridges again expressed concern re: loss of archaeological staff in State agencies due to budget cuts and reorganization. Rothschild's letters have forwarded PANYC's concern, see above under President's Report.

AWARD: Cantwell announced the winner of the 1991 Salwen Award for Outstanding Student Paper: Nancy Brighton, NYU/Dept. of Anthropology, "The Households of the Jacob Adriaance Farmstead, The Queens County Farm Museum, Bellerose, Queens."

LEGISLATION: no report

MUSEUM: no report

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS: no report

NEWSLETTER: Yamin will continue as editor and requests that contributions be sent early, if possible. Members present were encouraged to personally distribute newsletters to absent members.

PARKS: no report

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Rothschild reported that the public program was well attended. The Museum of the City of NY is interested in continuing the relationship with PANYC and possibly adding more PANYC-coordinated lectures/seminars for the public.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING: no report

SPECIAL PUBLICATION: Cantwell and Wall reported that text and layout on brochure was completed and appropriate photographs were being selected. Geismar's contribution to publication was noted. Anticipated printing (black and white, non-gloss paper, stapled spine) during the summer. Discussion on pricing, based on distribution methods and IRS regulations, resulted in direction to Committee to determine marketing/price potential through local museums and bookshops. Fred Winter offered Brooklyn College storage facilities for inventory.

EDUCATION: According to Pagano, Principal Saltzman at JFK High School has not proceeded with definite plans to incorporate archaeological studies into school curriculum.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: 1) Rothschild expressed concern over the AIA published "guide to field projects" inclusion of Edward Platt's Queens project. Winter will contact the AIA and express PANYC's reservations regarding non-SOPA directed excavations being publicized in this manner. 2) Rothschild noted that recent public tours of the Inwood section included reference to the "pointing out" of Indian sites. A PANYC letter to the various tour sponsors to caution against site-specific identification will be sent by Rothschild. 3) Pagano expressed the hope that PANYC could work with avocational archaeologists to increase cooperation and the exchange of information. Marshall stated that PANYC's role is as a "watchdog" organization of professionals. Spritzer encouraged the use of the Metropolitan Chapter of the NYSAA as the conduit for cooperation and exchange.

Respectfully submitted, Cece Kirkorian, Secretary 1991-1992

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Dept. of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

10 May 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State of New York
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

I am writing as the current President of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) with reference to your letter of 15 April 1991 to Sydne Marshall, then the President.

I was a member of Dean Snow's committee of the State Board for Historic Preservation convened to consider the possibilities of developing a predictive model as an alternative to the "circles and squares" method of evaluation. Your statement of the committee's recommendation to wait until a GIS system was available to OPRHP does not match my memory of our discussion. While it is clear that developing a model will be difficult, and that a GIS system would facilitate that process, there was no statement made of the need to hold up the creation of one for the installation of the other.

We recognize that this is not the moment, given the financial situation in New York State, to commit to the development of the predictive model, but wanted to reiterate both our (and NYAC's) position as to the importance of beginning that process as soon as possible, and clarify any misunderstanding that may exist about what the Predictive Modelling Committee had actually recommended. And I should note that we write to you because we appreciate your commitment to the protection of the archaeological and historic resources of New York State.

Sincerely,



Nan A. Rothschild
President, PANYC

cc: J. Stokes
D. Gillespie
T. Jorling
J.W. Aldrich
M. Miller
D. Snow

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Department of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

10 May 1991

Ms. Cheryl Barthelow, Director of Education
Museum of the City of New York
Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street
New York, Ny 10029

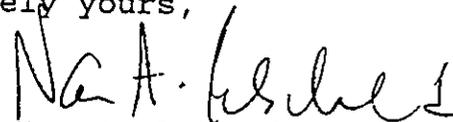
Dear Cheryl,

I want to tell you how pleased we were with the results of last Saturday's PANYC Symposium on the archaeology of New York City, and how grateful we are that the Museum continues to sponsor this program. I think that the meeting last week, with the theme of "Neighborhood Archaeology," was very successful. In spite of the truly beautiful weather, there were more than 100 people in attendance. The papers presented were really interesting, your staff people were very helpful, and once again the publicity we received (both in the New York Times and Newsday, and perhaps in other places as well) was outstanding.

Enclosed please find a copy of the attendance list, although it seems as if many of those present did not sign it. We have a sense that there are now regular attendees of the Symposium who look forward to it each year!

In any case, many thanks again for all of your help.

Sincerely yours,



Nan A. Rothschild
President, PANYC

cc: Sherene Thomas



STATE OF NEW YORK
PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ALBANY

ORIN LEHMAN
COMMISSIONER

July 18, 1991

Dear Ms. Rothschild:

It was nice of you to write describing your work on Dean Snow's task force. I was very grateful for the advice of the Board and for your contribution to the task force. You may be sure that there is a continued desire to improve our recognition and treatment of archaeological resources although at this moment our financial abilities are extremely restricted.

While I cannot quarrel with your memory of the task force discussions, the recommendations of the Board did include both the recognition that the model suggested would be very expensive and that implementation "should probably wait until a Geographic Information System was available within the agency." The discussion held at the Board meeting of March 1-2, 1990, "ended with a general consensus that the development of a model should be put off until the GIS system is available."

That said, I do wish to see a better system developed. When it is feasible to develop a new predictive model, the recommendations of the task force will serve as a guide. In the meantime, we will continue to work on refining our approach to these resources.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nan A. Rothschild
President
Professional Archaeologists of
New York City
Department of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238

518-474-0456

June 14, 1991

Mr. Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.
PANyc President
217 Edgewood Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I want to thank you for taking the time to comment on the proposed revisions to the regulations implementing the State Historic Preservation Act and apologize for the delay in acknowledging your comments. Unfortunately the budget crisis and staff cutbacks have increased my workload and consumed more of my time than I anticipated.

Your concern over the accuracy of the predictive model currently used to evaluate the archaeological sensitivity of a site is shared by others. However, short of requiring an archaeological survey for every project reviewed by this office, we have not been presented with a reasonable cost-effective substitute for the current model. Moreover, the regulations themselves do not establish a particular model or system for determining archaeological sensitivity and it would not be appropriate to do so in this revision. That is not to say that we don't want to improve the system. Any affordable and comprehensive proposal your organization formulates would receive the close attention of the archaeologists on our staff.

Your letter also expresses concern over the lack of a "no adverse effect" determination in the revision paralleling the NHPA. We feel that sec. 428.7(d) embodies this concept. The report of decision-making which your letter suggests as an addition to the revision is, in our view, generated as part of the revised consultation process. That process will require decisions to be in writing with reasons and will culminate in a Letter of Resolution setting forth the results of consultation. This in essence would constitute a report of how decisions are made. The project file would contain these documents and as public records would, of course, be available on request.

I hope the foregoing gives you a better understanding of the revisions which are now final and will appear in the June 19th issue of the State Register. Thank you again for your time and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd Adams".

Lloyd Adams
Assistant Counsel
for Historic Preservation

LA:jmb



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238-0001

July 17, 1991

Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.
PANYC Executive Board
217 Edgewood Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Doctor Marshall:

Commissioner Lehman recently responded to Ms. Rothschild's letter concerning the recommendations of the State Board for Historic Preservation. He has asked me to send you a copy of his letter and to address some of the points made in your most recent communication.

As the Commissioner indicated in his letter, the recommendation of the State Board was to wait until a GIS system was available. In an era of fiscal uncertainty we are not able to find the money for such a program which I know you recognize. However, we are interested in pursuing alternatives. We recognize that a true predictive model would be extremely useful, particularly if it were available to a wider community of archaeologists and planners. It would save us time and it would protect more resources.

In the last several weeks I have been talking with other state offices to see what they are doing. Interestingly, none of the states I have talked with have a predictive model and some have concluded that the effort to develop one would not be worthwhile. Here in New York, we do approximately 75 reviews per week, all within the mandated 30 day time-frame. My request of the State Board was to help us set guidelines which would produce an effective archaeological review within the constraints of time, staffing, and financial realities. I believe that the 'circle/square' maps continue to prove a useful tool in that process but agree that a better program making use of our professional archaeologists can be found. Although a GIS system will not solve the problem in the short run, you may be sure that we are continuing to search for a better answer.

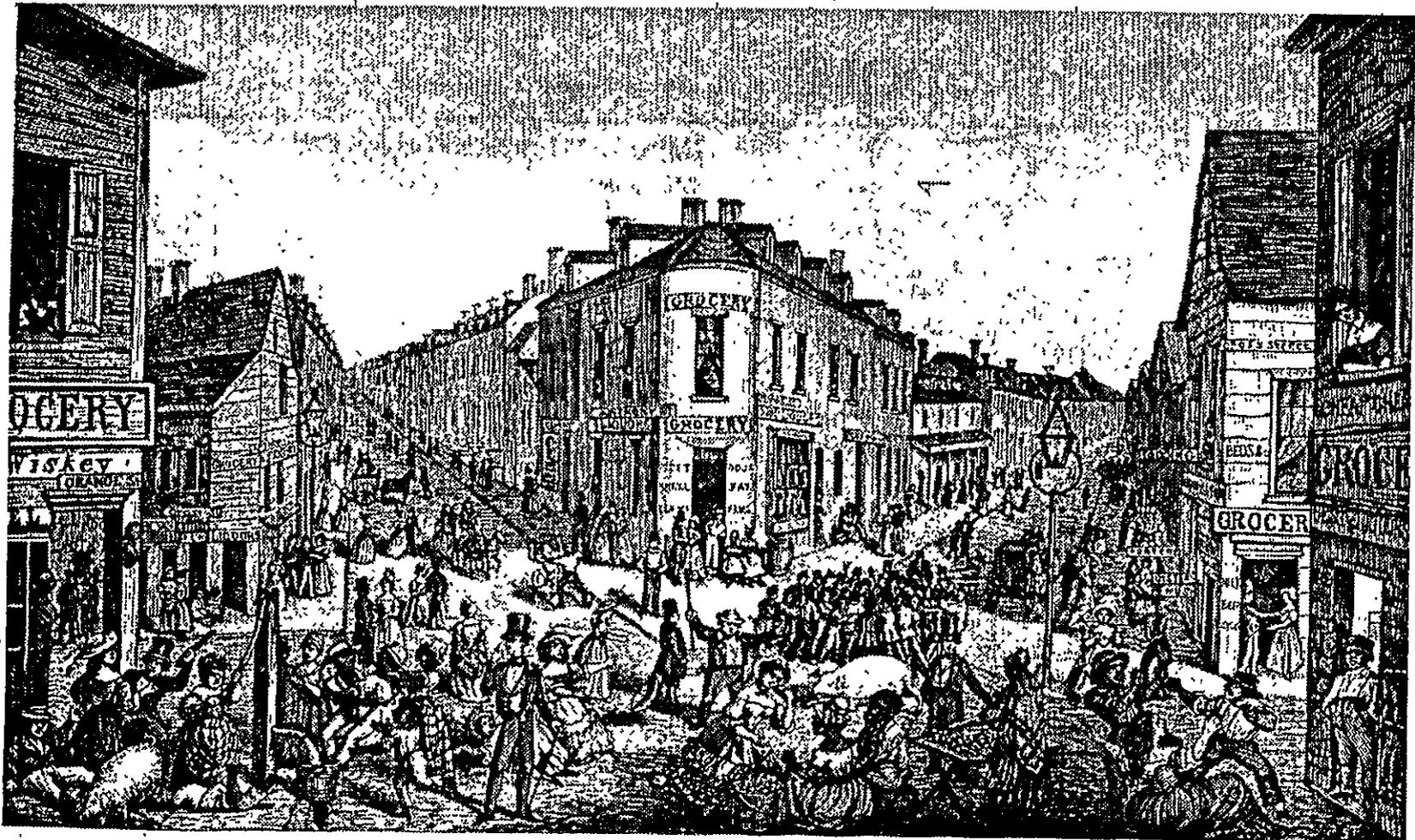
Sincerely,

David S. Gillespie
Director
Field Services Bureau

Enclosure

Archeologists Uncover New York's Foulest Slum

THE NEW YORK TIMES **METROPOLITAN** SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1991



Culver Pictures

For most of the 19th century, the "Five Points" slum was a center of crime, filth and violence. Archeologists at work on Pearl Street in lower Manhattan are helping trace its history with information gleaned from excavated foundations of the slum's old buildings.

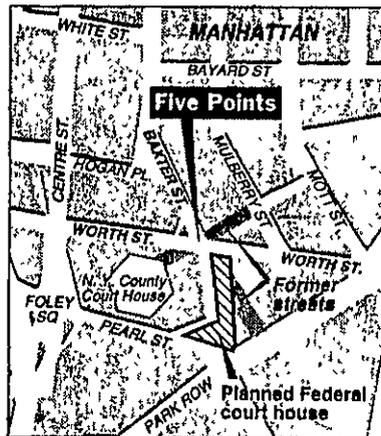
By CONSTANCE L. HAYS

It is emerging slowly, shaking off dirt with the help of a backhoe and a dozen archeologists, and offering quiet testament to the long, tortured history of New York City and its poor.

Along Pearl Street in lower Manhattan, on the site of a former parking lot where a new Federal Court House will be built, archeologists have exposed a part of the infamous Five Points slum of the 19th century. In the last three weeks, the foundations of at least four structures have been unearthed.

There is an odd poetry to this dig, going on amid the towers of modern New York and its monuments to civic order — state and Federal courthouses and the Metropolitan Correctional Center. For at a time when many New Yorkers think their city is a miserable place of crime and filth and violence, the light of day is falling for the first time in nearly a century on a piece of the place that was the quintessence of crime and filth and violence in the New York of the 1800's.

"Five Points is probably the ultimate New York slum," said James Shenton, a professor of history at Columbia University. "It was a brutal place in which to live and, just as likely, to die."



The New York Times

At least four structures have been unearthed from what was a notorious 19th century slum.

In the last three weeks, a brick fireplace has been bared in one wall, along with an iron crane once used to hang cooking pots over the open flames. In another section, five drainpipes poke up like periscopes, in a place where there was probably a "school sink," a communal place to dump liquid refuse.

The foundations, one with eight stone steps leading up to nowhere now, outline what were the basements of slum buildings, squeezed on small lots, where people lived packed together in squalid conditions that so dismayed authors like Charles Dickens and Jacob Riis that they raised a cry for change.

For most of the 19th century, starting about 1820, Five Points was the city's sprawling capital of iniquity, the hang-out of such notorious gangs as the Plug Uglies and the Shirt Tails. It was named for the convergence of five streets, only two of which survive: Baxter and Worth. Along what is now Centre Street was a string of brothels and saloons, according to "The Gangs of New York," a 1927 history by Herbert Asbury. Industries were grim, dominated by slaughterhouses, tanneries and "bone mills," where animal bones were ground to dust.

The section was home to poor Irish cobblers and German immigrants in the garment industry, among other immigrant groups, Ms. Howson said. Crime was rife, children starved, murders happened at least once a night. Landlords, displaying no illusions, named their tenements "Gates of Hell" or "Brickbat Mansion."

'Drooping and Decayed'

"Let us go on again, and plunge into the Five Points," an appalled Dickens wrote in "American Notes," published in 1842. "All that is loathsome, drooping and decayed is here."

As the 20th century dawned, and with it a large dose of reformist zeal, Five Points became a target. Nearly all of it was flattened to make way for government buildings and nearby Columbus Park. A handful of buildings remain, on Mulberry Street near Canal Street, Professor Shenton said.

Some sections of the site are yielding older proof that the area was always populated by the poor. "This is a really

Dickens called Five Points 'loathsome.'

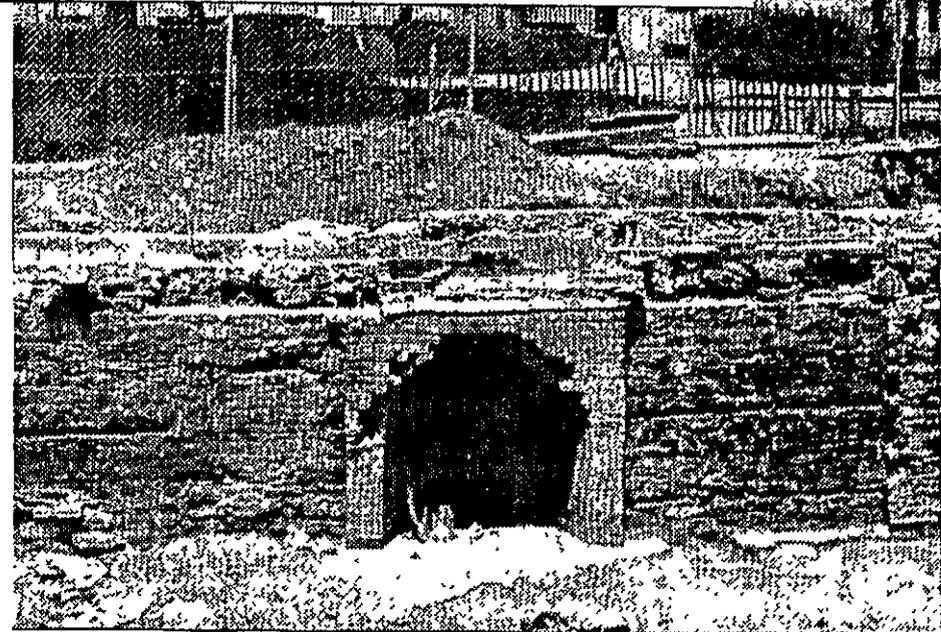
important site because the buildings that were here were small and nothing underneath them has been disturbed," said Jean Howson, an archeologist with Historic Conservation and Interpretation Inc., the Manhattan company hired by the Federal Government. Under the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, any project that involves Federal money or a Federal permit must be sensitive to its impact on historic properties, said another archeologist, Marjorie Ingle.

Among the 18th-century artifacts found are pieces of salt-glazed pottery

and smooth white porcelain. There also are remains of dinner's long past, like beef bones and oyster shells.

Another site, a few blocks west at the corner of Broadway and Duane Street, has yielded human remains, Ms. Howson said. "We don't know whether they're actually in burial or were disturbed earlier," she said. "It was probably an early cemetery." Those buried there, in what was probably a potter's field, include former slaves and Revolutionary prisoners-of-war, she said.

Passers-by seem transfixed by the work in progress, pressing up against the fence that surrounds the site. "I thought this might be part of the port," said Maurice Knoepfer, a Brooklyn resident. "Those steps going down could have been a wharf. I was thinking, course, they might strike oil in there, and it would take the city out of its problems. But the politicians would probably get to it first."



Jack Manning/The New York Times

Digging in the Past to Find the Ultimate Slum

In lower Manhattan, archeologists have unearthed the foundations of structures that were once part of the infamous Five Points slum of the 19th century — the quintessential center of New York's crime and filth in the 1800's. Page 27.

SUFFOLK COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

REPRESENTING NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES

P. O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, NY 11790

Vol. 17 No. 2
Summer 1991

BUDGET CUTS SERIOUSLY AFFECT STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL STAFFS

There has been a serious loss of archaeological staff in state agencies recently due to budget cuts and reorganization. Just recently, the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) has lost two archaeologists and there is the possibility that another senior person will be moved shortly, leaving no one to do the crucial work of reviewing permits for local community projects; the Water Resources Program is closing and will no longer work with local communities, interface with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) or review permits; the Department of Parks & Recreation has lost staff from its Historic Sites Office and the National Registry no longer has an archaeologist on staff.

Nan A. Rothschild, President of PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City) wrote a series of letters to government officials addressing this problem, including Governor Cuomo and the heads of the DEC and OPRHP, and urges other concerned groups and individuals to do the same. As she states,

While we understand that these are difficult times economically within the state, we urge you to reconsider these changes and find some way to restore some of the personnel (which had already been cut to a bare minimum) working on archaeological problems. There is so little remaining of our historic and archaeological past. We must all make the strongest commitment to preserve it.

Letters should be mailed to:

Mr. Thomas Jorling, Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
New York Dept. of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg #1
Albany, NY 12238

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Abbot Interaction Sphere: A Consideration of the Middle Woodland Period in Coastal New York and a Proposal for a Middle Woodland Exchange System, Annette Silver, 460 pages, \$32.50 Softbound. This includes a report on the Henry Lloyd Manor Site, Lloyd Harbor, Suffolk county. University Microfilms #91-24764, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Contact Annette Silver, (516) 295-0250, 512 Green Place, Woodmere, NY 11598.

Museum of the City of New York

The New School at the Museum of the City of New York

NEW! This series of mini-courses taught by the faculty of The New School for Social Research introduces and illustrates special exhibitions and the riches of the Museum's permanent collection. All sessions meet at the Museum of the City of New York.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM: WHEN NEW YORK WAS DUTCH

Saturdays: September 28, October 5, 12, 19

10:30 am-12:00 noon, \$40 for series.

Frederick Winter, former President of the New York Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, will introduce life during the early days of New York City including the arrivals of Verrazano, Hudson, and Block and domestic life in the "bouweries" of Nieuw Amsterdam as seen in Dutch genre paintings and artifacts.

BROADWAY AND THE MUSICAL THEATER

Sundays: October 20, 27 and November 3

12:00-1:30 pm, \$30 for series.

Noted theater critic and author Martin Gottfried draws upon the Museum's exhibition *Broadway! 125 Years of Musical Theater* and the Museum's famed Theater Collection to present a visual and aural introduction to the best of the Broadway musical. Beginning with the musical's origins in European operetta, discussions include elements of musical theater and the masters of musical theater through the present.

CHILDREN OF THE GHETTO

Sundays, November 17 and 24

12:00-1:30 pm, \$20 for both.

Betty Jean Lifton is the author of *The King of Children*, a biography of Janusz Korczak, the famous doctor, pioneer in moral education, and children's rights advocate who chose to die with the orphans of the Warsaw ghetto. Ms Lifton draws upon her internationally acclaimed research on Janusz Korczak to introduce the life and times of this most extraordinary man. The Museum's exhibition *Remember the Children* will be used as an integral part of the study of the experience of children during the Holocaust, as well as a point of reference from which to discuss Korczak's work with children in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Registration for these courses must be made through the New School for Social Research.
Please call (212) 741-5690 for further information.

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 for education, training and professional activity.

- a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree such as an M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D., from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.
- b. Applicants must have had at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and at least four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory analysis will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set forth by the Society for Professional Archaeologists.
- 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. All members receive the Newsletter and other PANYC publications.

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 Anne E. Donadeo, PANYC Secretary, 820 West End Avenue, #11E, New York, New York, 10025.

NAME

BUSINESS

HOME

TELEPHONE

ADDRESS

Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC _____
(Enclose documentation for a-c above.)

I wish to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter _____

Membership dues are \$15 and Newsletter Subscriptions are \$10.
Additional donations are welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

Amount of additional donation to PANYC _____