

**P**ROFESSIONAL  
**A**RCHAEOLOGISTS OF  
**N**EW  
**Y**ORK  
**C**ITY

NEWSLETTER NO. 34

MAY, 1987



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Material for the PANyc Newsletter can be sent to Betsy Kearns, acting editor, 101 West 79th Street, Apt. 15-A, New York, NY, 10024. Please submit material at least ten days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting  
 CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1126, March 25, 1987  
 Wall called the meeting to order at 7:00

Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes heading was revised to read "CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1126, January 21, 1987". Action Committee Report was revised to read "Rubinson will write letter to Barto Arnold"; New Business 1) was revised to read "It was proposed that copies be sold at the next PANYC public meeting". Cantwell motioned for the minutes of the January 21, 1986 meeting to be accepted, Marshall seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Wall, for Winter, reported the balance in PANYC account of \$1,165.68. Membership dues should be sent to Frederick A. Winter, 611 West 111th St. #25, NY, NY 10025.

President's Report: 1) Comments submitted at the DEC Public Hearing on the Draft Regulations Related to the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act appear in the March Newsletter (these were written by Wall and Salwen); 2) Comments submitted at the DPRHP Public Hearing on the Draft Regulations Related to the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act appear in the March Newsletter (these were written by Wall and Salwen). Henry Stern spoke out in support of funding for archaeology projects with Bond Act monies at the February 25 public hearing at CUNY Graduate Center.; and 3) A letter sent to Sylvia Deutsch, the recently appointed City Planning Commissioner, expressing concern over the apparent loop hole in the building permit application process that allowed destruction of archaeological resources at 17 State Street to occur, appears in the March Newsletter.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Action: Rubinson noted that a letter sent to the 92nd St. Y indicating concern regarding its lecture series on underwater treasure salvors appears in the March Newsletter.

AIA Participation: No report.

Awards: Salwen indicated that publicity for the PANYC annual award has begun.

City Agency Policy: Henn reported contact with Dorothy Miner at LPC and that a meeting was scheduled.

Curation: No report.

Nominations: Pagano announced outcome of PANYC elections. Twenty-six out of forty-six eligible voters participated. Results were as follows: Anne-Marie Cantwell, President; Karen Rubinson, Vice President; Daniel Pagano, Secretary; and Fred Winter serving second year of two year term as Treasurer. Executive Committee results were very close with Joan Geismar, Joel Klein, Sydne Marshall, Bert Salwen and Ralph Solecki being elected. Cantwell commended all outgoing officers for their work. Cantwell established goal of setting new policy tone with regard to PANYC committees and will seek new participants to keep committees active.

Legislation: 1) Salwen received most recent copy of Ship Wreck bill and expressed concern about provisions that guarantee access through the States to Federally owned resources. Apparently there is no room to write regulations on how States would be given jurisdiction over federal resources. Unless the bill is changed it will be inadequate. SHA has expressed interest in this version of the bill passing. Write to Hellen Hooper, SHA, P.O. Box 241, Glassboro, NJ 08028 to express concern over SHA position on the current bill. 2) Salwen indicated that Leone and Speiser of SAA are working on proposed amendments to the Bridge of Respect Act. 3) Orgel reported that a Legislative Briefing Book is in preparation with positions on legislation that will need action this year.

Museum: Geismar noted that archaeology program with Museum of the City of New York was confirmed in phone conversation with Robert Macdonald, the Museum's Director.

Native American Affairs: No report.

Newsletter: Geismar was acting editor for March issue. Cantwell thanked Geismar for the excellent work and T. Klein and Cohen for photocopying the Newsletter. Kearns will edit next issue and Orgel will photocopy. Cantwell called for a new Editor to volunteer for the job.

Public Program: Orgel noted the date for the next public program at the Museum of the City of New York is set for Saturday, April 25, 1987. The program will provide information on the range, variety and geographic dispersion of archaeological resources in N.Y.C.

✓ Research and Planning: Geismar, for T. Klein, noted that a report from the URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP by Susan L. Henry, on the January 7th workshop and discussion on "A Synthesis of Urban Archaeological Research," appears in the March Newsletter.

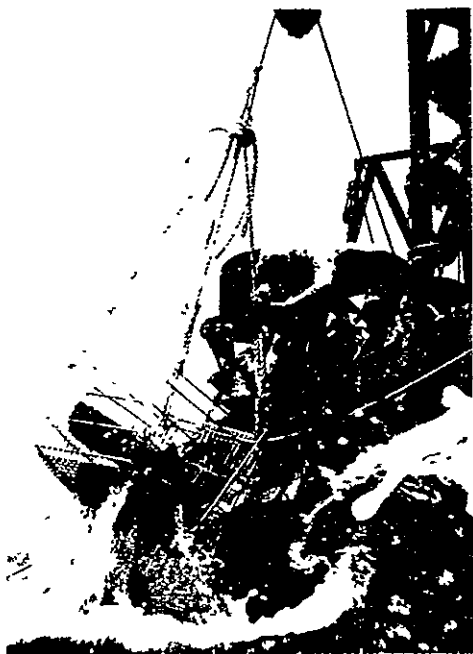
Standards: Draft Standards for Archaeological Data Recovery appear in the March Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership: Cecelia S. Kirkorian's application for PANYC membership was accepted.

Respectfully Submitted, Daniel N. Pagano, PANYC Secretary 1986/87



Damien Lin

**Go for the gold.  
And the silver.  
And the emeralds.**

If you've ever dreamed of diving a wreck filled with treasure, here's your chance. Spend a week searching for gold, silver and emeralds on Mel Fisher's amazing find, the treasure-laden Spanish galleon, Atocha.

Live on board as a member of the crew, diving and learning archeological salvaging from the pros. You'll be supervised one-on-one by a staff diver throughout your week for optimum training experience and safety.

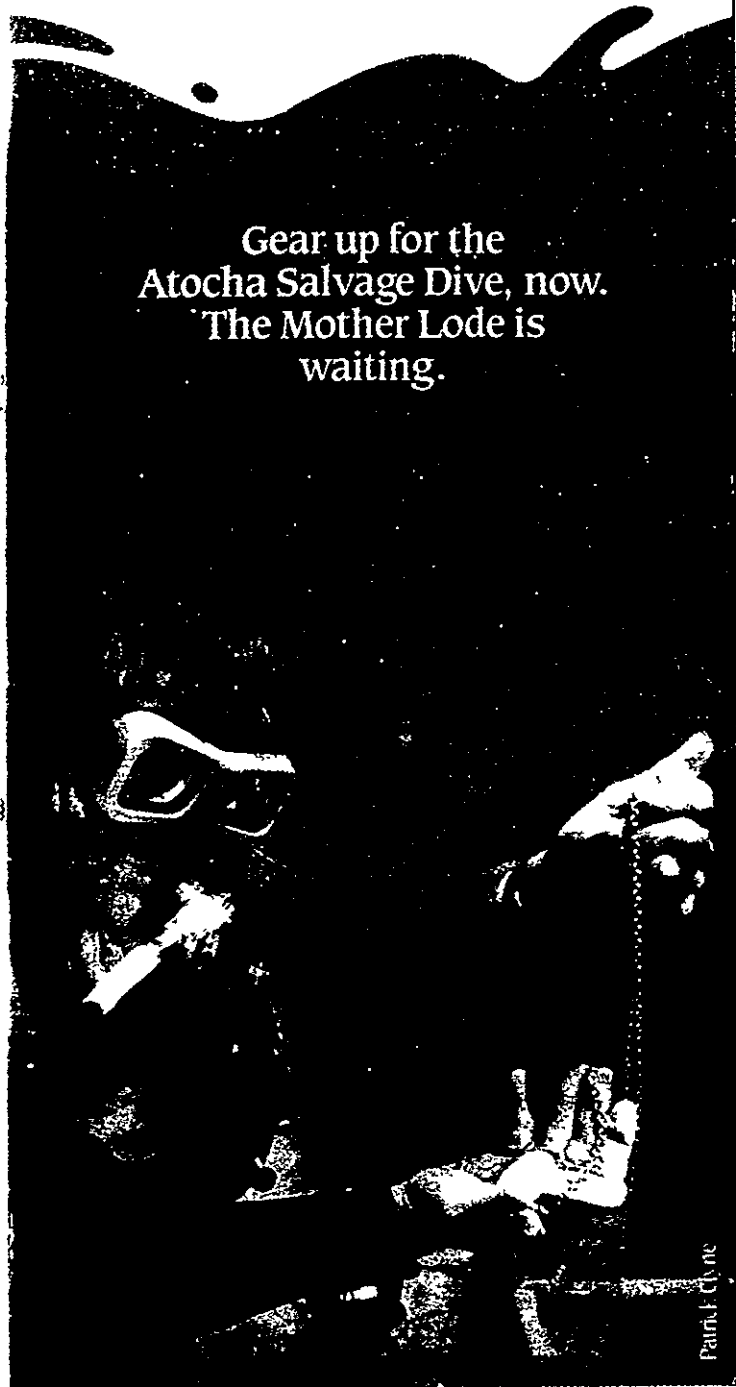
It's seven days of diving adventure you'll cherish for a lifetime.

**Editor's note:**

This and the following three pages are intended as reminders to PANYC members who may wish to express their support for the Abandoned Shipwreck Act.

3  
**Help us  
take  
the Lode off.**

**Gear up for the  
Atocha Salvage Dive, now.  
The Mother Lode is  
waiting.**



Patric C. Clark

# ATOCHA SALVAGING EXPERIENCE

## *the 1987 Treasure Search expeditions*

Dear Sport Diver, Treasure Hunter and Archaeological Enthusiast:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning our "ATOCHA" Salvaging Experience. We use the term "ATOCHA Salvaging Experience" because we are offering an experience much broader than the usual dive trip. To our knowledge, our package is unique in the sport diving industry. Not only will you be one of the few non-professionals to be given an opportunity to dive the wreck site of the world famous treasure galleon "NUESTRA SENORA de ATOCHA", but you will actually be signing on as a crewmember aboard a salvage vessel that is seriously involved in the raising of the "ATOCHA'S" lost treasures.

A great deal of deliberation and preparation has been involved in the decision to allow sport divers to take an active role in the "ATOCHA" salvage. As you can appreciate, we are dealing in a highly sensitive archaeological area. For this reason, we are inviting only those members of the sport diving community who will appreciate the sensitive nature of the project, and are willing to accept the Marine Archaeological Workshop program which is part of our week long itinerary. Should you decide to join us, we can promise you one of the most enlightening and memorable weeks of your life.

During your week with us, you will be diving and living with experienced professionals, taking a "hands on" role in the operations of both underwater and shipboard duties. They will be sharing with you their knowledge and expertise in diving, equipment, and treasure salvage techniques. As a sport diver you will be opening the door to a whole new area of interest. Until recently, hunting for sunken treasure has been a fantasy for most of us and a reality only for a few adventuresome and persistent individuals. Mel Fisher's much publicized quest and discovery of the "ATOCHA" has spurred world wide interest in this and the yet undiscovered treasures that lay hidden beneath the sea. It has created a new opportunity for the novice treasure hunter to take part in the quest by learning how to identify an ancient shipwreck, how to handle and report precious finds, and how to protect the sanctity of an underwater wreck site as an archaeological resource.

You will also be learning some of the history behind the "ATOCHA", "MARGARITA" and other ships of the 1622 flotilla that sank in this area. You will learn a bit about Mel Fisher and the research, theories and techniques he used in his sixteen year search to find the "ATOCHA'S" Mother Lode. The program is presented in a light and informal format, mostly while relaxing on deck in the evening.

# Society for Historical Archaeology

## Office of the President

4 May 1987

Ms. Betsy Kearns  
27 Deepwood Rd  
Darlen CT 06820

Dear Ms. Kearns:

You have an opportunity to help save historically significant shipwrecks. The Society for Historical Archaeology is spearheading a campaign to support enactment of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act during the 100th Congress. The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the Society for American Archaeology, the Society of Professional Archeologists, and other concerned groups and individuals already have joined us in this effort.

The Abandoned Shipwreck Act removes historically significant shipwrecks from the jurisdiction of admiralty courts by granting proprietary rights to the states in whose waters they lie. Copies of the House and Senate bills, H.R. 74 and S. 858, and a summary of the current legislative effort are enclosed.


Your participation is vital to the passage of this significant piece of preservation legislation. We need your help in two critical areas: 1) marshaling additional support in Congress and 2) raising money to fund this political action campaign.

Write your representative and senators! Encourage them to support these bills. Follow up your letters by personally contacting their legislative aides to determine the status of H.R. 74 and S. 858. Your support and involvement can make a difference -- perhaps the difference.

Political action is costly. The Society expects to spend at least \$10,000 this year lobbying for the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. We have allocated \$3,500 for this important work, but must raise the rest from donations. Although individuals and organizations already have committed \$2,500, we still need additional funds to meet our anticipated expenditures. Consequently, I ask you to contribute \$15.00 or whatever you can afford to the Society for this campaign.

We are counting on your personal and financial commitment to aid us in the passage of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987.

Sincerely,

  
Donald L. Hardesty  
President

Enclosures

The Society for Historical Archaeology  
PO Box 231033 - Pleasant Hill CA 94523

\* \* S H I P W R E C K   A C T   F U N D \* \*

Enclosed is my contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SHA/Shipwreck Fund

**THE FAR SIDE**

By GARY LARSON



Early archaeologists



# Pipeline Mapping Seen as Peril to Ancient Site

NY TIMES 5/3/80

By CHARLOTTE LIBOV

**A**LL the archeological sites along the proposed gas pipeline from Canada through upstate New York and Connecticut to Long Island were carefully identified and mapped, so that they could be properly protected. Now, an archeologist, in a view becoming increasingly widely shared, says the attempt at protecting the sites has endangered them.

Spring is always a nervous time for the archeologist, Dr. Roger W. Moeller. The trees are still mostly barren, the ground is soft, and the state's archeological sites are most vulnerable.

Making this spring worse, he said, was the release of a 676-page environmental report pinpointing areas of concern along the proposed 355-mile route of the Iroquois Gas Transmission System. Last fall, 1,000 copies of the report, which includes a three-foot-wide roll of 76 maps, were mailed to town halls, libraries and anyone who filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to intervene in the case.

Dr. Moeller's concern is shared by an archeologist for the National Register of Historic Places, John Knoeri, whose agency is part of the National Park Service of the Federal Department of the Interior.

"We are looking into this to see how it happened, and what might be done so it doesn't happen again," Mr. Knoeri said.

Some state officials, and other archeologists, are also concerned, but doubt anything can be done.

"Now that they're out there, what can you do?" said the director of research for the American Indian Archaeological Institute in the town of Washington, Dr. Russell Handsman. "You can't call the information back."

According to officials and archeologists, what happened with the Iroquois report raises the traditional concern over just how much information about archeological sites should be made public.

"You're damned if you do and damned if you don't," said a spokesman for Iroquois, Michael Lucy. "For every Roger Moeller, there are others who say you haven't provided enough information."

The distribution of the report was unusually large, but Iroquois had no choice, said another Iroquois spokesman, Frederick J. Nemergut. The

report has aroused a great dispute and a great number of intervenors, all of whom were entitled to the report, he said.

They sent out over 1,000 copies to libraries, all of the town selections of officials, state officers, commissions," he said. "It was part of our pledge to keep people informed."

Iroquois is a consortium of companies seeking to build a pipeline to carry 400 million cubic feet of gas a day from western Canada to Long Island. The environmental report traces the route from the point where it enters the United States, and contains information on points of interest along the way, including endangered species of plants and birds, historic sites, hazardous waste sites and archeological sites.

The energy commission is determining whether to license the project. A commission spokeswoman, Tamara Young-Allen, said she did not know when the agency's decision would come.

The chief of the commission's environmental evaluation department, Richard R. Hoffman, said the widespread release of the report was "a bit unusual," but that he did not think it would create a problem.

According to Mr. Hoffman, the intervenors would not ordinarily have received the environmental report. In most cases, the report, which is required by the commission, is filed by the applicant along with the application. In this case, however, the report was filed afterward as a supplement, and all intervenors are entitled to supplements.

The detailed mapping of archeological sites and the wide distribution of the report worry Dr. Moeller.

He holds a doctorate in anthropology and is business manager and a past president of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, a 250-member amateur association. He also runs Archeological Services, a consulting and mail-order business based in his Bethlehem home. He also works part

time in a local hardware store, and it was there that he learned of the scope and distribution of the report, he said.

"It was in late November when a friend of mine came into the store and said, 'Oh Roger, I hear your boss is building a house on an Indian site,'" Dr. Moeller recalled. "Well, he kept talking about Indian sites, and finally I said, 'Jim, what are you talking about,' and the whole story finally came out that he had signed up as an intervenor and they had sent him maps of the whole 355-mile route, and a book, with an index to the maps, showing which are the historic sites, which are the prehistoric sites, and so on."

According to Dr. Moeller, much of the problem lies in the detailed nature of the report. Such detailed information is considered so sensitive it is even exempt from the state's Freedom of Information Law, Dr. Moeller said.

"Of all the stuff that was known,

they put it in one easy-to-access place," he said. "This was information that was totally inaccessible to the general public, and now it is."

The report was written by Ecology and Environment, a Buffalo environmental consulting company, said Iroquois officials. The consulting company obtained its information from various resources, including the State Historic Preservation Offices in New York and Connecticut and such sources as the Washington Indian museum, said the senior archeologist for Ecology and Environment, Dr. Mark Rosenzweig. The staff archeologist for the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office, Dr. David A. Poirier, said the purpose of the report "was to give information to the applicant and the Federal agency so they could explore what alternatives they had."

"We figured not that many people would see it," he said.

He also acknowledged that such detailed information is unobtainable under state law, but is routinely made available to state and Federal agencies.

In the future, Dr. Poirier said, "we are going to try to be a little more cautious and remind agencies of the option of withholding information, or create planning documents with removable maps or appendix, or perhaps consider mapping in a more diffuse manner," he said.

At Ecology and Environment, Dr. Rosenzweig said that in working on projects in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the company had released their report in such a way that the general public was given only half of the information. But Connecticut officials did not request the report be released in that manner, he said.

And, at the American Indian Archaeological Institute, Dr. Handsman said that while his institute had willingly furnished information "because, basically, that's what you're supposed to do," he later became concerned.

"A thousand sets of maps," Dr. Handsman said. "If I had known that, I would have said, 'What, are you guys crazy?'"

Connecticut archeologists are not the only ones concerned. In Albany, the secretary for the New York Archaeological Association, John H. McCashion, said he was stunned when he learned from Dr. Moeller of the scope of the report.

"I was shocked to find information that we had always considered to be sacrosanct included," he said. "So locations that the individual amateurs had filed with the state of New York wound up on this map and they did not sit well with us."

Dr. Moeller turned to the State Attorney General's office, but met with no success.

According to an assistant attorney general, Anne Rapkin, the release of the information was not illegal as she added, "it doesn't appear to me that there is a whole lot we can do."

"It would appear the damage has already been done," she said. "The information can't be withdrawn from the public. The public has already seen it."

Whether any action will be taken to make sure such information is not leaked in the future remains to be seen.

On the Federal level, Mr. Knoeri said the National Registry had talk to the energy commission and suggested that the commission revise some of its procedures to make certain such information is not so widely dispersed.

His agency also may suggest to the commission that a local archeologist be hired to monitor the sites to see they are disturbed. At the commission, however, Mr. Hoffman said that while such a request might be considered, no formal request had been made.

But, while Dr. Moeller worries for the future, he worries also for the present.

"You can be certain that spring will bring out the pothunters, with new sharpened shovels and wide mesh screens," he said.

# Trash, Age 140, Is a Treasure to Archeologists in the Village

By SAM HOWE VERHOVEK

Perhaps, somebody in Jacob Nances' house at 25 Barrow Street thought it was a fine day for spring cleaning. Out into an abandoned cistern went all kinds of junk: pottery, glass, medicine bottles, a tobacco pipe, fish and mutton bones, teacups, buttons and at least one bullet.

Then, one day about 140 years later last Wednesday, to be precise — workers building an addition to Harry and Arlene Nance's kitchen happened to excavate the cistern, and the Greenwich Village Backyard Archeology project had its first backyard.

To the teams of archeologists from New York University exploring it, the cache was gold.

Garbage can tell you all kinds of things, said Dr. Bert Salwen, an anthropology professor who has been digging in the dirt beneath the house for most of his career and who is the director of the project.

The objects in the Nances' backyard — and in other backyards that archeologists hope homeowners will allow them to explore — will tell all kinds of clues about how New Yorkers behaved in the 19th century or even before, Dr. Salwen said.

Although archeologists from Cornell and Rutgers University have

conducted digs in parks and other public places in New York, the Nances were among the first to allow them to dig under a private home, Dr. Salwen said. The Nances saw an article on the project in *The Villager*, a weekly community newspaper, and called N.Y.U. when the cistern was discovered.

"They were over here in five minutes," said Arlene Nance, a real-estate broker who specializes in old houses.

A group of volunteers, led by Dr. Salwen, have set up camp in the Nances' backyard and are sifting through the artifacts buried in the cistern. They tag them and bag them and haul them off to laboratories for closer inspection.

## A Look at Private Life

Scrutinizing everything from the scratches on silverware to the labeling on pharmaceutical bottles, the archeologists will be able to gain new insights into family life and develop new or more substantial ideas about social history, health care, migration patterns and class differences.

"Public life is nicely recorded for the 19th century — but not private life," said Diana Wall, a doctoral candidate at N.Y.U. who is writing a thesis on changes in residential pat-

terns in New York City from 1790 to 1840.

Urban archeology was once largely confined to cities such as Cairo and Athens, which everyone knew to have ancient histories — and ancient secrets. But in recent years, even the relatively modern cities of the New World have come to be seen as subjects for excavation.

The archeologists sometimes discover much more than old garbage, of course. A team of them working several years ago found the remains of the Stadt Huys, New York's first city hall, at the present site of Broad Street near Fraunces Tavern.

But even the garbage can be immensely useful in learning about how people lived, and cisterns are commonly recognized as a good source for the garbage. Cisterns were used through the middle of the 19th century to collect rainwater for domestic use but were made obsolete by indoor plumbing. People would discard their trash in the cisterns, then cover them with dirt and forget them.

## House Built in 1826

The cistern at the Nances' house is round, six feet deep and about six feet in diameter. It is not clear when it was abandoned, although Dr. Salwen said plumbing was first used on a

wide scale in New York in 1842 with the opening of the Croton Aqueduct near the present site of the New York Public Library.

The Nances' home, which they bought in 1970, is a Federal-style town house that is one of the oldest such structures still in Greenwich Village. It was built by Jacob Shute, a mason, in 1826.

The construction managers for the kitchen project, Prop: Arch Construction Consortium, have now stopped that work until later this week, said a vice president of the company, Norman Kenyon.

Dr. Salwen said the findings of the backyard project could lead historians to revise the image of many facets of 19th century life. For instance, he said, the relatively small number of liquor bottles discovered in the Nances' cistern "might mean that the hard-drinking impression we have of that era was wrong."

"But, professor," said one of the volunteers who was sifting through the dirt, "how do we know what was inside all the medicine bottles?"

**SUMMERTIME/FRESH AIR TIME:  
GIVE TO THE FRESH AIR FUND**

NY TIMES

5/3/87

## New York City Seaport to Be Educational Laboratory

A partnership between the City University of New York and the South Street Seaport Museum will make it possible for faculty and students to use the Museum's ships, artifacts, galleries, children's center, research library and the historic district itself for credit and continuing education courses offered through CUNY colleges.

The range of potential cooperative programs that may be developed is far-reaching. Students and faculty will most often use the physical facilities of the South Street Seaport Museum as an extension of the CUNY classroom. Typical offerings will include scholarly research and student internships, using the archives, artifacts, and archeological collections of the Museum; restoration apprenticeships aboard one of the Museum's historic ships; seamanship and navigation, using the Museum's library or a classroom space; and teacher training in the field of maritime history, using the seaport district as an educational laboratory.

Kingsborough Community College spearheaded the partnership and has prepared a schedule of offerings.

New York has over 500 miles of waterfront. CUNY is the third largest university in the world. This program is the first of its kind in the country between an institution dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of America's maritime heritage and a major urban education system.

The South Street Seaport Museum, celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year, uses the restored buildings, piers, its collection of seven historic vessels, six exhibition galleries, a children's center and audiovisual screening room, research library with over 7000 specialized volumes and educational programs to interpret the contribution of maritime skills and history to the culture and commerce of the city of New York, the state and the nation.

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 curating 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 forth by the Society of 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, review of archaeological proposals and/or 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.

The 1986 membership dues are \$12. Nonmember subscriptions to the Newsletter are \$6.00. If you are interested in applying for membership in PANYC or in subscribing as a nonmember to the PANYC Newsletter, complete the below form and mail it to: Daniel Pagano 315 Ave.C Apt.1-A

New York, N.Y. 10009 (212) 553-1134

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Business) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate preferred mailing address. Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

(Home) Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the New York Archaeological Council? \_\_\_\_\_  
or of the Society of Professional Archaeologists? \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach Curriculum vitae or resume.