

**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

**PANYC**

# **NEWSLETTER**

Number 118, March 2005

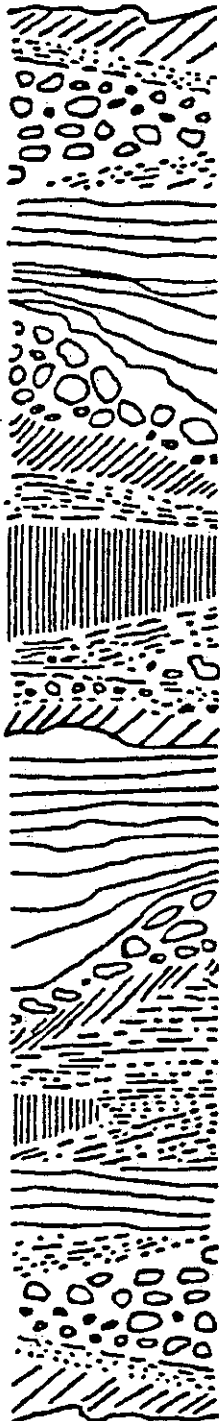
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## Guest Editors:

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**Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)**  
Minutes of the General Meeting held February 2, 2004

**Notice of upcoming meeting: March 22, 2005, Hunter College, rm 710**

As Chris Ricciardi was unable to attend, Lynn Rakos called the February 2nd meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., and presided over the meeting.

Present: Celia Bergoffen, Joan Geismar, Arnold Pickman, Lynn Rakos, Shelly Spritzer, Linda Stone.

Corrections: The NYAC item in the previous meeting's minutes shall be deleted.

Treasurer's Report: Twenty-four members have so far paid 2005 dues. Membership in 2004 was forty-eight.

Elections: Nomination forms would be sent out shortly.

Repository : Governor's Island: Stone wrote to GIPEC one year ago to express PANYC's support, offer assistance, and to inquire about the possibility of an artifact repository. A REFI (Request for expression of interest) is being sent out. The Vice President of finance at GIPEC is supportive of PANYC, is willing to guide us through the process, and has some thoughts about possible funding sources. PANYC's Repository and Governor's Island Committees will combine to come up with a strategy to prepare the necessary documentation: Geismar and Stone had already met the week before to discuss this, and consulted available data on the internet. Geismar reported that City Hall Library has offered to house PANYC's archives. Dallal offered to try to find out if our archives were still at the Seaport. Pickman asked where funding would come from, for curation, noting that when grant money ran out, an endowment would be needed; also, that if a suitable repository was found in New York City, artifacts that might be stored at the State Museum should be returned. This eventuality should be stipulated in any agreement, and Pickman suggested that a letter be written to clarify that position.

Landmarks: Re Coenties Slip: meetings regarding this matter have been held at LPC; the Water Board of New York City will fund Gary McGowan to do conservation; the DEP will manage the administration of the funding.

Membership: Mark Smith's application for membership was unanimously approved.

Municipal Art Society: Re Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning: the preservation community has observed that standing buildings were not properly considered and the Municipal Art Society was preparing to submit their written comments on this matter (the standing buildings were not of course included in the phase IA archaeological assessment prepared by Bergoffen)

Newsletter: Rakos and Pickman agreed to prepare the next newsletter.

Public Program: Admission will be "pay what you wish".

Old Business: Re South Street Seaport: Stone called Christina Reith and was referred to David Palmquist at the New York State Museum. Palmquist said that the matter had not yet been decided and that Stone should contact him again the following week.

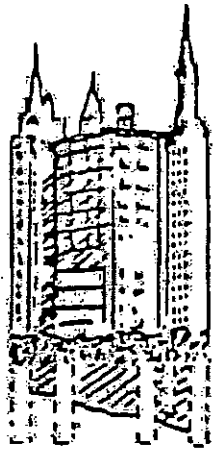
Bergoffen left the meeting at 7:30, and Rakos took the minutes for the rest of the meeting, as follows:

Concern was expressed that if the artifacts are transferred to the New York State Museum in Albany, and one day should a repository in NYC be created, the material could be returned. Discussion ensued as to whether a letter should be written. However, there was concern expressed that asking that the artifacts be returned to NYC might jeopardize the current transfer to NYSM. It was decided that Stone would call David Palmquist, at NYSM to get a sense of whether a letter would be beneficial or not.

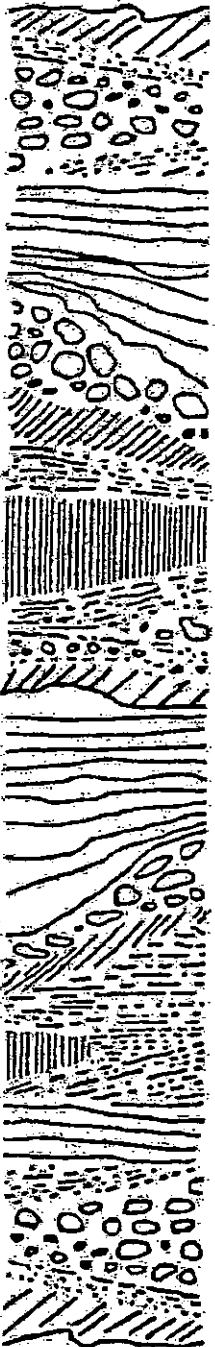
NYU Downtown Hospital Parking Lot Development and NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development: At issue is the fact that HPD is essentially writing off archaeology despite review by Landmarks that the area is sensitive for archaeological resources. The rationale is essentially that someone who would not have to go through the review process would develop the land and therefore archaeology would not be undertaken. That development by someone else was considered by HPD as the "no action" alternative (ie., the "No Action" alternative is a developed site, not the presently empty parking lot). They compared their project to the "No Action" alternative and write, "...as the project site would be developed in both the No Action and Action conditions, and would entail below-grade construction and in-ground disturbance in both the No Action and Action conditions, any archaeological remains on site would be disturbed in the No Action as well as in the Action condition. Therefore, from a CEQR perspective, the impacts are not considered significant" (Environmental Assessment Statement, CEQR # 04HPD015M, June 2004). So no archaeological work was undertaken. Clearly this is a terrible precedent for a city agency. Joan contacted the head of City Planning but has not yet had a response. PANYC should write a letter to the HPD and copy City Planning, the Mayor, etc. It was also brought up that perhaps a letter to the New York Times is needed.

MONGO: Book entitled "Mongo" by Ted Botha was discussed briefly. The book, about trash and items rescued from the trash for reuse, apparently includes interviews with looters from Manhattan.

Also mentioned is that Ricciardi was contacted by a NYU journalism graduate student who would like to interview members of PANYC about the history of the organization and also is interested in any on-going field work in the city. She can be contacted at: Michelle Schwartz, Cell: (202) 577-8149 Office (212) 992-9667; [mns257@nyu.edu](mailto:mns257@nyu.edu).



**PANYC**



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

February 3, 2005

Mr. Paul C. Perkus,  
Director  
City Hall Library  
31 Chambers Street -Room 112  
New York, NY 1000

Re: PANYC Archives

Dear Mr. Perkus:

Enclosed please find a copy of the latest newsletter of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) and, as such, the first entry in the PANYC archives to be housed at the City Hall Library. Also enclosed is a brochure from a PANYC exhibit formerly mounted at the Museum of the City of New York that offers information about our organization. Both items come with the grateful thanks of PANYC's officers, board, and members for accommodating our need for a new repository. We are so very pleased that the library will keep PANYC's newsletters and official records, which, over our 25-year history, have been housed in a single file drawer at the now-defunct library of the South Street Seaport Museum.

Since speaking with you last week, it has come to our attention that the PANYC materials at the Seaport Museum may have survived the dismantling of the library's holdings. If so, we trust we could transfer them to your facility, our new repository. Of course, this would entail no effort on your part, and, at this writing, we are not even sure this will be an issue. We will keep you informed.

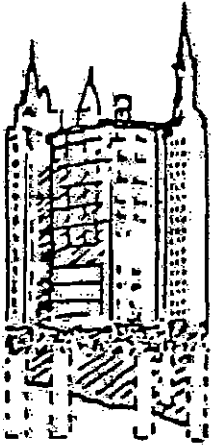
In the meantime, once again, please accept our thanks for so kindly giving our archive a home. As we discussed, subsequent issues of the newsletter will be sent to the acquisitions librarian.

Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
On Behalf of PANYC

40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
212 734-6512 (p)  
212 650-1521 (f)

Enc.



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

February 23, 2005

Ms. Pernille Spiers-Lopez, President  
IKEA-North America  
496 W. Germantown Pike  
Plymouth Meeting PA 19462

Dear Ms. Spiers-Lopez:

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to express our interest in the Erie Basin Co. Pump House in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and in particular to voice our concern that the associated Andrews centrifugal cataract pumps be preserved. We understand that the historic pump house structure has been partially destroyed through recent construction activities but that the pumps remain in place as archaeological features. These pumps are among the first of their type used in the United States and as such are significant artifacts of our industrial heritage. We urge you to protect these exceptional archaeological resources and make sure they will not be damaged.

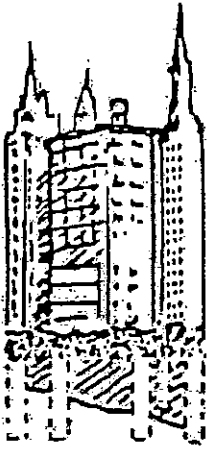
We hope that you will consider these pumps, and other historic resources on your property, as valuable and irreplaceable assets and use them wisely in your development plans. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. PANYC will continue to monitor this project as it proceeds.

Sincerely,

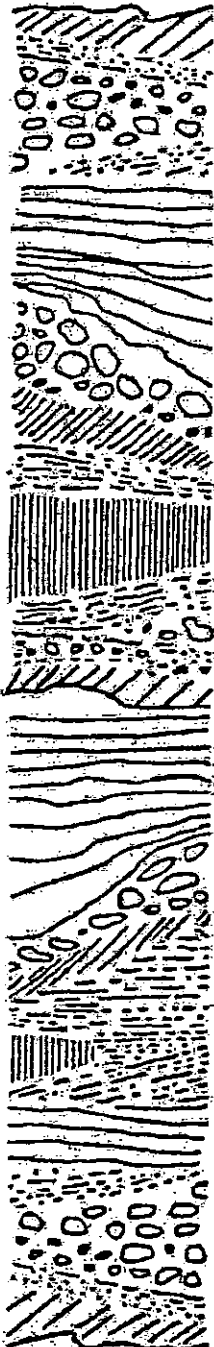
Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
On behalf of PANYC, Inc.

40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
212 734-6512 (p)  
212 650-1521 (f)

CC: The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City  
Councilman David Yassky, 33<sup>rd</sup> District, Brooklyn  
The Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair, New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Kent Barwick, President, Municipal Art Society of New York



**PANYC**



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

February 23, 2005

Richard Tomer, Chief  
Regulatory Branch  
Department of the Army  
New York District, Corps of Engineers  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
New York, New York 10278-0090

Dear Mr. Tomer:

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to express our interest in the Erie Basin Co. Pump House in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and in particular to voice our concern that the associated Andrews centrifugal cataract pumps be preserved. IKEA-North America proposes to develop this property. We understand recent construction activities have partially destroyed the historic pump house structure but that the pumps remain in place as archaeological features. These pumps are among the first of their type used in the United States and as such are significant artifacts of our industrial heritage. We urge you to ensure that any permit action addresses the archaeological resources on the site.

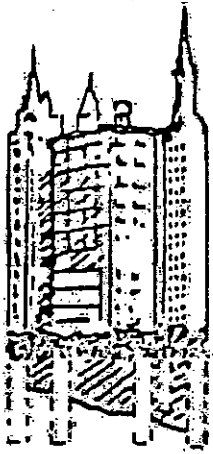
Please do not hesitate to contact our organization if we can offer assistance in addressing archaeological issues at the site. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. PANYC will continue to monitor this project as it proceeds.

Sincerely,

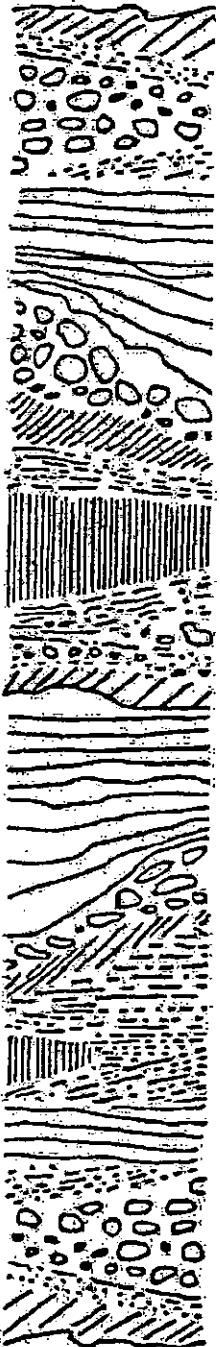
Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
On behalf of PANYC, Inc.

40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
212 734-6512 (p)  
212 650-1521 (f)

CC: Councilman David Yassky, 33<sup>rd</sup> District, Brooklyn  
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission  
Steve Schumach, USACE



**PANYC**



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

March 9, 2005

Brooklyn Community Board Number 11  
2114 Bath Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11214  
Att. Howard Feuer, District Manager  
Fax: 718 266-8821

Re: Bensonhurst Rezoning

Dear Mr. Feuer:

Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) wishes to comment on the Bensonhurst rezoning application. We are alarmed at what may be the city's attempt to ignore—indeed, to eliminate—the recording of irreplaceable archaeological resources in its current interpretation of the City's Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQR). We fear a precedent will be set should City Planning sidestep the need to address these resources in its proposed Bensonhurst rezoning application.

The CEQR law is not meant to preserve archaeological resources (as elsewhere in the world), nor is it meant to halt projects. As originally enacted in 1978, the law ensured that planning for projects that came under CEQR properly disclosed archaeological issues. It is unconscionable that the city would undermine its own laws, particularly on such a relatively minor issue, but one that cannot be readdressed once archaeological resources are obliterated.

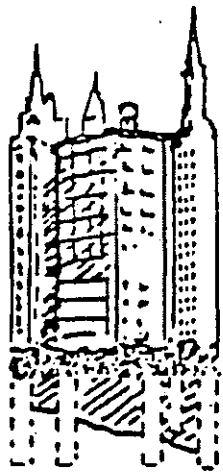
We are asking that the approach to archaeological issues in the Bensonhurst rezoning application follow the intent of the law: that is, to determine if archaeological resources may be destroyed by any proposed action and, if so, to ensure that they are documented as prescribed by the New York City Landmarks Commission and by New York State.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

PANYC President Elect  
40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
212 734-6512 (p)  
212 650-1521 (f)  
[jgeis@aol.com](mailto:jgeis@aol.com)

Cc. David Karnovsky, Esq., City Planning  
Regina Myer, City Planning



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

March 15, 2005

Mr. Paul C. Perkus,  
Director  
City Hall Library  
31 Chambers Street –Room 112  
New York, NY 10007

Re: PANYC Archives – Deed of Gift

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of March 9, 2005, accepting the PANYC archive for the library's collections. As you requested, this is to confirm that the PANYC archive is a gift to the City Hall Library to be made available to the public upon request.

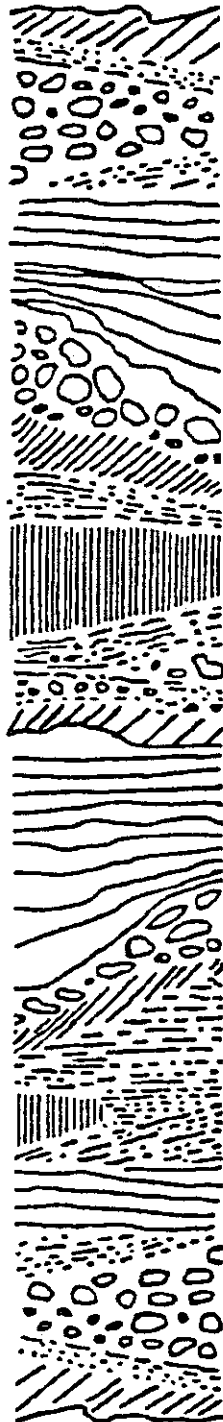
Once again, please accept our thanks for so kindly giving our archive a home and for making it accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
On Behalf of PANYC

40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
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Enc.







## Hard times for history

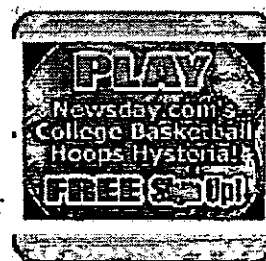
### South Street Seaport seeks a new caretaker for the more than 2 million artifacts in its New York Unearthed museum

BY MICHELE SCHWARTZ

Michele Schwartz is a freelance writer.

February 27, 2005

Wanted: A permanent home for pottery pieces, pipe stems, and the more than 2 million other artifacts excavated from New York City archaeological sites during the past two decades.



Since 1990, the artifacts have been housed at New York Unearthed, an urban archaeology laboratory and conservation center, the city's only such repository, located at 17 State St. in lower Manhattan. However, recent budget cuts and a decline in visitor traffic have caused the center's parent organization, the South Street Seaport Museum, to lay off members of the archaeology department, including its former curator, effectively shutting the lab.

The collection consists of myriad artifacts from more than 300 years of Manhattan history - including the period of Dutch New Amsterdam, English colonial and early American Republic through the early 20th century.

#### Elegant historical hints

The items range from the elegant - fragile china cups and glass bottles - to the mundane - children's marbles and clay smoking pipes.

There are the small, personal objects like buttons, pins, shoe buckles, and pewter plates and spoons that belonged to long-gone residents. Building fixtures, roof tiles, bricks and water pipes can also be found in the collection. Poignant glimpses of the past include a woman's hairbrush and a child's toy boat.

When the lab was opened to the public, hundreds of thousands of people came by to view the objects. Archaeologists visited for research purposes. Today, the lab is open by appointment only; and most visitors are teachers and their classes. Members of the archaeological community are dismayed by the closing and concerned about the safety and preservation of the artifacts while they await a new home, which could take months.

Jeff Remling, Seaport Museum director of operations, is overseeing the collection in the interim, and he said the artifacts are well cared for and are in no danger of being discarded or destroyed.

The collection "hasn't been used, and it's sealed. There's no increased risk of degradation of the artifacts," Remling said.

The artifacts remain locked in the same room at the same building as before. He has the keys, and few people

handle the artifacts, Remling said. Climate control and security standards remain in place to safeguard the collection, and there is no cause for alarm. "They are just as safe as when the archaeologists were here," he said.

### Off to Albany?

Remling said Seaport Museum is working hard to find a new permanent repository for the artifacts, but it is unlikely that they will remain in New York City. He is currently in discussion with officials of the New York State Museum in Albany over the possibility of relocating the collection there. A team from the state museum came down earlier this month to view the collection and discuss the possible acquisition. "Nothing has been written in concrete," Remling said, conceding that it would take weeks or months to arrange such a transition.

The attacks of 9/11 dealt a death blow to the conservatory, which had been struggling with declines in visitors and donations. After Sept. 11, 2001, both fell considerably, and the lab was closed this past June.

Remling said it seems unlikely that the New York Unearthed archaeology department will be reinstated anytime soon. The collection is underutilized, he said. Only one archaeologist has recently been by to check on it, and there is not enough current interest to justify the expense. "It just takes too much money," he said. "That's the bottom line."

Nevertheless, members of the archaeology community, particularly Chris Ricciardi, a project archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and president of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, are skeptical about the lab's closing. People often use a sluggish economy "as an excuse to let less important programs go," he said.

His group, formed in 1980, is a professional organization dedicated to issues in archaeology, including lobbying the government to strengthen artifact protection laws. The group also functions as a watchdog, blowing the whistle on looters who damage archaeological sites and builders who ignore existing protection laws.

### Kept in the dark

Ricciardi said Seaport Museum officials never consulted with his group on the closing, and he has been frustrated that they are closing the city's only archaeology center dedicated to New York City artifacts without any dialogue. "Because they won't talk to the archaeology community, we don't know what's happening with the collection, and that's very disappointing," Ricciardi said.

Remling disagreed. "They have come up with no money, no home, no ideas," he said. The museum was faced with a difficult decision, he said, and is doing the best it can. "We are trying to do the right thing."

Penelope Drooker, curator of anthropology at the New York State Museum, confirmed the museum is discussing with the Seaport Museum about acquiring the collection.

### A wonderful collection

At this point, the state museum is still trying to assess the size and condition of the collection and whether it is in the best interest of the collection to move it to Albany. No conclusions have been reached, she said. Whoever does take it, though, will acquire a wonderful collection, she said. "Anybody who had it would be proud of it."

Most agree that the New York State Museum would be an excellent place for the collection. Remling said that the state museum is short on Manhattan artifacts, and the Seaport Museum collection would greatly enrich and enlarge it. Having such a huge collection of New York artifacts in one spot would be a convenient treasure trove of research material for scientists, according to Remling. "It's a one-stop shop for archaeologists."

Ricciardi also approved the choice. "I applaud New York State Museum to be willing to take the collection," he said. "They will do a fantastic job curating the collection." Still, he said, "It's a shame all these New York City artifacts have to leave the city."

If the state museum decides to accept the collection, Drooker's aim is to keep its cultural and scientific integrity intact. "We want what's good for the collection, and we'd do our best to take care of it and make it available to those interested," she said. The importance of ongoing safety and curation is paramount for Drooker.

"I hope it doesn't end up in someone's basement," she said. It is also not enough just to store artifacts properly, Drooker said. They must be available for public display and research. "You need staff to make them accessible for additional information," she said. "This element is lost, because they don't provide that any more."

As the city may lose its collection, Ricciardi said his group is considering the possibility of creating a future permanent repository for the city. He said it has been looking at how other cities run artifact conservatories and would like to work with the Landmarks Preservation Commission and other city and state agencies on this project. "We're not going to do this in a bubble, and we will try to involve as many people as we can."

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# City/Opinion

O P E D

## Pipe Dreams

By GERARD KOEPEL

**L**AST October, at Coenties Slip and Water Street, a backhoe operated by a Parks Department contractor struck something hard and unexpected. Joan Geismar, an urban archaeologist and a consultant to the department on buried things of possible significance, was called to the scene.

With the tools of her trade, Ms. Geismar scraped clean the upper edge of a log, more than 13 feet long, that was connected to another one a few inches longer. To the untrained eye, these logs looked like remnants of some derelict building, but Ms. Geismar recognized them as water pipes. Not just any water pipes, but among the city's first water pipes, and remarkably they were still intact.

In the summer of 1798, New York, a city of 60,000 people expanding rapidly up Manhattan from its southern tip, experienced a devastating yellow fever epidemic that took 2,000 lives. Doctors theorized that the disease was transmitted by bad air rising from the town's swampy fringes and filthy streets (the real agents of death were infected mosquitoes breeding in those places). The suggested cure: piping fresh water from the pristine Bronx River, banishing disease and ending generations of reliance on the distasteful and polluted wells for which New York was infamous.

In 1799, the New York Legislature chartered the Manhattan Company to provide pure water. But the company's founder, Aaron Burr, was more interested in money than water. And before supplying water, Burr's company opened a bank, which is now known as J. P. Morgan Chase.

As a water provider, the Manhattan

Company was a complete failure. Instead of channeling a mainland river, the company built a meager waterworks on suburban Chambers Street and laid a haphazard network of yellow-pine pipe down to the town. Sometime before 1808, the company placed the Coenties Slip line: 30 inches around with a narrow six-inch bore. The 25 customers who tapped it were poorly served, judging by the com-

pipes themselves.

For decades, the Department of Environmental Protection has claimed found pipe as its own, but this pipe was found by the Parks Department, which isn't letting go. The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Municipal Archives are also involved, as have been archivists at J. P. Morgan Chase, archaeologists like Ms. Geismar and historians like me. We have agreed that the pipes belong to New York, not to any single public or private entity, and that they should be preserved and displayed together.

This is good news because the recent history of archaeological presentation in New York City is not encouraging. In 1981, an excavation at 175 Water Street turned up a 92-foot merchant ship, stripped and scuttled in the mid-1700's to form the bulkhead for landfill out to what is now Front Street. The bow was removed for conservation and display but when money ran out and city museums balked at Mayor Edward I. Koch's appeal for support, the timbers went to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va. The rest of the ship, deemed too large for a conservation attempt, was photographed, cataloged and dumped in the Fresh Kills landfill. Add to this last summer's drastic cutbacks at the South Street Seaport Museum. Its New York Unearthed has been downgraded from the city's only archaeological research museum into a learning center for school students; and, pending final arrangements, its collection of two million local artifacts will be exiled to the New York State Museum in Albany.

But it will be a challenge to find a place to display these pipes, which weigh 1,600 pounds and stretch nearly 30 feet long. We've come so far; let's not allow this final obstacle to stop us. In the months ahead, as the pipes are prepared for their re-entry into modern New York, let's save a piece of history and find these pipes a home. □

### Working together to save a city relic.

plaints of dry cocks in newspapers, letters and diaries.

The Manhattan Company's claims of monopoly water rights suppressed development of a functional water system for decades until the city built the Croton Aqueduct, which brought Westchester river water into the city beginning in 1842. Croton became the model for public urban water supplies and the origin of New York's now vast supply, overseen these days by the city's Department of Environmental Protection.

For the last century and a half, abandoned wooden pipes have rotted away, or been dug up and discarded during construction projects. City museums have short bits of pipe mostly in storage or side-hall displays. Nothing like the Coenties Slip pipes — unique in their original length and excellent condition — has ever been preserved and displayed intact.

The week after their discovery, the pipes were taken to a conservator in New Jersey. There they will have a year-long preservative bath in polyethylene glycol before freeze drying at another site. All of this is happening through a collaboration as rare as the

Gerard Koepfel is the author of "Water for Gotham: A History."

## **UNEARTHING THE PAST AT KING MANOR**

King Manor Museum in Jamaica, Queens, is renowned as the elegant estate of Founding Father Rufus King. If you happened by King Manor last summer, however, you probably noticed that its yard was filled with people and sported sections of exposed earth. Last July and August, the Museum hosted Hofstra University's Undergraduate Field School, led by Professor Christopher Matthews, for an adventure in public archaeology.

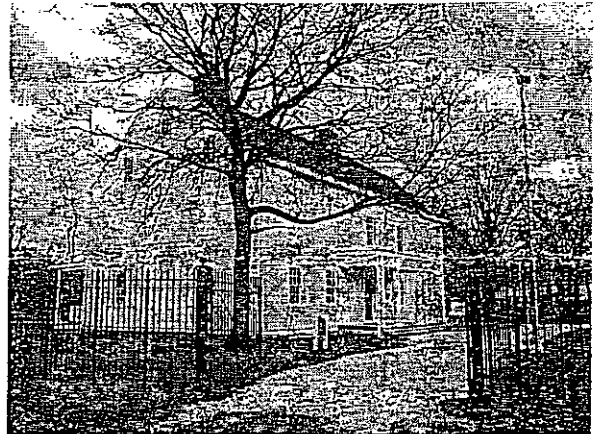
Throughout its five-week tenure, the Field School team carefully excavated artifacts and features that will help shed light on aspects of daily life that are not part of the historical record. In particular, they looked closely for evidence that can be used to reconstruct the lifestyle of those whose history is the most obscured: the nine slaves of Christopher Smith (Rufus King's predecessor at the site) and the paid servants and laborers who worked for the anti-slavery Mr. King.

Through wide-ranging public programming, the Museum involved as many people as possible in learning about King Manor's past and the methods of historical archaeology. The young Time Travelers History Campers were thrilled at the opportunity to excavate and sift dirt for artifacts alongside the archaeologists.

A well-attended lecture series brought respected local archaeologists to King Manor. Visitors to the museum enjoyed a preview of the newly-developed *Unearthing the Past* exhibit, and passersby in King Park stopped to chat with and learn from the Field School students. In early August, many friends of King Manor gathered for iced tea and special tours of the excavation before it was backfilled for the season.

Professor Matthews and the Field School will return to King Manor this summer. They will continue their search for material evidence of slavery and freedom in the early American period from July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Want to get down and dirty? Volunteers are welcome, but you must be at least 16 years of age, able to commit to a full day of work, and be prepared to undertake a high level of strenuous activity. Contact Prof. Matthews at [anthczm@hofstra.edu](mailto:anthczm@hofstra.edu) or 516-463-4093 now! *Mary Anne Mrozinski, Executive Director*



King Manor, Jamaica, L.I.

## **2004 HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL AT KING MANOR**

The 2004 Hofstra Archaeology field school at King Manor ran from July 6 to August 6. Directed by Prof. Chris Matthews, the project team included Jenna Coplin, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Hofstra, nine field school students, and a handful of volunteers. The excavations were based on recovering data related to understanding the contrasts between slavery and freedom at the site. In the late 18th century, the King Manor house was occupied by the Colgan-Smith family who were slave owners. In 1805 Rufus King purchased the property and instituted a system of free workers that materialized his own political beliefs — which he later pronounced in his opposition to the expansion of slavery during the Missouri Compromise in 1820.

The excavations were focused on areas surrounding the standing King Manor House where outbuilding structures once stood. Specifically, we are investigating the privy pit in the northwest yard and working around the remains of an outbuilding on the east side of the house designated as a Building K in an earlier survey. Building K was most likely used as a dairy or stable, but may have been a residential location for household servants at some point.

We are working with the premise that slavery and freedom, as regimes of household labor, will produce distinct archaeological signatures related to the expression of master authority and ostentation in architecture and artifact types and the manner in which work areas were spatially organized in relationship to

the manor house and to each other. We also propose that the remains will reveal signs of worker resistance in terms of how laborers used their work routines as an opportunity to create spaces of independent activity by working outside the master's line of sight to claim work spaces as their own.

The results of the 2004 excavations are very suggestive thus far. The fieldwork included a shovel testing regimen in the west yard of the house and the complete and partial excavation of 13 1 x 1 meter units in four areas of the site. Shovel tests revealed intact archaeological deposits in the west yard productive of 18th-century materials, but in low quantities not warranting further investigation at this point. The unit excavations were determined by previous archaeological and archival research.

Two units were placed directly in front of the house where previous excavations abutting the house suggested a bluestone pathway that would predate the current circular drive would be found. Unfortunately, the area was significantly disturbed by the construction of a flagpole monument in the early 20th century. However, the lack of any 18th-century material amidst the disturbed deposits suggests that this is not a likely area for recovering early deposits associated with the house.

Working in the east yard, three units were opened associated with Building K. One was placed where historic map overlays showed the southeast corner of the structure to have been located. Excavation revealed that the foundation of the building was robbed at the time of demolition and the builder's trench backfilled. Fortunately, this demolition only minimally disturbed the surrounding deposits, which indicate a likely buried surface associated with the use of this building.

Historic materials including creamware and pearlware ceramics and dark olive wine bottle fragments were recovered. One highly suggestive artifact is a wine bottle base that has an inscribed 'X' cut into it near the pontil mark on the kick-up. This sort of incised mark has been associated at other sites with artifacts of African religious belief; however, this particular artifact requires further analysis before any connection can be securely made between it and the enslaved Africans at King Manor.

After discovering that the remains of Building K were likely identifiable and productive, two additional units were placed on the north side of the Building. This would have been the side facing away from the street front of the property. This location would have been hidden from the public face of the house and equally would have been out of the line of sight of the manor house. Such out of the way locations are typically areas of high artifact counts, and potentially also areas where workers could have escaped the surveillance of the master, thus finding the space to act in ways challenging their subordinate status. Neither of the two units opened were completely excavated, yet the artifact counts were indeed very high and the materials indicative of the late 18th-century occupation. We will

be returning next summer to complete these excavations and likely open additional units in the area more to collect a large sample of materials to work with in our analysis.

The most exciting excavations were in the northwest yard where the remains of the household privy were identified. Rufus King declared in 1805 in a letter to his sons describing the new property in Jamaica that "the house is not fashionable, but convenient, the outhouse good, and the grounds consisting of about 50 acres . . ." Otherwise there is no record of the privy for the house in the documents. Historic maps do not show any structure on the property that likely would have served as a privy until the early 20th-century.

Post-1900 Hyde and Sanborn insurance maps suggestively show a roughly 10 foot square timber structure in the northwest yard. However, without being evident on earlier maps, the possibility exists that this structure was built by the Parks Department for tool storage after they acquired the property in 1900. Nevertheless, with King's letter we can see that the privy was in place before he purchased the property, suggesting that the privy shaft may be a productive record of the property in terms of artifacts that would have accumulated during its use.

The first archaeological investigation of the site in 1988 remains undocumented except in a later follow-up report by Grossman and Associates. Grossman records that the first shovel testing program identified the possible location of the privy in the northwest yard roughly where the 10-foot timber structure would have stood. What remains were recovered are not listed, thus our investigation was guided at first with hopes of recovering the evidence of this shovel testing to determined exactly where they believed the privy remains would be.

A 2 x 2 meter excavation area was laid out and initiated. In the process it was discovered that after 1991 a significant amount of fill (more than 6 inches) was deposited in a landscaping project that buried the ground surface at the time of the earlier excavations. Once we had this figured out we began to find the remains of an earlier chain link fence line and the initial shovel tests done in advance of its construction. These were the previously undocumented tests that suggested the presence of a privy, and they were right!



Figure 1 - Privy Pit

As we proceeded to expand the excavation from the original four units to open up a total of seven we defined the southwest quadrant of a dry-laid stone privy shaft (Figure 1). This was a very substantial round privy pit feature, probably 8 or more feet in diameter that has proven very rich in terms of artifact quantities, but to date has only revealed late 19th and early 20th-century materials (Figure 2). We were unable to complete any of the excavations in the privy pit interior due to its substantial depth and our limited field time. It is our first intention to return next summer to continue the suspended excavations in this area of the site by opening more of the surface area of the pit and digging deeper into it.

The privy was constructed by excavating a large hole, laying the stone perimeter wall within the hole, and backfilling the builder's trench on the exterior of the stones with relatively clean sand, likely brought into the site from off-site, though this could be the deeply buried subsoil. The artifacts recovered are presumably related to the occupation of the site by a caretaker in the early museum era and consist of consumer products like tin cans, liquor and water bottles, tableware ceramics, animal bones and even a purple glass bead.

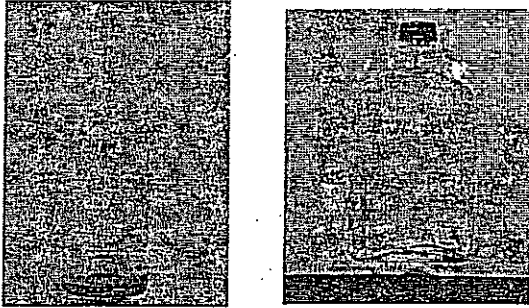


Figure 2 - wine bottle and whiskey bottle

Also recovered were household materials like door hardware and nails suggestive of possible renovations.

It may be that the pit was closed when the caretaker's quarters were renovated at some point, perhaps in the 1920s, making the privy closing part of such a renovation. Our excavations appeared to reach the end of this large artifact deposit but this seemed not to be the end of the privy fill itself, leaving open the likelihood that more will be found in next summer's work. It is our hope that this will be the case and that we will be fortunate enough to recover materials from the pit reaching back to the earliest occupations of the site in the 18th century.

*Dr. Chris Matthews*

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Archaeologists Wanted:

Experienced field technicians and field supervisors for long-term field project in lower Manhattan.

Willingness to work nights and weekends a plus.

Preference given to those who can commit to a minimum of 3 shifts per week.

Salary commensurate with experience.

EOE. E-mail resume to [hme@dewberry.com](mailto:hme@dewberry.com),

reference ENVR0316 in the subject.

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Monarchs of the Sea: Celebrating the Ocean Liner Era	Exhibit	Perm. Exhibit		South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street	212.748.8766 or <a href="http://www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org">www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org</a>	\$5 adults Free children under 12 members-member card
Brooklyn Works: 400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn	Exhibit	Exhibit		Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn	<a href="http://www.brooklynhistory.org">www.brooklynhistory.org</a> or 718.222.4111	\$6.00 Adults \$4.00 Students/Seniors
Nieuw Amsterdam: Dutch New York as Represented in the Archaeological Collections of South Street Seaport Museum	Exhibit	?	?	South Street Seaport, Schermerhorn Row Galleries, 12 Fulton Street	<a href="http://www.southstreet.org">www.southstreet.org</a>	?
Totems to Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts of Northwest and Southwest	Exhibit	October 30, 2004-July 10, 2005	10:00-5:45 pm	American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79 <sup>th</sup> Street	<a href="http://www.amnh.org">www.amnh.org</a>	Suggested Donation
Projects 82: Mark Dion—Rescue Archaeology, A Project for The Museum of Modern Art	Exhibit	November 20, 2004-April 18, 2005	Saturday/Sunday 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.  Monday 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.  Tuesday closed  Wednesday 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.  Thursday 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.  Friday 10:30 a.m.—8:00 p.m.	Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street	<a href="http://www.moma.org">www.moma.org</a>	\$20.00 Adults \$16.00 Seniors \$12.00 Students  Free children under 12 and on Fridays 4:00-8:00 pm

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PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Settlement and Sanctuary on Cyprus from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages: Views from the Columbia University Excavations at Phlamioudhi, Joanna S. Smith, curator	Exhibit	20 January - 19 March 2005	Gallery hours: Wednesday to Saturday 1-5 pm	The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery 8th floor, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University in the City of New York	N/A	Free
New Tribe: New York	Exhibit	January 29, 2005-April 9, 2006	10am-5pm; open Thursdays until 8pm	George Gustav Heye Center, New York	<a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu">http://www.nmai.si.edu</a>	Free
First Seen: Photographs of the World's Peoples, 1840-1880 February 1 - May 1, 2005	Exhibit	February 1, 2005-May 1, 2005	Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-6:00 pm	Dahesh Museum, 580 Madison Avenue-between 56 <sup>th</sup> and 57 <sup>th</sup> Streets	<a href="http://www.daheshmuseum.org">www.daheshmuseum.org</a>	\$9.00 Adults \$4.00 Students/Seniors Free Members and Children under 12
George Catlin and His Indian Gallery	Exhibit	February 26, 2005-September 5, 2005	10am-5pm; open Thursdays until 8pm	George Gustav Heye Center, New York	<a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu">http://www.nmai.si.edu</a>	Free
The New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium, Anthony Snodgrass: <i>The Meaning of the Cemetery in the Iron Age and Before</i>	Lecture	Wednesday, March 21, 2005	6:30 PM	The Institute of Fine Arts One East 78th Street	Please R.S.V.P. 212.992.5803 or, <a href="mailto:IFA.events@NYU.edu">IFA.events@NYU.edu</a>	Free?
Cabinets, Curiosities, and Collections: Revealing the Museum's Stored Treasures, talk by Rob DeSalle curator	Lecture/Exhibit	Thursday, March 31, 2005	7:00 pm	American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79 <sup>th</sup> Street -Linder Theater, first floor Code: EL033105	<a href="http://www.amnh.org/programs/lectures/?src=p_p-cabinets">http://www.amnh.org/programs/lectures/?src=p_p-cabinets</a>	\$15.00 Adults \$13.50 Members/students/Seniors

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
"Uncovering the Past: Jews in the Greek & Roman World", Eric Meyers, Duke University: <i>Understanding Sepphoris (Zippori) Where the Mishnah Was Compiled: Archaeology and the Challenge of Multiculturalism</i>	AIA-Lecture	Thursday March 31, 2005	7:00-8:30 PM	The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th Street	<a href="http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139-10139">http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139 - 10139</a>	Members of the Archaeological Institute of American are entitled to JCC members' price: \$25 series; \$10 each lecture
17 Sunday at the Met—Helen Diller Family Annual Lecture Series: Archaeological Discoveries in Israel, Danny Syon, senior archaeologist, Israel Antiquities Authority: <i>The Last Siege before Jerusalem—Gamla, a Jewish City in First-Century Galilee</i>	Lecture	Sunday April 3, 2005	3:00 pm	Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue-Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium	www.metmuseum.org	Free with Museum Admission
"Uncovering the Past: Jews in the Greek & Roman World", Doug Edwards, University of Puget Sound: <i>Crimean Jews in a Pagan and Christian World</i>	AIA-Lecture	Thursday April 7, 2005	7:00-8:30 PM	The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th Street	<a href="http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139-10139">http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139 - 10139</a>	Members of the Archaeological Institute of American are entitled to JCC members' price: \$25 series; \$10 each lecture
Gotham Center for New York History presents: New York Water Supply: A Study of the monumental	Forum	Tuesday April 12, 2005	6:30 pm	Cuny Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue	212.817.8215	Free-Reservation Required

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
"Uncovering the Past: Jews in the Greek & Roman World", Jodi Magness, University of North Carolina: <i>The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls</i>	AIA-Lecture	Thursday April 14, 2005	7:00-8:30 PM	The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th Street	<a href="http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139-10139">http://www.jccmanhattan.org/category.asp?p=10139 - 10139</a>	Members of the Archaeological Institute of America are entitled to JCC members' price: \$25 series; \$10 each lecture
PANYC Symposium, The Rich, The Poor and the Famous	Symposium	Sunday April 17, 2005	1:00-3:30 pm	Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue		Free with suggestion submission
Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture, Robert L. Carneiro: <i>From Autonomous Villages to the State: An Irresistible Trend in the Grand Sweep of Human History</i>	Lecture	Friday, April 22, 2005	5:00 pm	American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79 <sup>th</sup> Street-Linder Theatre, first floor	<a href="http://www.amng.org">www.amng.org</a>	Free
First American Art: The Charles and Valerie Diker Collection of American Indian Art	Exhibit	April 24, 2004-April 9, 2006	10am-5pm; open Thursdays until 8pm	George Gustav Heye Center, New York	<a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu">http://www.nmai.si.edu</a>	Free
Jeffrey Quilter, Dumbarton Oaks, <i>Life, Death, and Sacrifice at El Brujo: 4000 Years of Prehistory on Peru's North Coast</i>	AIA-Lecture	Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, 2005	11:00 am Saturday May 14, 2005; 1:00 pm Sunday May 15, 2005	Co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, 11 am (Saturday) and 1 pm (Sunday)		(for AIA and MMA members with invitations)
<b>Conferences and Meetings:</b>						
Society for American Archaeology	Conference	March 30 - April 3, 2005		SAA 70th Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, Utah	<a href="http://www.saa.org">www.saa.org</a>	

## PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Society of Applied Anthropology	Conference	April 5-10, 2005		SFAA Annual Meeting, LaFonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico	www.sfaa.net	

If any members have events that they would like listed, please contact Kelly Britt at 717.393.6425 or email at [kb239@columbia.edu](mailto:kb239@columbia.edu)  
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