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FALL 2007

Welcome to the sixth edition of the newsletter of the New York Preservation Archive Project. The mission of the New York Preservation Archive Project is to protect and raise awareness of the narratives of historic preservation in New York. Through public programs, outreach, celebration, and the creation of public access to information, the Archive Project hopes to bring these stories to light.

Chairman's Comments: Preservation's Past

by Anthony C. Wood

Winston Churchill instructed, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." We are at a rare moment in the city's history; NYC is consciously looking forward. So too must the city's preservation community. Fortunately, because of a growing focus on preservation's past, New York's preservationists now have the ability to look backward to obtain the perspective and context essential for their looking forward.

The Mayor is focusing attention on NYC 2030. Prodded by the prediction of one million more New Yorkers by the year 2030, with all the housing and infrastructure needs that will accompany them, the Mayor has put forward PlaNYC 2030. Though that vision fails to recognize preservation as a vehicle to shape and enrich the City's future, it has begun to trigger conversations in the preservation community about both the future of NYC and the role of preservation in that future. Because of the work of NYPAP and others, NYC's preservationists have access to the history needed to seriously contemplate their future.

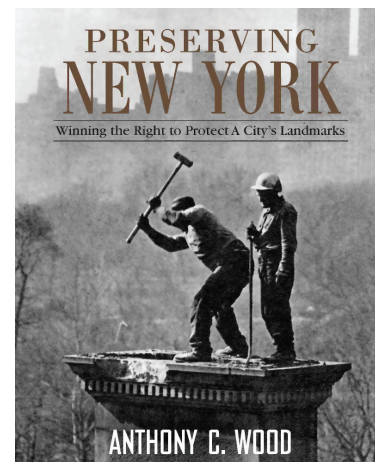
This year the city's attention has and is being focused on preservation's history in unprecedented ways. The retrospective on the legacy of Robert Moses began conversations that will no doubt be continued this fall by the exhibit on Jane Jacobs at the Municipal Art Society. This summer inquisitive New Yorker's had the chance to learn more about early historic preservation efforts in Brooklyn Heights. Later this fall, thanks to NYPAP's nonprofit sponsorship, *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks* will be released by Routledge Press. It reclaims the fifty years of preservation's history lost in the common misperception that the origins of NYC's landmarks law are to be found in the wreckage of Pennsylvania Station. On February 16, 2008 the Archive Project, with the co-sponsorship of the Museum of the City of New York, will be hosting a day-long symposium on the history of preservation in NYC, *Preserving New York Then and Now: The Symposium*.

Looking to preservation's past is not an antiquarian exercise but rather an essential first step towards planning preservation's future. Thanks to your help, NYPAP has been able to help NYC's preservation movement rediscover its own history. That window to the past is opening at a most fortuitous time, just as we are called to turn our eyes and thoughts to preservation's future.

Book Release

NYPAP is pleased to announce the much-anticipated release of *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks* by Anthony C. Wood. *Preserving New York* (a project of the New York Preservation Archive Project) is the story of the people and places, the buildings and battles, and the policies and politics that, after decades of tragic losses, led New York City to create a legal mechanism to protect the city's cherished landmarks. The book is the previously untold story of the origins of New York City's nationally acclaimed landmarks law.

New York's desire to protect its historic and architectural treasures existed long before the threat to Pennsylvania Station. The book spans the years 1913 to 1965, recounting the decades of struggle behind the landmarks law, its intellectual origins, the men and women who fought for it, the forces that shaped it, and the buildings lost and saved on the way to the law's ultimate passage. Little recognized civic leaders such as Albert S. Bard and lost buildings, including the Brokaw Mansions, are chronicled in a meticulously researched and engaging narrative that highlights one of the most important chapters in the preservation history of New York City.



The 352 page book is illustrated with over 100 black and white historic photographs and includes a foreword by Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Preserving New York, published by Routledge, is scheduled for release in October. Copies of the book are available for pre-order through Giveline.com and Amazon.com. Visit www.nypap.org or call (212) 861-4993 ext. 246 for more information.

Landmark and Legacy

Last spring The Brooklyn Historical Society opened its show *Landmark and Legacy: Brooklyn Heights and the Preservation Movement in America*. The show highlights the social and political history that led to the designation of Brooklyn Heights as New York City's first historic district. The exhibit takes visitors from the 1950s and the establishment of the Brooklyn Heights Association, one of the first neighborhood associations in the country, through the struggle with Robert Moses from building the BQE in the middle of Brooklyn Heights to the implications of the national landmark and preservation movement in the present day.

One of the exhibit's highlights is the use of rich archival materials: photographs by architectural historian Clay Lancaster, hand drawn maps from Otis and Nancy Pearsall's years of preserved documentation, as well as objects from BHS' collections. *Landmark and Legacy* illustrates and puts into context a



Proposed Historic District of Old Brooklyn Heights, hand-made map by Otis and Nancy Pearsall on exhibit at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Image courtesy of Otis and Nancy Pearsall.

particularly momentous time in the history of the burgeoning modern preservation movement in New York City and the United States.

The Brooklyn Historical Society is open Wed. through Sun., 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children and children under 12 are free. Exhibit closes on Sept. 9th.

Does New York's Past Have a Future?

The Gotham Center for New York History and the New York Preservation Archive Project co-hosted a panel discussion before a packed audience at the Gotham Center Recital Hall on May 14, 2007. The theme of the panel: *Does New York's Past Have a Future? A Report on the Preservation Movement's History and Some Prescriptions for Its Next Century*. Mike Wallace moderated the discussion and panelists, William J. Higgins, Anthony M. Tung, Julia Vitullo-Martin, Tom Wolfe, and Anthony C. Wood each presented remarks based on professional knowledge of historic preservation.

Mr. Wood led off the discussion by presenting research on the events leading to the passage of New York City Landmarks Law. He explained how these events shaped preservation in the city today. Mr. Higgins outlined six "cosmic issues" surrounding preservation and development projects, pitting the two against each other and explaining how the themes are used by opponents and proponents of projects. Mr. Tung placed preservation of New York City into a global context, forecasting a grim future for historic resources if the trend of destruction continues as it has in the past century. Mr. Tung stated that about 50% of the significant buildings that existed in 1900 had been demolished by the turn of the millennium. Dr. Vitullo-Martin spoke on the threat of development in growing cities, such as New York, to historic properties. Dr. Vitullo-Martin asserted the idea that preservationists should "embrace" development of empty lots to relieve pressure on existing historic buildings and should choose battles carefully, not expend energy fighting for "ugly" buildings. Mr. Wolf spoke on the role of politics in shaping the climate of preservation today. Moderator Mike Wallace fielded questions from the audience to the panelists. A full summary of the event by Sewell Chan is available on the New York Times' "Empire Zone" blog. http://www.nypap.org/public_programs/GothamCenterEvent.html



Panelists Tom Wolfe, Anthony C. Wood, and William J. Higgins

In Memorium: Giorgio Cavaglieri, Preservation Pioneer

NYPAP joins the preservation and architecture communities in lamenting the passing of Giorgio Cavaglieri (Aug. 11, 1911–May 15, 2007). The death of this preservation pioneer attracted much attention from the media and major institutions in NYC. NYPAP was touched to see the flurry of articles that celebrated Cavaglieri's contributions to the city and the field of preservation architecture. Along with the nearly full page obituary in the *New York Times* on May 18, 2007, other publications such as the *Villager*, which honored Cavaglieri's role in the preservation of Jefferson Market Courthouse; *the Architect's Newspaper*, which featured a particularly touching piece by Vicki Weiner, one of NYPAP's board members; and *AI Architect*, captured the importance of Cavaglieri's lifetime of work as an architect, civic leader, and preservation activist.



Giorgio Cavaglieri, Jordan Gruzen, Peter Samton and Bill Conklin at NYPAP's 2003 event commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Demolition of Pennsylvania Station

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Preserving New York* Book Launch**

November 5, 2007, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm
Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue

Please join NYPAP and the Museum of the City of New York on November 5, 2007 to celebrate the release of *Preserving New York*. A short program with remarks by special guests will be held at 6:30 pm at the Museum of the City of New York. A reception and book signing by the author will follow. For more information, visit www.nypap.org or call 212-861-4993 ext. 246.

\$15 for members of co-sponsoring organizations; \$20 for general public. Reservations are required. Call MCNY at 212-534-1672 for reservations.

The launch event will kick-off a series of public programs surrounding the release of *Preserving New York*. For updates on upcoming programs, visit www.nypap.org

Save the Date!

4th Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit:

***New York City's Art Commission: Art "Police" and Keeper of the Treasure* by Michele H. Bogart**

Tuesday, December 19, 2007, 8:30 am–10:00 am
Harvard Club of New York City
35 West 44th Street

This year's program will feature a talk by Michele Bogart, author of *The Politics of Urban Beauty: New York and Its Art Commission* (University of Chicago Press, 2006). The BBBB, celebrating the legacy Albert S. Bard, will reflect upon the

history of the Art Commission of the City of New York—the city's design review board and an organization in which Bard was involved for many years. The talk will offer perspective upon the Commission's importance in the present day, with special emphasis on its extraordinary archive and its significance for historic preservation.

Michele H. Bogart is Professor of Art History and Director of Graduate Studies at Stony Brook University. Her areas of expertise are urban design and commercial culture. She has published on public art, memorials, animation, parks, landscape and garden history, photography, illustration, and advertising. Bogart received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is also the author of *Artists, Advertising, and the Borders of Art* (University of Chicago Press, 1995) and *Public Sculpture and the Civic Ideal in New York City, 1890-1930* (University of Chicago Press, 1989), which received the

Smithsonian American Art Museum's Charles C.

Eldredge Prize in 1991.

Bogart has been the recipient of fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

From 1998 through 2003 she was a member of the Art Commission of the City of New York, and for four years was its Vice President. Presently she is Vice President of the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and serves as well on the Art Commission's Conservation Advisory Group.

Benefit Committee Membership: \$250; Bard Booster Ticket: \$125. Invitations will be mailed in November. To join NYPAP's mailing list or to make a reservation, email rsvp@nypap.org or call 212-861-4993 ext. 246.



Oral History Project

The New York Preservation Archive Project and Pratt Institute's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation will partner this fall to record a number of interviews and oral histories to expose students to the practice of an essential tool in preservation. The theme of the oral history project will be grassroots preservation of the 1980s. While working with graduate students in the Public History class co-taught by Marci Reaven and Jeanne Houck, NYPAP hopes to capture the narratives and historical perspectives of advocates and professionals involved in preservation from a variety of angles: neighborhood advocacy, grassroots organizations, and professional staff that will present the shared experience of the era.

Mark Your Calendars!

On Saturday, February 16, 2008 the New York Preservation Archive Project and the Museum of the City of New York will present, *Preserving New York—Then and Now*, an all-day symposium to be held at the MCNY. The event focuses on issues that have inspired and shaped the preservation movement in New York City for nearly a hundred years, and it harnesses the energy created by the publication of *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks*, to further the emerging dialogue on the history and future of preservation in the city. The event kicks off with a media festival on Friday, February 15, 2008.

A call for papers and media materials has been issued for the symposium and media festival and is available on our web site, www.nypap.org. Submit your materials today!

For more information about attending the symposium or submitting materials please visit the NYPAP website, www.nypap.org, or email Liz McEnaney at lmcenaney@nypap.org.

Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York

The Municipal Art Society of New York will unveil a major public education and civic engagement project in September to honor the legacy and relevance of author and activist Jane Jacobs. This comes at a time of unprecedented growth and redevelopment in the city, and on the heels of a reassessment of the legacy of city planner Robert Moses. The project will

include an exhibit titled *Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York* which opens on September 25th.

For more information, visit www.mas.org.

NYPAP News

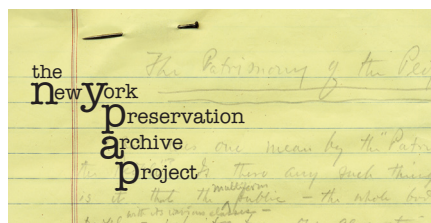
Members of the NYPAP board and staff are thrilled to congratulate Lisa Ackerman, Secretary of the board, who will be the recipient of the 2007 Landmarks Lion Award, the Historic Districts Council's annual award honoring committed preservationists. Ms. Ackerman will be honored for her preservation efforts as a grant maker, board member, and advocate at a reception and awards ceremony dinner on October 24, 2007. Visit www.bdc.org for more information.

NYPAP has accepted the resignation of board member J. Winthrop Aldrich. Mr. Aldrich has assumed his previously held position as Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation at the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany. We are pleased that Wint Aldrich will once again serve New York State in this capacity, but will miss his counsel and presence at NYPAP board meetings.

After graduating in May with her M.S. in Historic Preservation from Pratt Institute, Vanessa Norton joined NYPAP full time as the Administrator of the Archive Project. NYPAP granted two internships this summer: Emma Otheguy and Alex Purdy are Junior History majors at Swarthmore College and Trinity College, respectively. Ms. Otheguy and Ms. Purdy worked on NYPAP's ongoing web based archive database project.

Supporting the Archive Project

The New York Preservation Archive Project is a not-for-profit organization and we depend upon contributions to continue our work. Please give generously to support the documentation and celebration of the history of preservation in New York! NYPAP welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please contact Vanessa Norton at vnorton@nypap.org or 212-861-4993 ext. 246.



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