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new york
preservation
archive
project

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

Welcome to the fifteenth 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.



Save the Date!

Join Us for the 8th Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit

The Eighth Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit is just around the corner! To celebrate what would have been Albert S. Bard's 145th birthday, Ward Miller is presenting *Preservation Martyr, Archival Triumph: The Legacies of Richard Nickel, Adler & Sullivan, and the Richard Nickel Committee* at the Manhattan Penthouse on December 14, 2011. Ward Miller, executive director of the Richard Nickel Committee and Archive, will speak on the photographic work of Richard Nickel and the foundation of the committee and archive. Miller will also describe the archival research undertaken to produce his monumental new publication, *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan*. David Garrard Lowe, president of the Beaux Arts Alliance and passionate advocate for the documentation of Chicago's lost architecture, will introduce Mr. Miller.

Richard Nickel was an American photographer and historian who devoted his life to documenting and preserving the buildings of Louis Sullivan, many of which were in the process of being demolished during mid-twentieth century urban renewal. Nickel was killed in 1972 when a stairwell collapsed while he was salvaging ornamentation from the Chicago Stock Exchange Building. The Richard Nickel Committee and Archive administers an extensive collection of 15,000 negatives produced by Nickel, which along with photographs, historic research files, and Nickel's personal library of books, was recently

donated to The Art Institute of Chicago. Here they will be available to researchers, scholars, and individuals interested in Chicago's rich architectural heritage in perpetuity.

Your support at our annual benefit will enable the New York Preservation Archive Project to continue its efforts to record and document the history of the preservation movement in New York City. We are very excited about this upcoming event and sincerely hope you will join us on December 14th! ■

2011 Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit

December 14, 2011

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Manhattan Penthouse

80 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Tickets:

Benefit Committee Tickets: \$250

Benefit Tickets: \$125

Student Tickets: \$65

Purchase tickets online via PayPal at www.nypap.org or contact Matthew

Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379.



Wood moderates HDC's Fortieth Anniversary panel, including (from left) Barwick, Gruen, Nowvé, and Binger; Courtesy of HDC

Chairman's Column: Time Flies: Ten Easy Ways to Remember

By *Anthony C. Wood, Founder & Chair*

As part of the gala celebration of the Historic Districts Council's Fortieth Anniversary, the Archive Project co-sponsored with HDC a program capturing the story of HDC's founding. Fortunately, several of the individuals present at its birth were on the program to share their memories. With such interest in the history of HDC, I excavated my old files and discovered in draft form a brief history of the organization written in 1991 by Joe Rosenberg, former Chair of HDC. I called Joe to try and learn more about the origins of this document. Although both of us were active with HDC in the early 1990s, neither of us could remember why that history was written (perhaps for their Twentieth Anniversary?) and Joe had no recollection of writing it. Fortunately his name was on the document.

Time truly flies when one is doing preservation! Before you realize it, you've been involved with a preservation organization for a decade, then two, and for some, even longer! All of those things we didn't write down at the time—either because they were fresh in our mind or because they were current events and we felt that we didn't need to record them—suddenly become foggy memories of what have now become historic events.

Because demolition is the ultimate deadline, money and time are in short supply, and our natural instinct is to preserve the history that was made by others, not the history we are making ourselves. Preservationists are notoriously bad when it comes to documenting their own stories. Despite other pressing demands on our time and limited resources, there are a number of basic things that preservationists and preservation organizations can do to

better document their history—as they make it! None of these tips are brain surgery, yet it is surprising how often we don't think to do them. Here are ten easy things you can do to advance the cause of preserving preservation's history:

- 1) Fully identify any material (printed or otherwise) that you generate. Make sure to include the name of the organization, the date, and where appropriate, the name of the author.
- 2) Photo-document every event/activity, and immediately date and identify the event and the individuals in each image. Because it is now so easy and inexpensive, consider videotaping in addition to still photography.
- 3) Be diligent in keeping minutes of official meetings, filing them together in one place, and storing them in a safe location (physical or virtual).
- 4) Maintain a master list of all board members and staff of your organization, denoting terms of their service; also try to keep updated contact information.
- 5) Keep a master chronology of every event your organization produces.
- 6) When projects (whether advocacy or programmatic) are completed, stop and do a quick "memo to the file" recounting the activity, including a chronology.
- 7) Develop a system that makes your organization's files (both physical and electronic) easily accessible to your colleagues

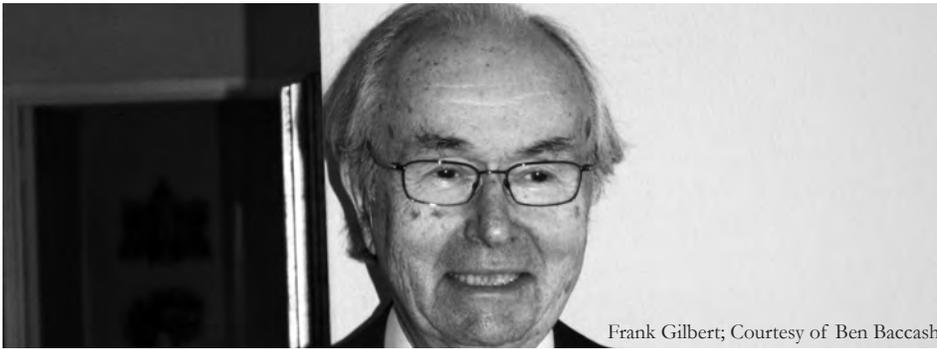
(present and future).

8) Ensure that your digital material is being archived. The more you communicate virtually, the more care you must take to keep a historic record of what you have generated. Hard copies may still be the best way to preserve blogs and websites over time.

9) Be sure to save interesting preservation ephemera (buttons from campaigns, flyers, etc.), properly identify these items, and be sure to keep them in a safe place (out of floodable basements, etc.).

10) Inculcate in any preservation organization with which you are involved an "archival" mindset so that its organizational culture becomes one of preserving its own history. This includes reaching out to anyone in your organization who has or may have a cache of preservation papers at risk in a basement office (or other perilous location) to work with them to properly secure those papers now as well as plan a permanent home to secure their future.

None of the above activities will break the bank or require a full-time staff person. What they do require are changes in how preservationists think and act. They challenge us to recognize that the work we are undertaking today is going to be of interest to the preservationists who come after us. Preservation as a movement needs to have a healthy-enough ego to appreciate that its history is just as important as the history of the individuals, organizations, social movements, and events that we all work so hard to document, preserve, and celebrate. If we don't preserve preservation's history, who will? ■



Frank Gilbert; Courtesy of Ben Baccash

An Oral History with Frank Gilbert

by Ben Baccash, Development Assistant at World Monuments Fund

Preservation is personal. It's personal for the dedicated professionals who work in the field and for the volunteers who fight the neighborhood battles to protect their own quality of life. However, in both cases, the personal experiences are too often undocumented. Surely the situational facts of the individual fights are recorded in a few books, sometimes in a periodical or, more recently, on blogs. But the personal details—those which bring the conflicts and resolutions to life—are neglected. This may be a service to the wider, non-preservationist audience, or simply a function of a limited word count, but it's important to remember that these details—the emotions, the quips, the forgotten names of second-tier players, or an explanation of a seemingly minor event at the time—often shed light on broader historical circumstances. This is why oral histories are so important.

Working in association with the Archive Project, I sat down this past March with Frank Gilbert, the Landmarks Preservation Commission's first staff lawyer who held the positions of secretary and executive director during his tenure. Recently retired from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mr. Gilbert discussed with me his experiences at the then-nascent LPC for approximately seven hours over two days. The result is a transcript of over fifty pages rife with details that, had the oral history not been conducted, would have been lost. Mr. Gilbert remembers being served with the papers that spurred the Penn Central case, which established the constitutionality of the Landmarks Law, and he recalls a conversation with representatives of The Plaza Hotel, before its designation, who asked why he believed their building was a landmark, to which Gilbert replied, "I've read your advertising." Mr. Gilbert

even remembers attending a hearing at the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court with Geoffrey Platt, the LPC's first chair, who realized the mural behind the presiding judge depicted Platt's mother, a society figure. My personal favorite: Mr. Gilbert describes a sign that he kept on his desk at the LPC, before the Penn Central case was finally decided, that read, "This Law Raises Grave Constitutional Questions." He would point to this sign whenever a lawyer entered his office insisting on the Landmarks Law's illegality.

These seemingly random recollections are but a few in the context of a larger, historical timeline which Mr. Gilbert sharply narrated and that, thanks to the New York Preservation Archive Project and its supporters, is now recorded in a transcript that will soon be publicly available. NYPAP's Oral History Program is an ongoing effort, and its benefits may not yet be fully realized. Oral histories need to be unpacked from a distance that allows critical analysis of the facts and musings therein, as these at-length interviews are as much about the subjects and their personalities as they are about preservation and its state at the time of the discussed experiences. It is imperative that oral histories such as the one I conducted with Frank Gilbert continue to be carried out while the players are still available. While oral histories are conversations between an interviewer and an interviewee, when considered at a later date, oral histories allow for an inter-generational dialogue that is invaluable to the current assessment and future improvement of historic preservation. ■

The full transcript from this oral history with Frank Gilbert will soon be available on the NYPAP website.

Stewardship Society Launched!

Major Donors Honored with New Society

The Archive Project's new Stewardship Society was launched on June 15th with a lovely evening at the Leash Club honoring Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe's contributions towards preserving New York City's architectural legacy. The Stewardship Society consists of our most devoted benefactors, or "Stewards," who annually contribute \$500 or more in general support to the Archive Project in addition to attending the annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit. Because our work could not be done without the generous support of our donors, the Society was created to celebrate these special supporters with an annual series of unique events and activities.

Our next Steward event will take place on Monday, October 17th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. There will be a private viewing of a special exhibit of items related to preservation and architecture from the collection of The Century Association Archives Foundation, with remarks by archivist Russell Flinchum, Ph.D. The Foundation was established in 1997 to preserve, organize, and administer the historical records of this important New York arts and letters club, founded in 1847. Many of its members have played prominent roles in preservation and architecture in New York City. Find further information on the collection at www.centuryarchives.org. In addition to a finding aid, researchers can examine a guide to the Charles A. Platt Library Collection (which is also administered by the Foundation) as well as several rare and important early histories of the Century Association. Following the viewing will be a cocktail reception for Stewardship Society members. We hope you will consider becoming a Steward of the New York Preservation Archive Project and joining us on October 17th. In doing so you will be actively safeguarding the history of New York City's preservation movement. ■

To join the Stewardship Society please contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379.



Norman Redlich at City Hall in Manhattan in 1972; Courtesy of Barton Silverman/*The New York Times*

In Memoriam: Norman Redlich

Greenwich Village Preservationist Dies at 85

Norman Redlich, a key figure in the battle to close Washington Square Park to vehicular traffic, passed away on June 10, 2011, at the age of 85. Redlich is perhaps best known as the former dean of NYU's Law School, a pioneer in the opposition to capital punishment, and a member of the commission that investigated President John F. Kennedy's assassination. However, Redlich's work to protect Greenwich Village is an indisputable highlight of his preservation legacy. In 1958, he worked with Jane Jacobs and other members of the Joint Emergency Committee to Close Washington Square Park to Traffic (JEC) to defeat Robert Moses' plan to build a depressed four-lane highway through the park. Redlich served as an envoy from the JEC to Tammany Hall boss Carmine De Sapio, whose testimony before the Board of Estimate was crucial to the park's successful closure to traffic. As Edith Lyons, a co-founder of the JEC, later recalled, Redlich "became one of the most valuable members of that committee. He helped us enormously with the politics of it. He was very keen." Redlich also participated in the struggle to designate the Greenwich Village Historic District and acted as chair of the Greenwich Village Association Housing Committee. During his stint as executive assistant to the city's Corporation Counsel in the late 1960s, Redlich was involved in applying and strengthening the Landmarks Law, which he continued to champion when he acceded to the position in 1972. The transcript of a 1996 lecture given by Redlich for an NYU course co-taught by NYPAP founder and chair Anthony Wood, as well as the transcript from a follow-up interview conducted by NYPAP board member Susan De Vries, are available on the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's website. A full obituary can be found in the June 11, 2011, issue of *The New York Times*. To share your memories of Norman Redlich, please visit the Memory Collection Project on our website. ■

NYPAP Events

Our Public Programs Continue to Celebrate, Educate & Inspire

In celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Historic Districts Council's founding, NYPAP and HDC co-sponsored **In the Beginning: The Creation of the Historic Districts Council**, an evening of wine and conversation at the Players Club. Featuring a panel moderated by HDC Chairman Emeritus Anthony C. Wood, the event provided insight into the origins and evolution of HDC, straight from the mouths of four of its founders and initial leaders: Kent Barwick, Michael Gruen, Lorna Nowvé, and Bronson Binger. The panelists spoke on their involvement with HDC's early development, exploring the motivations behind establishing a citywide alliance for historic districts. The discussion focused on the fascinating period when HDC was a committee of the Municipal Art Society, and concluded with reflections on HDC's incorporation as an independent 501(c)(3) in 1986. By bringing these individuals together, and recording the story of HDC's creation, NYPAP helped to document how far the organization has come, and inspired preservationists to consider what the future might hold for our field. Please visit the NYPAP website to view a transcript of the panel's comments, as well as a short video of highlights. A full-length video of the discussion is available by contacting mcoody@nypap.org.

On July 19, 2011, NYPAP and the Fine Arts Federation of New York hosted a lecture by Michele H. Bogart, author and professor of American visual culture studies at Stony Brook University. Entitled **Civic Virtue & the Politics of Display, or How Anthony Weiner Shed Light on a Public Art Cause: Notes from One Preservation Archive**, Bogart drew from extensive research to offer a new perspective on the long-controversial sculpture *Civic Virtue Triumphant Over Unrighteousness*. Commissioned by New York City Mayor George McClellan as a Progressive Era symbol of good government, Frederick MacMonnies' *Civic Virtue* proved divisive upon its 1922 completion. Although MacMonnies defended the work as allegorical, opponents argued that its

imagery—civic virtue as a male figure triumphing over vice, represented by two prone female figures—was misogynist. In 1941, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Robert Moses moved the statue from its prominent location in Manhattan's City Hall Park to Kew Gardens, Queens, where it now lies in disrepair. Over the subsequent years, various politicians refused to maintain the sculpture due to its polemical nature, and in February 2011, Queens congressman Anthony Weiner spoke against the deteriorating monument as "sexist" and an "eyesore." In her lecture, Bogart asserted that Weiner's campaign against *Civic Virtue*, which included calling for its removal through an advertisement on Craigslist, paradoxically helped its cause by drawing attention to its plight. She went on to examine Weiner's objection in the ironic light of the infamous scandal that erupted several months later. Appealing for the restoration of *Civic Virtue* as a historical artifact and a catalyst for civil discussion of modern ideals, Bogart argued that controversy does not preclude preservation. ■



Guests mingle over wine before *In the Beginning: The Creation of the HDC* panel; Courtesy of HDC



Civic Virtue Triumphant Over Unrighteousness, the focus of the lecture by Ms. Bogart; Courtesy of Michele Bogart

Remembering Ashbel P. Fitch

Archival Research Saves Another NYC Civic Hero from “Ash Heap of History”

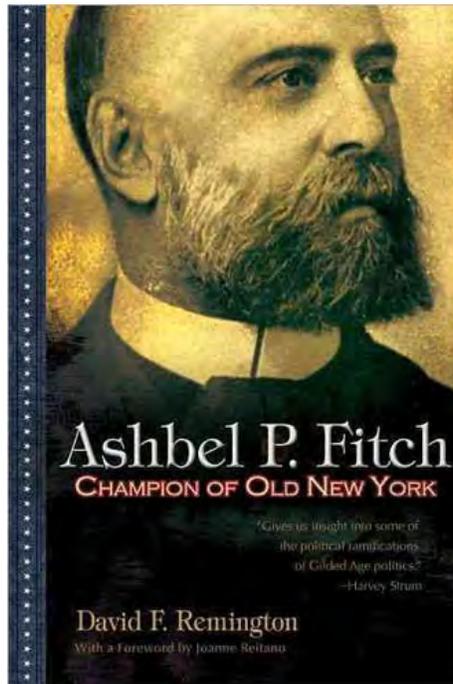
By Anthony C. Wood, Founder & Chair

The new book *Ashbel P. Fitch: Champion of Old New York* (Syracuse University Press, 2011) resurrects the legacy of a long-forgotten giant of 19th-century New York City while at the same time demonstrating the powerful light archives can cast upon otherwise dim corners of the City’s past. Ashbel P. Fitch was a four-term congressman from New York City (1886-1893) who also served one-term as New York City Controller (1894-1897). His status was such that it was widely speculated that he would run for mayor and win. His reputation as an honest member of Tammany Hall and his outspoken defense of New York City on the national scene made him popular at home, while his involvement with the national issues of the day—battles over tariffs, immigration policy, temperance, the gold standard, and the failed effort to secure the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition for New York City—earned him recognition well beyond the borders of New York City.

But Fitch’s passionate and eloquent defenses of New York City, his interactions with influential New Yorkers such as Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt, his curious relationship with Tammany Hall, and such eccentricities as his love of all things German and his long-term legal representation of New York’s German brewers, would all be lost to us if David Remington, Fitch’s great-grandson and author of this new book, had not been inspired to start digging into some old family papers. According to David, these papers consisted of “45 bound volumes of newspaper clippings, invitations, announcements...assembled in Fitch’s law office by his clerks. He had a clipping service for clippings nationwide wherein his name or some issue in which he was interested appeared. Over each clipping was written by hand the name of the paper, and the date of the article. There were 13 volumes devoted to his seven years in Congress, and 32 for his four years as controller.” They had survived the decades on the bookshelves of the family’s 150-year-old Adirondack camp that Fitch built on the shores of Ragged

Lake, demonstrating dramatically the preservation benefits of cold, dry air. Found in a different building in the camp complex was a collection of family correspondence, including some 300 letters between Fitch and his wife, Elizabeth Cross Fitch.

David Remington devoted fifteen years to producing this book, a decade of which was spent sifting through the 9,000 pages of clippings found in the bound volumes. Because of Remington’s devotion and dedication, Fitch is now being rediscovered by New Yorkers, and familiar elements of the City are taking on new meaning. For



Cover of Remington’s new book, showing photograph of Fitch; Courtesy of Syracuse University Press

example, 1388 Lexington Avenue, Fitch’s home for sixteen years in Manhattan’s Yorkville neighborhood, was purchased from George Ehret, New York’s largest brewer and at that time, Fitch’s most important client. Still standing today, this handsome brownstone, with its high mansard roof and dormer windows, was only blocks away from the Old Homestead, a German social club that was owned by Jacob Ruppert (another prominent New York City brewer) at Third Avenue and East 91st Street.

Fitch’s friendship with these brewers was such that on the eve of his family’s departure for a year-long stay in Germany, several hundred members of the Old Homestead Club, accompanied by two German bands, marched to Fitch’s house for a late-night serenade. In light of this connection between 1388 Lexington Avenue and Ashbel Fitch, the building can be appreciated not only for its architectural beauty but for the tangible link it provides to the days when Yorkville still had its breweries, a robust German community, and the great civic leader Ashbel Fitch walked its streets. With this new book, and an increased awareness of Fitch’s contributions to New York City, perhaps a groundswell of support for the landmark designation of 1388 Lexington Avenue will result!

Not only does *Ashbel P. Fitch: Champion of Old New York* bring alive the man, it also reclaims his prose. His love of New York City is reflected in an address he gave in March of 1898 to the Sons of Oneida County. The words still ring true today.

“New York always was the place for the man from somewhere else. It attracts to itself the brightest men in our state and from all the states, in every calling and profession, because here is the fairest chance for recognition, and the greatest reward for success. There is always ready here a gold box and the freedom of the city for any man from anywhere who can earn them. The question the city asks of the latest comer is not ‘where do you come from?’ but ‘where are you going?’ If you are going ahead in your profession or in your business or in the arts, and can lead the way, the city will welcome and reward you, as will no other place in America.”

Thanks to this book, Ashbel P. Fitch is no longer a forgotten New Yorker. Now if only the likes of George McAneny, Arthur Holden, and so many other forgotten New Yorkers had inquisitive great-grandchildren around to rediscover them for our edification and enjoyment! Thank you, David Remington. ■



Pennsylvania Station, track level, New York, N.Y.;
Courtesy of Detroit Publishing Company

Penn Station Doc Nearing Completion

A half-century after the original Pennsylvania Station was slated for demolition, the magnificent structure survives only in the City's memory, but its loss remains a milestone in New York City's preservation history. This legacy is captured in "The Rise and Fall of Pennsylvania Station," a one-hour documentary directed by photographer and preservationist Michael Tramis. The film includes interviews with such notable figures as David Childs, Vincent Scully, Philip Johnson, Paul Goldberger, and Hilary Ballon. Demonstrating the dynamism of archival material, the film brings Penn Station back to life through stock film footage, never-before-seen private collections of still images, and scenes from classic movies featuring Penn Station, as well as original 3D graphics that create a virtual tour through the lost station.

Projected for completion in late 2011, the documentary is intended to be presented on television as the first of a series on demolished buildings of New York City. However, until now the project has been funded solely by the filmmaker, and a fundraising goal of \$200,000 remains to cover post-production costs. Sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts, the team is seeking tax-deductible financial contributions to ensure that the project can be fully realized. To learn more, make a donation, or view the trailer online, please visit www.pennstationdoc.com. ■

Burnham Collection Intact! *Preservation Papers Rescued from Auction Block*

By Elizabeth R. Jeffe, *Vice-Chair*

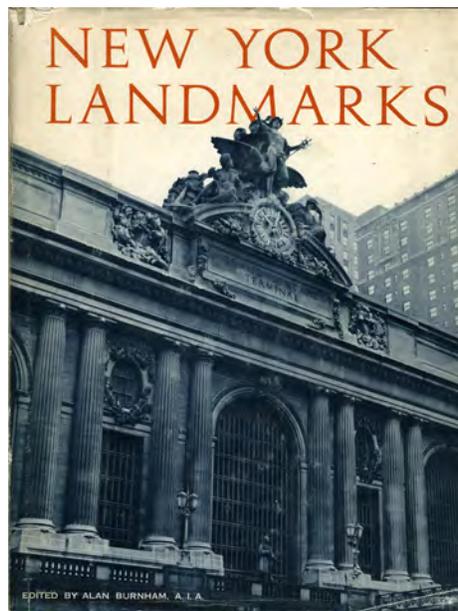
Those who are passionate about preservation undoubtedly know about the incredible legacy of Alan Burnham (1913-1984). A practicing architect, architectural historian, and ardent preservationist, Burnham authored *New York Landmarks: A Study & Index of Architecturally Notable Structures in Greater New York*. Published in 1963, this magnificent illustrated volume remains a masterwork in the preservationist canon. Two years later, Burnham capped off his illustrious career in preservation by becoming the first executive director of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

What many people probably do not know is the inspiring story of how Burnham's collection of architectural and preservation books and personal papers, which became known as the American Architectural Archive (AAA), was rescued from the auctioneer's block through the efforts of Jeffrey Lew. In 2008, just as the AAA was headed for sale piece by piece, Jeff stepped in and bought the collection in its entirety for the sake of preservation posterity. NYPAP

became a critical partner in the second part of this rescue effort by helping Jeff find a repository at Columbia University's Avery Library for the portion of the AAA consisting of Burnham's papers.

Jeff, a New York real estate broker and investor, came to his mission through his association with Gordon McCollum, whose commercial real estate firm, The Galbreath Company, hired Jeff when he graduated from college in 1989. Jeff had the opportunity to work with McCollum on a number of projects, and he became, in Jeff's words, "absolutely the catalyst for my interest in preservation." An activist in the world of New York City preservation, McCollum purchased a townhouse on Prince Street in SoHo that he fully restored, painstakingly combing the country to find the architecturally correct components for his renovation. Having known Burnham personally, and understanding the importance of Burnham's role in preservation, McCollum purchased Burnham's collection of books and papers when Burnham died in 1986. McCollum used his Prince Street home as the repository of the Burnham collection and did much more than just save the AAA—he made the materials available to researchers. McCollum's library, containing the Burnham collection, became a focal point for preservationists to gather and study. Because of Jeff's friendship with McCollum, and his familiarity with the AAA in McCollum's house, Jeff Lew was fully aware of both the importance of his friend's role as a steward of preservation history, and the incredible value of the collection itself. According to Jeff, the AAA included "entire filing cabinets" of materials such as correspondence and proposals that had belonged to Burnham; these included a "tremendous amount of data," something of particular value to preservationists who need hard facts to make the case for preservation initiatives.

When Gordon McCollum died in January of 2000, the McCollum family retained the



In the Foreword to Alan Burnham's *New York Landmarks* (cover image shown above), Brendan Gill describes it as "a veritable Kama Sutra, or manual of instruction, in the wooing of this incomparable city."

Prince Street house, and the AAA remained there for eight years. However, in 2008, the estate tried without success to sell the Burnham collection intact to an institution. Now the mantle of safe keeper shifted to Jeff's shoulders. Because he was friendly with the McCollum heirs, and was concerned about the AAA going to auction and being sold in various lots to different purchasers, Jeff stepped in and bought Burnham's collection in its entirety. Once in possession of Burnham's books and papers, Jeff realized that Burnham's papers might better serve the preservation community if they were housed in an institution permitting public access. Searching on the Internet for assistance with this project, Jeff located the NYPAP website and contacted the organization's chair, Anthony C. Wood. Describing Tony as a "wonderful resource" who possessed "such focus" when asked for assistance in finding the best place for the Burnham papers, Jeff worked with Tony and together they found the right fit for the materials at Columbia's Avery Library. His contact at Avery was Janet Parks, the Curator of Drawings and Archives at Avery's Architectural and Fine Arts Library. Jeff was impressed by NYPAP's ability to give him a broad range of advisory options so that he could consider what would be best for him to do and says that "in the end, I took all of Tony's advice!"

Jeff can still savor the rich collection of Burnham books that he retained for his personal enjoyment and houses in the library of his seasonal home in Sag Harbor. Among these are invaluable works dating back to the latter 1800s, including a very early volume on Central Park, various Shepp's publications relating to New York, and a turn-of-the-century picture book of New York City. Other items of historical and visual importance are "ceremonial books" celebrating the openings of the Woolworth and Empire State buildings.

Describing himself as an ardent preservationist, Jeff says that several things in particular have stood out during the many hours he has spent reading the contents of Burnham's AAA. Viewing Burnham within the historical context of the groundbreaking efforts to protect New York's heritage, Jeff says that "as I sifted through his papers, I was very taken at how he was part of a

group of early activists who took a stand and communicated with others to present a vision to save their architectural heritage." Jeff notes also that by reading Burnham's papers, it became obvious to him that Burnham was very organized and wrote careful letters and thorough proposals. In Burnham's "pre-Internet" era, communication was still a matter of formal correspondence, and Burnham kept the old carbon copies of his letters. Looking through the photographs in Burnham's books, Jeff says that he cannot help but be sad about how much as been destroyed in the City: "Time and again you see great buildings, including those in Chelsea, that were wiped out to put up marginal architecture...there are not enough people like Alan."



Alan Burnham and Margot Gayle at a GVA rally; Courtesy of the Anthony C. Wood Archive

For all those who, like Jeff, recognize the challenges for preservationists in New York, there is no doubt that Jeff has provided the community with an invaluable resource by saving the AAA, and NYPAP has been delighted to be of assistance to someone as dedicated as Jeff has been to the NYPAP cause. As Tony Wood observes, "NYPAP's interaction with Jeff is one of the services we are always happy to provide—matching a person who possesses preservation history documents with the best repository for those materials. NYPAP salutes Jeff for his significant contribution to preserving preservation's history, and we hope that his efforts will inspire and educate others to do the same." ■

NYPAP News

Margaret Ferguson, a tireless supporter of our organization, has announced that she will be stepping down from the board of the Archive Project. NYPAP is delighted, however, that Ms. Ferguson will continue to act as legal advisor.

We are honored to be the recipient of a recent grant from the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation. This grant will fund a new oral history initiative that will be announced in the coming months. Stay tuned for the exciting details!

Work continues on our current oral history series *Leading the Commission: Interviews with the Former Chairs of the L.P.C.* We are currently halfway through this major project and expect to complete it by the end of the year.

NYPAP would like to welcome our newest intern, Tatum Taylor. Tatum is currently enrolled in Columbia University's Historic Preservation Program, and has a strong interest in oral histories and preservation history.

NYPAP would like to thank the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York Community Trust's Windie Knowe Fund, and the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation for their generous grants.

NYPAP is a not-for-profit organization, and we depend on contributions to continue our work. Donations can be made in the form of checks mailed to our office (174 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10075) or securely online via PayPal on our website (www.nypap.org).