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Book Review of "Unearthing Gotham: The Archaeology of New York City" by Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana diZerega Wall

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century Appalachians (Horning p. 24). In fact, many of the National Park "natural" landscapes probably have Native American sites buried below the post-contact layers. Also, readers must remember that the National Park Service is not the only agency that omits human history from the interpretation of "natural" landscapes; managers and decision makers in many of our state and county parks also continue to share this attitude.

For the most part the articles are well written and informative. Some of the authors, Joy Beasley, Audrey Horning, and Erika Seibert, use archaeological data to support their evidence for the history of the underrepresented groups. For example, Horning provides specific examples of how archaeological findings can enhance, expand, change, and challenge the prevailing interpretations of an historic landscape. Other authors weave data from primary and secondary sources and interviews to tell their story. In analyzing historical memorials on our American landscape Dwight Pitcaithley (p. 252) notes, "Our collective heritage is as much memory as fact, as much myth as reality, as much perception as preservation." All the authors reveal the complex and hidden history of their landscapes. Paul Shackel accurately summarizes the findings of all of the authors by stating "the making of heroic symbols on the American landscape is never static, as they are continually being negotiated and reconstructed" (p.13).

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UNEARTHING GOTHAM: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW YORK CITY, by Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana diZerega Wall, 2001, Yale University Press, New Haven. 374 pages, \$ 39.95 (cloth).

Reviewed by Nancy J. Brighton.

Recently, a local newswoman hosted a television program about New York City "underground." Rather than highlighting its nightlife, the audience became privy to the secrets of what lies beneath the city's famed streets—eight stories of multi-level subway lines, sewer lines, fiber optic cables, power lines, basements of skyscrapers and, at the very bottom, its infamous water tunnels. With all of this disturbance, it is difficult to imagine there would be any room left for the unique, often extensive, archaeological sites that have been uncovered around the city. But as *Unearthing Gotham* demonstrates, there is over 11,000 years of prehistory and history represented by artifacts and archaeological remains that have been recovered from beneath these same city streets.

The authors, anthropology professors and archaeologists Anne-Marie Cantwell of Rutgers University, and Diana DiZerega Wall of the City University of New York, approach the entire city as a single archaeological site examined through time, using individual archaeological projects as components of the larger site. Cantwell and Wall use this archaeological data to study the various groups that lived in New York City, including those who lived here before there was a city. Their study tells the story of people and the way they changed the land to create the urban landscape. Cantwell and Wall's approach "provides a unique opportunity to contribute significantly to the ongoing creation of New York's identity and to the broader national one as well" (p. 4).

Unearthing Gotham is divided into four sections, each of which is further divided into chapters. Section One briefly describes the legislative context of doing archaeology in the United States in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the influence of federal law on the development of New York City's own City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR), which includes a con-

sideration of archaeological resources. Chapter Two of this first section provides examples of doing archaeology in the City, before and after the passage of CEQR.

Section Two consists of five chapters that discuss the Native American residents and the changes they brought to the landscape, well before and after the arrival of Europeans. Section Three, the book's longest with nine chapters, describes the archaeological investigations that have taken place mostly as a result of Federal and municipal legislative requirements. Section Four, the final section, sums up the narrative about the various groups that have called New York City home—either willingly or forced—as well as the story of the people who have made it their life's work to connect the City's present to its past.

Most notable among the book's many insightful perspectives include the presentation in Section Two of the data on the Native American groups from the region. Much of this information has been preserved as the result of the work of avocational archaeologists. Previous reviews have noted that this section was an "extremely detailed often plodding account" (Joselit 2002: 36) or had reverted to "textbook mode, bogged down by meticulous charts" (Parkhill 2002: 1). I, however, found these chapters to be the most interesting. Cantwell and Wall tell the story of the Native American groups that lived in "New York City" through archaeology as they tell the story of doing archaeology in the City before the Federal and municipal regulations existed and before the appearance of professional archaeologists, whose research interest was the City. Cantwell and Wall point out the paradox surrounding our knowledge of this period: what we know about the earliest city residents is the result of the interest and perseverance of avocational archaeologists—but the limitations of this data, i.e. the lack of excavation records that detail stratigraphic relationships—is due to the lack of professional techniques with which this data was collected by those same avocational archaeologists.

The chapters that make up Section Three progress the story of the shaping of the modern city through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and present the results of the largest

archaeological investigations conducted in New York City, including the Five Points Archaeological Project. Taken together, the entire second section and the first five chapters (Chapters 8-12) of the third section are presented as moving through time from the earliest to the most recent occupation. This progression, however, ends in Section Three's Chapter Thirteen and the discussion of the landfilling that occurred around Manhattan, particularly along the East River in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Some of the sites discussed in Chapter Thirteen were also discussed in the earlier chapters, which describe commercial sites dating the 17th century colonial city. It seems the authors' progress through time to the mid-19th century only to turn back the clock midway through the discussion. Similarly, the "other" sites—those that lie outside the bounds of what had been the main portion of the city—are presented after this discussion rather than being incorporated into the discussion of the appropriate temporal period. In addition, the African Burial Ground is included at the end instead of being presented as a contemporary of the other archaeological sites described for the late-17th and 18th century. This is in part because the presentation about the burial ground is more about the politics that continue to surround doing compliance-driven archaeology in New York City, however, the site's chronological placement is earlier in history. The progression of these chapters might be improved if this discussion was integrated with the other chapters.

The authors are being quite literal when they refer to "unearthing" the city; only those sites that were unearthed or excavated were included in this study. Furthermore, the sites used to describe the development of and changes to the city throughout the 19th century, were projects that were provided with the time and resources to excavate larger portions of, if not, the entire site as well. In addition, the sites described were those that received additional documentary research and laboratory analysis that many projects cannot afford. Focusing the data in this way leaves out many related studies of aboveground structural remains, such as houses and commercial buildings that might provide additional

insight in the development of Gotham. Although the sources consulted are vast, they do not include a complete list of the reports produced in compliance with the NHPA or CEQR. It is unrealistic to expect that a single volume would be able to accommodate all of these sources of data, however, readers should be aware there has been a variety of other archaeological and historical research that can supplement and build on the story that *Unearthing Gotham* has presented.

Unearthing Gotham is successful as both a textbook for historical archaeology or a "good read" about the history of New York City from a unique data set. The approach taken by Cantwell and Wall provides an excellent baseline for the story of the City through its material cultural and archaeological record. A story that can be built upon with each new site that is uncovered, as long as we document them before they are lost.

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SITE DU PALAIS DE L'INTENDANT CHANTIER-ÉCOLE DE L'AN 2000, by Marie-Michelle Dionne, Désirée-Emmanuelle Duchaine, and Richard Lapointe (Ville de Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, 2001), *Cahiers d'archéologie du Celat*, No. 9.

Reviewed by Pauline Desjardins.

This volume is part of a series dealing principally with research conducted in historical archaeology at the Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada, under the supervision of Profs. Marcel Moussette, Reginald Auger, and their colleagues. The historical archaeology program at Laval was the first one established in Canada and the only one for a long time, even though a new one started in 2000 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Archaeology is a field which requires a lot of technical skills, but those skills cannot be effective without a strong theoretical framework. Theory and practice do not link easily; the process can be facilitated if it can be learned and applied within an academic curriculum. This is the function of the archaeology field school, and this volume deals with three field season reports written by master's degree students who were in charge of excavation in the context of Université Laval's 2000 archaeology field school.

Archaeology depends largely on the understanding and support of the public. This is the principal goal that the CELAT (Centre interuniversitaire d'Études sur les Lettres, Arts et Traditions) in collaboration with the Department of Urbanism of Quebec City, the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Quebec, and Laval University was pursuing in 1998 when they created this series of the "Cahiers d'archéologie du CELAT" of which "Site du Palais de l'intendant Chantier-École de l'an 2000" is the 9th issue. This series replaced the former "Rapports et Mémoires de recherche du CELAT." The CELAT is a consortium of scholars from the Université Laval at Quebec, the University of Quebec at Montreal, and the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi. These scholars come from many disciplines including history, ethnohistory, and archaeology.