



AIA BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Buried Beneath the City:

An Archaeological History of New York

by Nan A. Rothschild, Amanda Sufphin, H. Arthur Bankoff and Jessica Striebel Maclean

Bits and pieces of the lives led long before the age of skyscrapers are scattered throughout New York City, found in backyards, construction sites, street beds, and parks. Indigenous tools used thousands of years ago; wine jugs from a seventeenth-century tavern; a teapot from Seneca Village, the nineteenth-century Black settlement displaced by Central Park; raspberry seeds sown in backyard Brooklyn gardens these everyday objects are windows into the city's forgotten history.

Buried Beneath the City uses urban archaeology to retell the history of New York, from the deeper layers of the past to the topsoil of recent events. The book explores the ever-evolving city and the day-to-day world of its residents through artifacts, from the first traces of Indigenous societies more than ten thousand years ago to the detritus of Dutch and English colonization and through to the burgeoning city's transformation into the modern metropolis. It demonstrates how the archaeological record often goes beyond written history by preserving mundane things details of everyday life that are beneath the notice of the documentary record. These artifacts reveal the density, diversity, and creativity of a city perpetually tearing up its foundations to rebuild itself. Lavishly illustrated with images of objects excavated in the city, Buried Beneath the City is at once an archaeological history of New York City and an introduction to urban archaeology.

Publisher's Description

Nan A. Rothschild is an urban social archaeologist who was Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College and is adjunct professor at Columbia University.

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The *Landmarks Preservation Commission* is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. It is responsible for protecting New York City's architecturally, historically, and culturally significant buildings and sites by granting them landmark or historic district status and regulating them after designation.

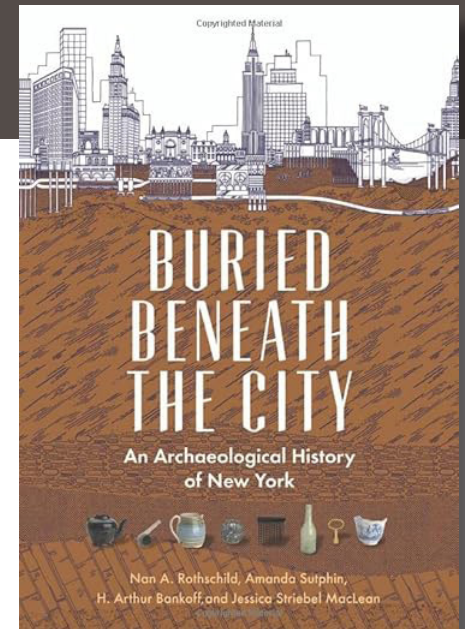
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1. What was particularly memorable? The biggest takeaway that you didn't know before?
2. What gaps do you wish the author had filled in?
3. How well does the author convey the era in which the events take place? Did the author provide enough information for you to understand the relevance of these events in a larger historical context?
4. What did you learn about the time period in which the book is set that you did not previously know?
5. How has the approach to archaeology changed from the time of Max Mallowan?

