

Guide to the Nan A. Rothschild Papers

BC20.43

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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New York, NY 10027

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Summary Information

Repository:	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Rothschild, Nan A., 1937-
Title:	Nan A. Rothschild Papers
ID:	BC20.43
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/2/resources/390
Date [inclusive]:	1977-2015
Date [bulk]:	1990-2005
Physical Description:	6 Linear Feet 4 records cartons, 1 document box, 1 half document box
Physical Location:	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection consists of the research and course materials of Nan A. Rothschild, a professor of Anthropology at Barnard College and Columbia University.

Preferred Citation

Nan A. Rothschild Papers, 1977-2015; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

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Biography

Nan A. Rothschild was a professor of Anthropology from 1981-2006 at Barnard College. Since 2007 she has been an adjunct professor of Anthropology at Columbia University.

She received her masters from Columbia University and her PhD from New York University in 1975.

Rothschild's research interests reflect a concern with the manifestation of social realities in the patterning of material things. She has done prehistoric, historic, and ethno-archaeology; her field research has taken place in North America, in and around New York City, on the Zuni Reservation and in the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico. As Principal Investigator in excavations in lower Manhattan beginning in the late 1970's, she spearheaded the field of urban and modern historical archeology.

She has also worked with museum collections and has studied a number of socio-cultural issues: colonial encounters in North America, changes in gender role and status, the construction and recognition of coherent sub-units within urban entities, and the way in which food is used to express social and symbolic concepts.

Her published books include *New York City Neighborhoods: The 18th Century*, *Colonial Encounters in a Native American Landscape*, and *The Archaeology of American Cities* written with Diana diZerega Wall.

In 2016 the Landmarks Preservation Commission opened the Nan A. Rothschild Research Center, the first municipal archive devoted to a city's own archaeological collection.

Rothschild served as president of the New York Archaeological Council and of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and was a member of the Executive Committee Board of the Society for American Archaeology, an Associate Editor of *American Antiquity*, and a member of the Nomination Committee of the American Anthropological Association.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection contains material relating to the scholarly and administrative work of Nan A. Rothschild during her time as a Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College and later as an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University.

The collection primarily contains material relating to Rothschild's academic work, including research files, course preparation materials, conference papers, and drafts of papers and book chapters. The collection also contains material related to archaeological excavations around New York.

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Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1, Teaching 1984-2012

This series contains lecture notes, student papers, readings, syllabi, and discussion questions for courses taught by Rothschild at Barnard College and Columbia University.

Series 2, Scholarship 1977- 2015

This series contains material related to Rothschild's book and graduate school research, conference papers, book proposals, curated exhibitions, and archaeological excavations.

Series 3, Professional and Administrative materials 1982-2009

This series contains material related to Rothschild's position as a Professor at Barnard College and Columbia University as well as member of societies such as the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, the Society of Historical Archaeology, and the American Anthropological Association.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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archives@barnard.edu

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Access

This collection has restrictions. Restricted material includes student work and personnel information that will be restricted for 75 years from the date of creation.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Barnard Archives and Special Collections. The Barnard Archives and Special Collections approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Reproduction Restrictions

Reproductions can be made for research purposes.

Acquisition Information

The Nan A. Rothschild Papers were donated to the Barnard Archives and Special Collections in 2017 by Nan A. Rothschild. Additions were donated to the Barnard Archives and Special Collections in 2024 by Nan A. Rothschild.

Accruals

Additions are expected.

Processing History

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Joan Hsiao in May 2018 and updated by Olivia Newsome in January 2024. We gratefully acknowledge Nan Rothschild, whose funding supported the processing of this collection.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard. Finding aid written in English.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Barnard College -- Faculty
- Universities and colleges -- United States -- Faculty
- Anthropology

Collection Inventory

Teaching, 1984-2012, (1990-2005)

Scope and Contents Note

Teaching material related to courses including the Archeology of Colonial Encounters, Colonial Encounters in Native North America, a student paper from 1984, Exhibitions: Practical Considerations, Food and Society, Museology, Museum Anthropology: History and Theory, and Native Americans and Europeans.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Restricted material includes:

1. Student work for Museum Anthropology class - final project New York Stories (Box 3, folder 17, restricted until 2082)
2. Student work for class G6192 Exhibitions: Practical Considerations (Box 3, folder 22, restricted until 2086)
3. Student work and grades for class V3904 Native Americans and Europeans (Box 4, folder 23, restricted until 2079)

box 1

box 3

box 4

box 5 folder 3

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Scholarship, 1977-2015

Scope and Content Note

Book research includes material on urban fauna diversity, early American food preparation and agriculture, data on New York City colonial and post-colonial neighborhoods. Drafts of books on urban archaeology and field archaeology.

Exhibition material on "Columbia in New York: New York in Columbia" 1990 and "Collecting the Southwest" 1998 and "Beginnings: An Archaeological View of Lower Manhattan" 1982.

Excavation material includes archaeological investigation of the Parade Grounds of Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx 1994; Onderdonk site excavation notes

box 1

box 3

box 4

box 5

box 6

1977; Big Apple garbage survey from 1983; Dickson Mounds data 1983.

Conference papers mostly include papers presented at SHA, TAG, and AAA in various sessions from the 1980s to the early 2010s.

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Professional and Administrative materials, 1981-2008

box 1

box 2

Scope and Content Note

box 3

Material related to PANYC 1984-2007 (Box 1); Wenner Gren invitation to review letter 2010 (box 1, folder 33); Society for Historical Archaeology correspondence 1997 (box 1) and meeting notes 1985 (box 4); American Anthropological Association meeting notes, annual report, minutes 2008-09 (box 1); founding of William Duncan Strong Museum at Columbia University (box 3 and 4); Society of Historical Archeologist survey results and information on status of women in historical archaeology in the United States 1992-1993 (box 1)

box 4

Also Barnard College and Columbia University faculty correspondence 1981-2008 (box 2), including course and program development statements, letters of recommendations, transcript of speech Rothschild gave for Diploma Ceremony in 2005.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Restricted materials include:

1. Confidential letters concerning faculty appointments and dismissals (Box 2, folder 35, restricted until 2078)
2. Personnel records including salary, promotion, and review (Box 2, folder 36, restricted until 2081)
3. Letters of recommendation (Box 2, folder 37, restricted until 2065)

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