

Learning Places Fall 2016

Library / Archive REPORT

New York Public Library

Andrew Alleyne

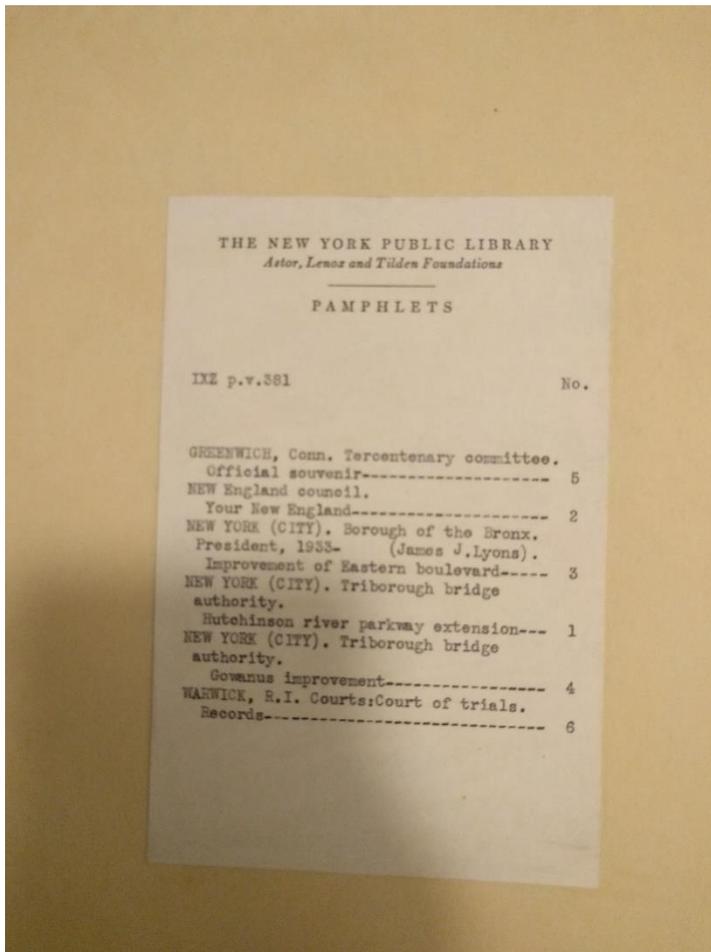
10/28/17

INTRODUCTION

As a historic land mark in Midtown Manhattan, the New York Public Library is a public, nonprofit and historical library system which gathers documents that record past and present articles. Geographically speaking the library spans about a full Manhattan block together with Bryant Park. Surrounding the NYPL's area are many stores and high-rise buildings. The organization provides many resources and organizes their catalogue of articles ensuring they are easily and proficiently found. I have not visited the NYPL a before embarking on this Archive visit. My expectations however were met due to the exquisite sequencing and attention to detail of the library. Its layout is particularly interesting when you enter the establishment. You are greeted high rise ceiling, antiquated texture walls and long stairs. Many of these details render the atmosphere inviting to intellect.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

(include photographic documentation and visual notes—at least 2 photographs 1 sketch required)





What is the Genius Loci, or spirit, of this place?

The Genius Loci of the NYPL are the wide array of history and books within it. I find it interesting that such a building can contain and collect a lot of historical events.

What kind of archive or library is this? What kinds of materials / sources does this place collect?

The New York Public Library is a non-profit organization that is open to the public. As a public facility its resources are widely accessible by anyone interested in carrying out research. The NYPL contains up to 9 different types of archives within its historical walls. Some of these archives are, The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, General Research Division Manuscripts and Archives Division. Throughout our visit we primarily focused on The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division as it held map collection directly related to our area of study.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

With a wide array of books with in the NYPL the collection may be used for different things. Throughout our visit the to the NYPL we visited the Map Archive that focused primarily on the Gowanus area. I believe that many people can make use of the collection to gather prior knowledge about the

surrounding area or a spot. Personnel that are interested in the archive range from, organizations, researchers, and individuals.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

As with many Archival resources in libraries the NYPL enacts strict rules when it comes to using their material. When it comes to researching information that may not be openly accessible to the public one is required to set an appointment. By setting the appointment, it allows the librarian gather material that may be related to what you are interested in.

SOURCE ANALYSIS



Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "Plan of the city of New York in North America : surveyed in the years 1766 & 1767" The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1776. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-f437-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a9>

What is this source and what is its purpose?

The source of this map is an overview detailing the City Of New York in 1766. Its purpose is to allow researches and readers to visualize what the area looked like back in the 1700s. As shown the map provides a key that may be useful mostly to insurers and city planning.

Who created it and who was it created for?

The map was published by William Faden, mapped by Bernard Ratzer and engraved by Thomas Kitchin. The map was created for developers that may be interested in a specific area or insurers.

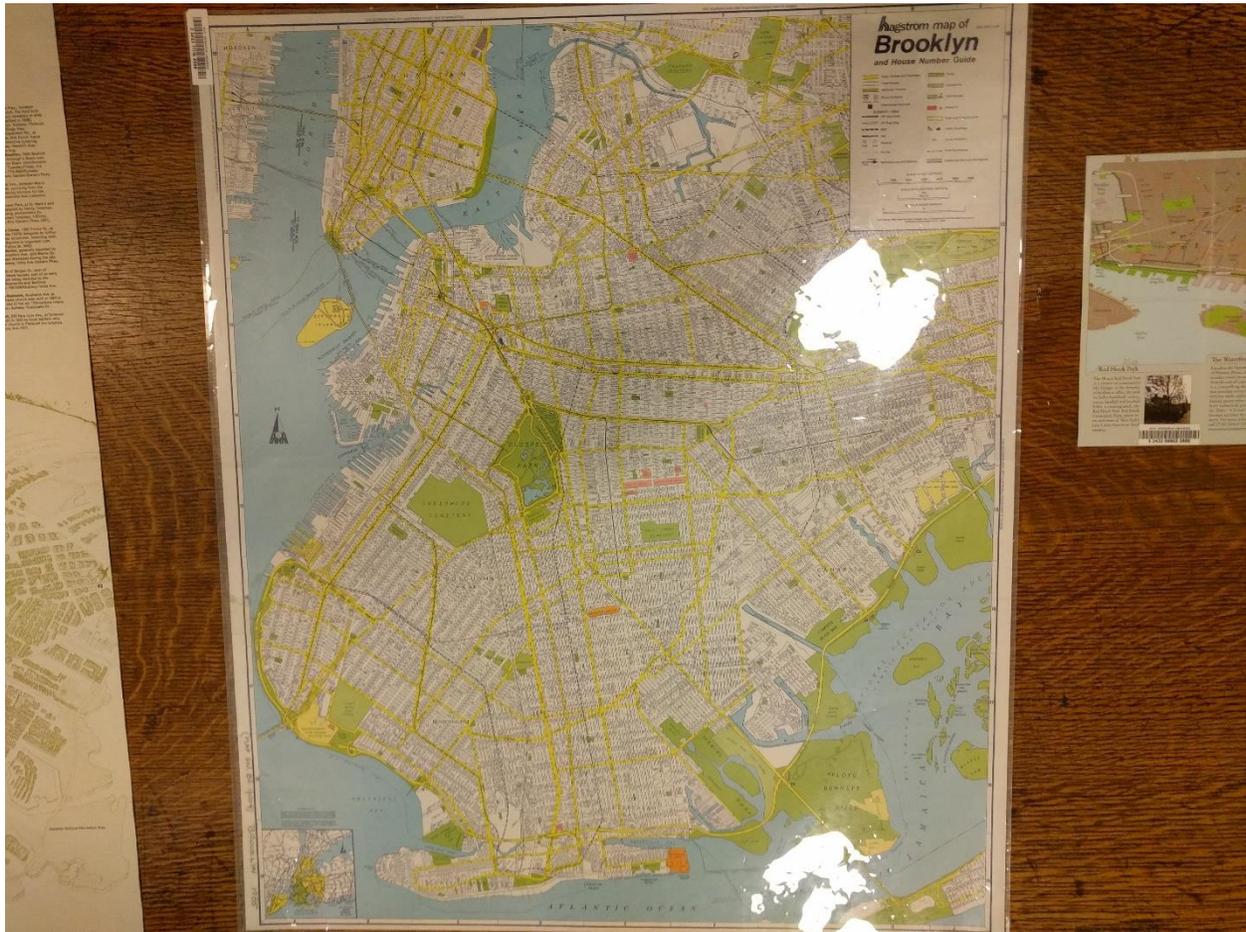
What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

The map gives us an overview of what the City of New York looked like in the year 1766. It also provides us with an image of the Gowanus area and its surroundings looked like before development.

How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

The City Plan map may be integrated into a research project pertaining to the history of the Gowanus Canal or more specifically the history of the City Of New York. The information provided on this specific map is important as it provides a clear overview of the Gowanus as it relates to our studies.

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #2 (consult this website for help with citations)



What is this source and what is its purpose?

Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "Map of Brooklyn, House Number and Subway Guide." *The New York Public Library Digital Collections*. 1922. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/f411ca30-d2a6-012f-2d96-58d385a7b928>

Who created it and who was it created for?

This map was created by the Hagstrom Map Company and provides an overview which gives details of Brooklyn.

What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

Hagstorm's Brooklyn map provides us with specifics of the Gowanus area in the year 1922. In addition to the Gowanus area, the map record also details Brooklyn roads as it was mainly used for navigation by taxi cabs and tourist.

How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

The map record may be integrated into a research project that mainly related to road infrastructure. While the map may be able to answer many question due to its age and marvelous detailing, it may best have used for answering questions related to road changes.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division
- Fire insurance records are useful
- Maps detailed relining areas in relating to zoning.
- Sand born maps (Fire insurance)
- Maps were updated by gluing new information over previous

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Has the City of New York implemented any Greener infrastructure over the years?
2. Are there any records that indicate the specific wild life population before Brooklyn's development and if so what are the chances of a percentile existing within the Gowanus?
3. Did the illustration of Fire maps result in inflation in certain neighborhoods?