

A Smoky Seat of Manufactures

For more than seventy years, Brooklyn has been New York City's most populous borough (2.5 million in 2000). If still independent, it would be the country's fourth-largest city. No quiet adjunct of Manhattan, Brooklyn was one of the country's largest industrial centers in the mid-nineteenth century. In spite of precipitous declines through the second half of the twentieth century, Brooklyn's commercial and industrial base remains significant nationally.

From its mid-seventeenth century beginnings as a Dutch colony at the ferry landing opposite lower Manhattan, Brooklyn has been the site of tremendous industrial activity. The introduction of steam ferry service by Robert Fulton in 1814 and the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 facilitated Brooklyn's industrial growth. The early ropewalks, distilleries, slaughterhouses, furnaces, tanneries and factories producing such wares as white lead, glass, and glue, led the way for the printing firms, oil refineries, and iron foundries of the nineteenth century.



Harper's Weekly

Brooklyn products have been well-known throughout the country for over a century. Barton's Candy; Domino Sugar; Dutch Boy Paint; Eberhard Faber pencils; Knox Hats; Rheingold Beer; Sperry Gyroscopes; Pfizer pharmaceuticals; Standard Oil; Topps Chewing Gum; Worthington steam pumps; Yuban Coffee; films such as *Do the Right Thing*, and *Saturday Night Fever*; and the battleships *Maine* and *Missouri* are just a few of the items that can claim the label, "Made in Brooklyn."

By the middle of the twentieth century, companies sought space in industrial complexes, such as Bush Terminal, that combined docking, manufacturing, warehousing, and transportation functions. The freight railroads operated free lightering service across New York harbor. The Pennsylvania Railroad constructed a carfloat terminal at 65th Street and extended its Bay Ridge Line through Brooklyn into Long Island City, Queens, and across the Hell Gate Bridge. The U.S. Army built the huge Brooklyn Army Terminal in 1919. During World War II, the Navy Yard operated around the clock, employing 70,000 men and women.

Queens, like Brooklyn, was originally settled by the Dutch. Unlike Brooklyn, it was slow to grow and, when incorporated into New York City in 1898, its population was barely 150,000. Industrial development came late and centered on Long Island City and Maspeth, and along the Long Island Rail Road. William Steinway, in addition to manufacturing pianos, built the tunnel that now serves the Flushing Line East River crossing. In 1919, Queens was briefly the movie capital of the world with Astoria Studios making films starring Gloria Swanson, the Marx Brothers and Rudolf Valentino. The Consolidated Edison plant, covering hundreds of acres in the Ditmars area of Queens was the world's largest coal gas manufacturing plant when completed in 1906. Queens is also the home of the passenger yards of the old Pennsylvania Railroad (now Amtrak) and the Long Island Rail Road. As the flattest borough, Queens became home to New York City's airports, La Guardia, with its wonderful art deco Marine Air Terminal, and JFK International, home to the endangered TWA Terminal by Eero Saarinen.

As with all SIA tours, the 2002 conference tours are dependent on the willingness of site owners and managers to permit visits. After September 11, many companies and governmental agencies in New York City have new security concerns and requirements. Negotiations with some sites are ongoing as this brochure goes to press and, although we hope to receive full commitments from sites now listed only as possibilities, and even add some special surprises, please understand that tour content may change.

We will be making use of the subways and our feet for transportation to many conference events. Please dress comfortably and wear walking shoes. Remember that for tours of factories, hard-soled, closed-toe shoes and long pants are required. If you have your own safety glasses, bring them along. Hearing protection will be provided. Your registration confirmation will indicate which sites also require hardhats.

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD TOURS

Cast iron studios 1:00-4:00

We'll begin at the Manhattan studio of Shuli Sade in a former electrical manufacturer's building and hear about the building's history and her photography of industrial and engineering sites. This will be followed by a brief walking tour of cast iron buildings in Tribeca/Soho. Final stop will be the studio of Gerry Weinstein, in the 1867 building owned by General Tools, where refreshments will be served along with a look at his collection of model steam engines, other industrial artifacts and O-scale New York Central train layout. Attendees may choose to return to the hotel via subway or by walking over the Brooklyn Bridge.

My Brooklyn: A Memory Walk 1:30-4:00

Accompany Estelle Haferling, "made, born and bred in Brooklyn," for a walking tour mixing history and memories of the waterfront neighborhoods where she spent the first 16 years of her life, such as DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) and Williamsburg. Stories of lost sounds, like the Myrtle Avenue El, and long-gone smells of coffee roasting and beer brewing, will accompany you as you stroll beneath the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges where freight rails still lie in the Belgian block streets, and 19th and early 20th century warehouses and factories line the ways. You will visit Vinegar Hill and its surprise of 19th century houses, walk by the Brooklyn Navy Yard and its ca. 1810 Admiral's House, and hear one young girl's story about what it was like to live there in the mid-20th century.

Gowanus Canal by boat: 12:00-3:30

After lunch on your own, gather for a gourmet scoop at the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory in the 1926 fireboat house at Fulton Ferry Landing prior to boarding the *Chelsea Screamer* at 12:30 at the River Café dock for a narrated tour of the mile-and-a-half-long Gowanus Canal, authorized in 1848. Stops are planned at the 1911 Douglass Street Pumping Station, which sat idle for 40 years, but was re-started in 1999 to flush clean water into the canal, and the 1888-89 Carroll Street bridge, one of the oldest bridges in New York City and the oldest known extant American bridge of the retractile type.

Opening Reception: 6:00-9:00

The conference officially begins in the rotunda of Brooklyn's Borough Hall. This beautiful 1848 Greek Revival landmark was originally built as Brooklyn's city hall before the consolidation of the five boroughs into New York City in 1898. Enjoy a cocktail party with foods representing Brooklyn immigrant neighborhoods, such as whitefish salad on black bread for the Russian enclave of Brighton Beach, Jamaican vegetable patties for Flatbush, and Asian summer rolls for Bay Ridge, Brooklyn's China town. Local wines, beers and sodas will be featured. Michael W. Robbins, editor of *Brooklyn: A State of Mind*, will provide a historical introduction to our host city and will be available to autograph copies of his book, which will be provided to conference registrants.

FRIDAY ALL-DAY TOURS: 8:00-5:00

Choose one

Protecting the Harbor

This tour, led by Paul Bartczak, Roebling Chapter president, examines the evolution of military technology in the New York area including different types of 19th-century fortifications at Fort Wadsworth, 20th-century fortifications and anti-aircraft missile defense at Fort Tilden, and 20th-century naval aviation at Floyd Bennett Field. Beginning at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, the group will spend the morning visiting the Museum and Visitor Center, Battery Weed and Fort Tompkins. After lunch we will proceed to Ft. Tilden, on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens where two 16-inch gun emplacements and a Nike missile launch facility will be viewed. The tour will conclude at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn where the group will visit the original 1931 control tower and hangars, and the Navy's 1942 Hangar B, with a collection of nine aircraft undergoing conservation/restoration.

Extreme Steam

Conrad Milster, steam engineer and historian, will lead this tour which includes Pratt Institute's power plant, an ASME landmark that has been continuously generating electricity for Pratt's facilities since 1887; Cascade Laundry, which generates its own power using natural gas but keeps a Skinner Unaflo for back-up; and Queensboro Hospital where the 250-kw Ridgway back-up engine will be running for us. A stop at Domino Sugar, said to be the only sugar refinery in the U.S. still making sugar cubes, will cover both the sugar processing and the power plant.

Southwest Brooklyn Waterfront

The Southwest Brooklyn waterfront developed as a major transshipment point with gargantuan warehouse facilities. We will tour the rail operations of Bush Terminal, a district first developed in the 1890s, which grew to cover 200 acres and once handled one-fifth of the goods moving through the Port of New York. Mead & Jospovich, a custom architectural woodworking shop located in the cavernous Brooklyn Army Terminal designed by Cass Gilbert will show us their operation. We will visit the nearby Kraft Foods plant (recently purchased from Nabisco) where Now and Later candies are made, and Sahadi Fine Foods, an importer and manufacturer of Middle Eastern foods housed in a recently renovated 1890 former electrical meter factory. Fixture Hardware, a 55-year-old company making shelving brackets and other fixtures, will also host a tour.

From Boats to Boxes

On our way to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, we'll stop at Ulano Corporation, a manufacturer of films and solvents for the silkscreen printing industry and get a look at their film coating line. At what was officially called the New York Naval Shipyard, operated by the Navy from 1801 to 1966, we'll visit the 1851 graving dock, which has been in continuous use to the present day and peek in on some of the manufacturers which have re-used the yard's buildings. Pfizer, founded in Brooklyn and operating in the borough since 1849, will be another stop. We hope to also observe a modern version of box-making, a process developed in Brooklyn. The first machine for folding paper boxes was developed by Robert Gair at his DUMBO factory and patented in 1879.

Stone Cold Iron

This tour will take in the stone cutting operations at Michael Colonna's small traditional shop in Queens' Middle Village and the historic restoration work at A. Ottavino in Ozone Park. There will be a stop at one of the many historic cemeteries in the area and we'll take a break with Dallis Bros. Coffee roasters. The elevated trains of East New York, Brooklyn, and Shore Iron Works, a fabricator of structural steel, will put the iron in our diet. While in East New York, we'll also stop in at Renaissance Wood Products, a custom handcrafted woodworking firm.

Schedule of Tours & Events

East New York

East New York, sight of a key turning point in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Long Island, was developed for industry in the 19th century due to the easy access it provided to Jamaica Avenue, a major roadway leading from eastern Long Island to the growing commercial port. By the 1960s, it was one of the New York City's most distressed neighborhoods. We will visit several of the manufacturers that have moved into this once blighted neighborhood, including Adriatic Wood Products, a high-volume producer of wood moldings, and Fabricon, a maker of fiberglass carousel horses. Legion Lighting, a third-generation family business making fluorescent lighting fixtures has also invited us in. On our way to this neighborhood, we'll stop in at Bell Bialys and savor the aroma of these fresh-baked Jewish favorites.

The Other Borough

We had to have one tour focusing on Queens, the other borough that shares the western tip of Long Island with Brooklyn. A no-longer-used but intact Interborough Rapid Transit substation built in 1917 using surplus equipment from the original 1899 electrification of the elevated lines will be a highlight. We also plan a tour of Steinway & Sons, making pianos here for nearly 150 years. For railfans, we will stop at EITHER Amtrak's enormous Sunnyside Yards, opened in 1910 to serve the New York Extension of the Pennsylvania Railroad and now used to service the high-speed Acela train, OR the maintenance shops of the Long Island Rail Road, the busiest railroad in North America. Cecilware, a maker of commercial coffee brewing equipment will be a stop. We will also see the post-WWII Astoria Generating Station, undergoing a repowering project to replace oil-fueled boilers with combined-cycle gas turbines.

Brooklyn and Its Bridges

This rigorous and fast-paced tour, conducted with the assistance of the New York City Department of Transportation, will include all types of bridges in the borough, from America's first concrete bridge, the 1872 Cleft Ridge Span in Prospect Park, to Robert Moses-era expressways and movable spans over Brooklyn's industrial waterways. We will inspect the on-going rehabilitations of the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges over the East River and conclude with the Brooklyn Bridge. Be prepared to walk and climb steps.

Newcomers' Reception: 6:30-8:30

First-time conference attendees are invited to join the SIA Board and chapter officers for refreshments and networking.

Show and Tell: 7:00-10:00

This informal forum for sharing your latest IA discovery or research-in-progress will be held at Polytechnic University. You are encouraged to bring slides and artifacts. New York cheesecake will be served, so save space for dessert. To place your presentation on the schedule, please contact Bob Stewart (robert.stewart13@worldnet.att.net), or sign up at the registration table at the conference.

Saturday Banquet: 7:00-10:00

The day will be spent at Polytechnic University for paper sessions and a keynote address from Henry Petroski. The annual business meeting will follow a buffet lunch. (See detailed program on other side.) Our evening's banquet is planned for a warehouse in DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), a gritty waterfront neighborhood of Belgian block streets and abandoned rails with views of the Brooklyn Bridge, though we may still end up at the Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden in Astoria, the last remaining beer garden in New York City.

Sunday Tours

Brooklyn and Queens Waterfront Brunch Cruise: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Join your Roebling Chapter friends for a memorable cruise of the IA of the Brooklyn and Queens waterfront and brunch aboard a roomy two-deck boat. Much of the Port's industrial heritage can best be seen and photographed from the water. We will sail up the East River, seeing all the bridges from underneath. We will see classic Brooklyn warehouses, modern container facilities, active railroad float bridges, the Brooklyn Navy Yard and other portions of the vast Port of New York. The tour will be narrated by Thomas Flagg and other experts. The historic 1931 fireboat, *John J. Harvey*, will be in attendance and will salute us with spouts of water from its monitors.

Mystery Rail Tour: Sunday afternoon

Willing to take a chance, railfans? We are attempting to arrange for behind-the-scenes visits to such sites as New York City Transit's Jay Street Command Center and Coney Island Shops. There could be a visit to the Acela shops or the maintenance facilities of the Long Island Rail Road. You might descend into the abandoned Atlantic Avenue tunnel of the LIRR or visit the to-be-restored trolleys of the Brooklyn Historic Railway Association. We'll find something to satisfy the "foamer" in you.

Brownstone Brooklyn: In & Out of the Park Slope Historic District: 2:30-4:30

Architect Carl Kaiserman will lead us on a walk that meanders through one of the largest and finest Victorian rowhouse neighborhoods in America, in this case built of the brown sandstone that has made New York brownstones famous. Emphasis will be on the development, diversity and adaptiveness inherent in housing, commercial and manufacturing structures in more than a century of change.

Monday Post-conference Tours

Rosenwach Tank Company 9:00-11:00

For six privileged souls, there will be a tour of one of the two remaining manufacturers of wooden water storage tanks in the city. The Rosenwach family has been making this ubiquitous part of the New York City skyline for over 100 years. Enter your name in the drawing at the registration table when you arrive. The winners will be announced at Thursday's reception.

Lower Manhattan Walking Tour 10:00-1:00

Led by George Bulow, we will visit such architectural gems as the Woolworth Building, the New York Stock Exchange and the U.S. Custom House, which houses the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian where an exhibit on the contributions of Mohawk iron workers to the building of the skyline will be on display. There will be an opportunity to visit Ground Zero.

Historic Coney Island: 9:00 - 1:30

Brooklyn historian John Manbeck will lead this walk on the Bowery, Boardwalk and Boulevards of Coney Island. We will see the 1918 workings of the Wonder Wheel, have a look at the 1929 Cyclone roller coaster and pass by a carousel in operation for decades. Before we leave Coney Island, we'll take time for an authentic Nathan's hot dog.

Bush Terminal Redux: 2:00 - 4:30

A second chance for an intense tour of the Bush Terminal rail facilities, led by Doug Diamond. In 1903, Irving T. Bush incorporated the Bush Terminal Railroad to serve his 200-acre industrial park begun in 1900 on the waterfront. This property is currently the home of the New York Cross Harbor Railroad which has been fairly successful at what it does - move carfloats from Brooklyn to New Jersey and back. Since we'll be here on a weekday, we may see some trains in action.

For more information contact:

Mary Habstritt, chair, at 212-769-4946 or mhabstritt@aol.com.
Don Durfee, registrar, at 906-487-1889 or sia@mtu.edu.

Conference Registration

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Mailing Address: _____
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Mailing State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
Daytime Telephone: _____
E-Mail Address: _____
This is my first SIA Annual Conference: Yes No

FOR EACH SELECTION BELOW PLEASE LIST QUANTITY AND TOTAL CHARGE

SIA Member registration: _____ @ \$145 = \$ _____
Includes Thursday reception, Saturday paper sessions, luncheon and guidebook.
Non-member: *You can join now and save!* _____ @ \$195 = \$ _____
Student: _____ @ \$95 = \$ _____
Saturday paper sessions ONLY: _____ @ \$50 = \$ _____
Includes keynote address, lunch and copy of abstracts
Late fee, if postmarked after May 10: _____ @ \$30 = \$ _____
Children under 18 years: no charge for registration
List each child name & age: _____

THURSDAY Digital Recording workshop: _____ @ \$200 = \$ _____
See separate brochure

THURSDAY TOURS - List first 3 preferences
Studio tour: _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____
Memory tour: _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____
Boat tour: _____ @ \$25 = \$ _____

FRIDAY TOURS - List first 3 preferences
Harbor Defense: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Steam: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Southwest Brooklyn: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Boats & boxes: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Stone & iron: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
East New York: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Other borough: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____
Bridges: _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____

SATURDAY Banquet: _____ @ \$60 = \$ _____
SUNDAY Brunch cruise w/ conf. registration: _____ @ \$45 = \$ _____
SUNDAY Brunch cruise w/o conf. registration: _____ @ \$65 = \$ _____
SUNDAY Mystery rail tour: _____ @ \$25 = \$ _____
SUNDAY Brownstone tour: _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____
MONDAY Manhattan tour: _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____
MONDAY Coney Island tour: _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____
MONDAY Bush Terminal: _____ @ \$25 = \$ _____
Safety glasses: _____ @ \$5 = \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AND EVENTS \$ _____

SIA MEMBERSHIP DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS: (from other side) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Conference & events, dues, contribution) \$ _____

Make check payable to "SIA 2002" in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. bank or use form on other side for credit card payment.

MAIL PAYMENT AND FORM TO:

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