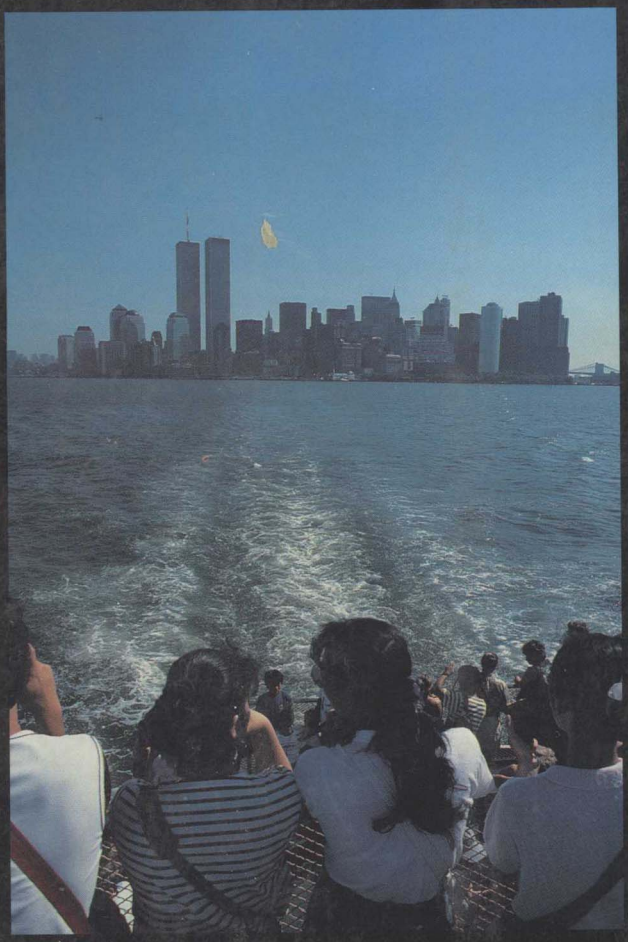

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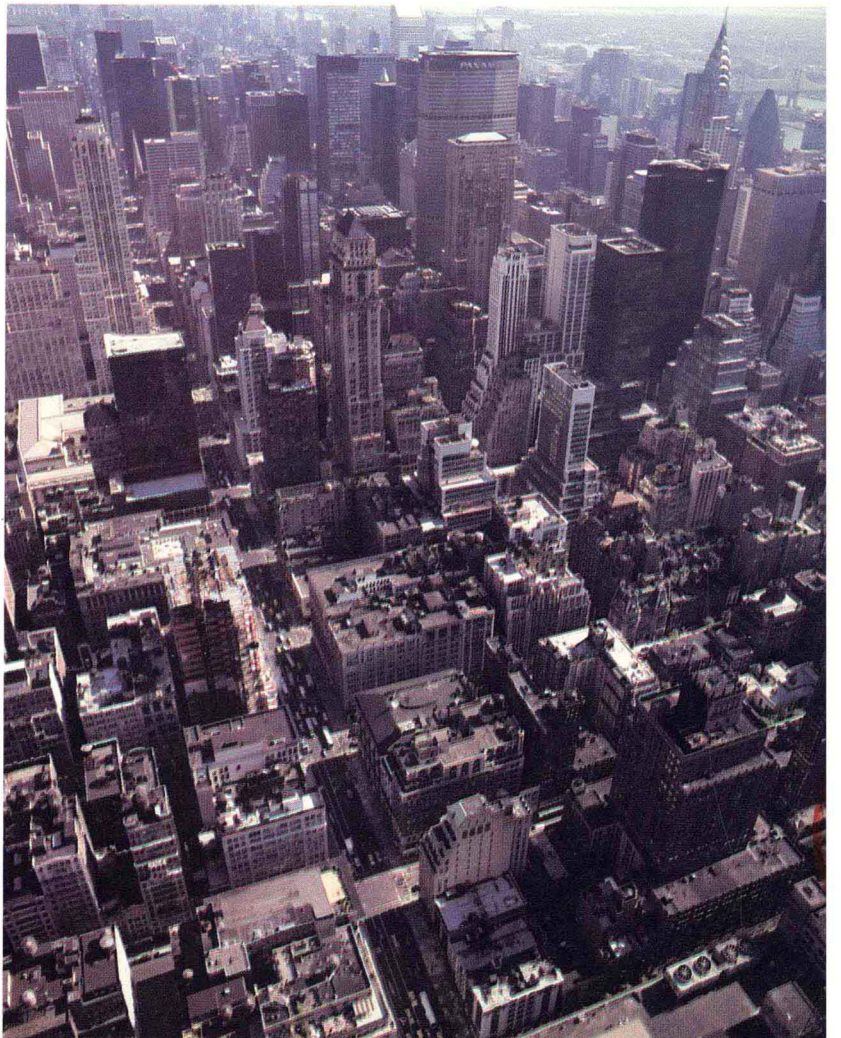
ISBN 0-02-719020-X

CITY!
NEWYORK

BY SHIRLEY CLIMO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE ANCONA

MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY NEW YORK
COLLIER MACMILLAN PUBLISHERS LONDON



For Beverly R.,
with appreciation

—S.C.

To Cousin Richie and Iris

—G.A.

The author wishes to thank Dr. James Shenton,
Professor of History, Columbia University,
for his assistance in reviewing the factual content of this book.

 First Edition Printed and bound in the United States of America 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

The text of this book is set in 12 point ITC Century Light. The photographs were taken on 35mm Kodachrome film and reproduced from color transparencies.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data • Climo, Shirley. City! New York / by Shirley Climo; photographs by George Ancona. — 1st ed. p. cm. Summary: Introduces the history, geography, cultural life, and attractions of the city known as the Big Apple. 1. New York (N.Y.)—Description—1981– —Juvenile literature. 2. New York (N.Y.)—History—Juvenile literature. [1. New York (N.Y.)] I. Ancona, George, ill. II. Title. F128.33.C55 1990 974.7'1—dc20 89-13482 CIP AC ISBN 0-02-719020-X

A.▲ B.▼ C.▼

A. Sightseers enjoy a view of lower Manhattan. B. Some visitors choose to cruise around the entire island. C. Cart-wheeling vendors have sold snacks on New York City streets for three hundred years.

ONE

WELCOME TO NEW YORK

Once there was a town named New Orange. It grew up to be a city nicknamed the Big Apple. How that orange became an apple is part of the story of America's biggest, most exciting city. And that's New York, New York.

Both the city and the state share the same name. New York City is at the southeastern tip of New York State, where the Hudson River meets the Atlantic Ocean.

New York City is many cities in one. Within its boundaries are five separate sections, called boroughs. Each borough manages its own local affairs. But, since each is also part of the greater city of New York, the citizens of the five boroughs elect a single mayor.

Queens is by far the largest of the boroughs, measuring over one hundred square miles. The borough of Brooklyn, covering close to eighty square miles, is next in size. Look for both Queens and Brooklyn on Long Island.

Smaller Staten Island, almost sixty-one square miles, is in New York Bay. On a map, it looks as if Staten Island should belong to the nearby state of New Jersey. But, long ago, New York State won the island in a contest. In 1668,

before the two were even states, New York and New Jersey agreed that any island that could be sailed around in twenty-four hours would belong to New York. Captain Christopher Billopp raced his boat around Staten Island in just twenty-three hours!

Although only forty-three miles square, the Bronx occupies a special place. It is on the mainland. The Bronx is the only New York City borough that's part of the continental United States.

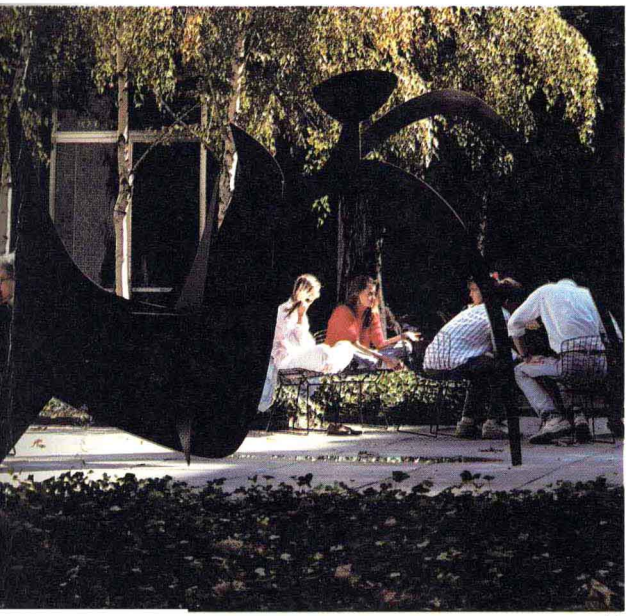
Manhattan is the smallest of the five boroughs. Manhattan Island is shaped somewhat like an Indian moccasin, just over thirteen miles long and less than two-and-a-half miles across at its widest point. It looks quite different from most islands seen in travel advertisements. Manhattan sprouts skyscrapers instead of palm trees, and the tall buildings hide the surrounding water from view. But Manhattan is a genuine island, just the same. The Hudson River flows along the west side of the island, and the East River along the east. The Harlem River edges Manhattan on the north, and New York Bay lies at its southern tip.

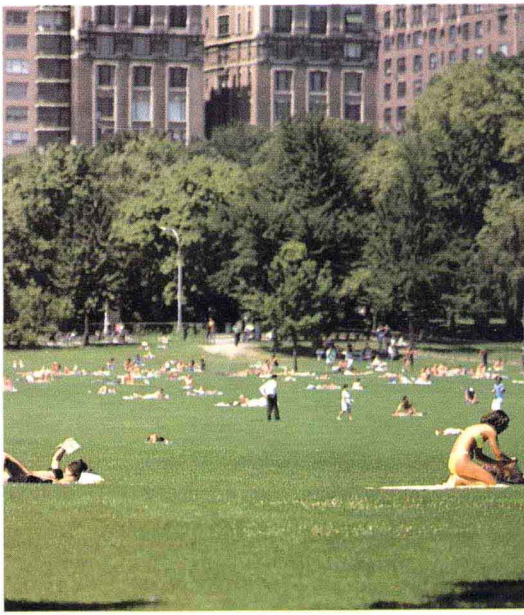
For hundreds of years, when people spoke of New York City they meant Manhattan. It was the original New York, and it is still the part of the city that everyone wants most to visit. Manhattan skyscrapers are pictured on postcards, and the streets of Manhattan are the settings for many songs and stories and movies. In fact, the earliest movies were made in Manhattan, not Hollywood.

A.▲ B.▼

A. Rockefeller Center heralds the coming of Christmas. B. Holiday scenes brighten winter windows in Fifth Avenue stores.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A. Spring arrives in the Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Modern Art. B. Summer is the season for relaxing in the Sheep Meadow in Central Park. C. In autumn, Central Park is a celebration of color.





.A.▲ B.▲ C.▼

All together, the five boroughs cover a huge area. But you can't measure New York by miles alone. It's the people who count—if you can count them! Over seven million people call New York home, making it the largest city in the United States.

Anytime you can come to New York is a wonderful time to visit. In winter, Manhattan's smoky gray buildings are dusted with snow, like powdered sugar. Even the traffic lights wear white caps. At holiday season, giant man-made snowflakes turn Fifth Avenue into a blizzard of lights. Skaters skim across the ice at Central Park's Wollman Rink, and hot roasted chestnuts are for sale on street corners. But be sure to bring your muffler and mittens, for the average temperature in January is thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit.

Travel lightly in the summer. The city can be as hot and steamy as a sauna, so change into your shorts and sandals. Of course there are lots of air-conditioned shops and restaurants, but it's more fun to catch the breeze aboard a boat. The Staten Island ferry runs between Staten Island and Manhattan.

Spring and fall are the pick of the seasons. In March or April Rockefeller Center is decked out in tulips and daffodils for the Easter Parade. In the clear, crisp days of autumn, the trees in Central Park blaze with red and orange leaves. But be prepared for surprises. Springtime showers can turn to hail, and Jack Frost sometimes arrives, uninvited, in the middle of Indian summer. *Even though New York City has*

had a weather observatory for 165 years—the first station in the nation—New Yorkers can only do what everyone else does about the weather: talk about it.

Trains enter Manhattan through underground tunnels. If you come by rail, you won't know you're in New York until you hear the conductor call, "Grand Central Terminal!" or perhaps, "Next stop, Penn-syl-va-ni-a Station!"

If you arrive by airplane, your first sight of the city will be of Queens. John F. Kennedy and La Guardia airports are located in that borough. By day, you'll look down on a sand-colored landscape of concrete buildings and a maze of roadways. You'll see the silvery shine of the waterways, as well, and the bridges that span them. Like ribbons, these bridges tie the boroughs together. By night, millions of yellow lights flicker far below, broken only by the darker streaks that are the rivers and the midnight blackness beyond that is the Atlantic Ocean.

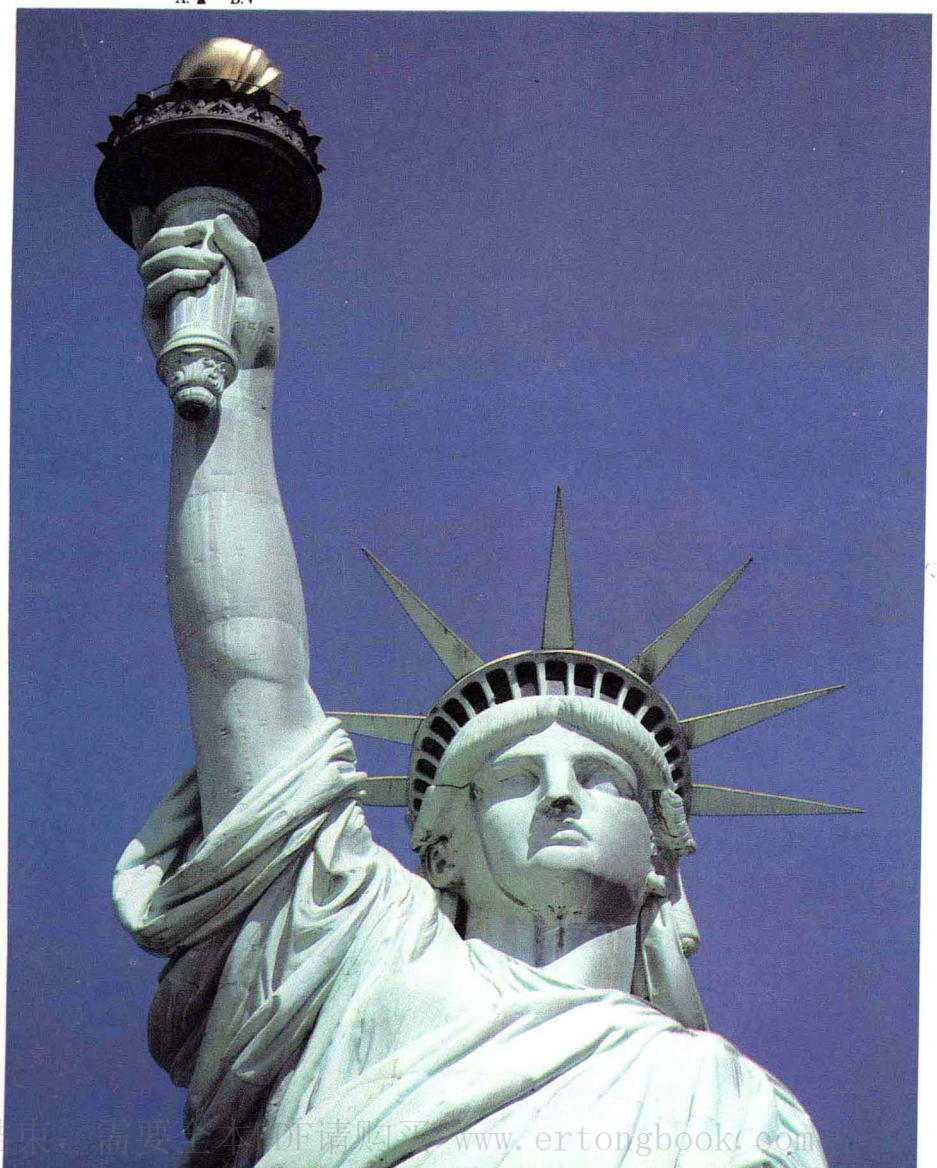
New York is America's Atlantic gateway. If your parents, or your grandparents, or your great-grandparents came from Europe, a breathtaking skyline greeted them. Seen from a ship sailing into the bay, Manhattan rises up from the water like a city in a pop-up storybook. The Statue of Liberty stands in the harbor. Torch upraised, she has saluted newcomers for more than a century. Her message is the same in any language:

¡Bienvenida! Willkomen! Benvenuto! Shalom! Yō Koso!

Welcome to New York!

A. The Statue of Liberty, towering three hundred feet above the waterline, is visible from ship or shore. B. "I lift my lamp beside the golden door." (From the poem by Emma Lazarus, which appears on the statue's base.)

A. ▲ B. ▼



T W O

GOING DUTCH

Sixteen million people visit New York City each year. But a few men came before the crowd, even before there was a city to visit at all.

The first European arrived in New York Bay in 1524. His name was Giovanni da Verrazano, and he was an Italian explorer hired by the king of France. Verrazano was searching for the Northwest Passage, a legendary waterway across North America to Asia. Although he sailed into what is New York's harbor today, he did not linger. A gale was blowing up, so Verrazano returned to the deeper, safer waters of the sea.

Later that year, a second visitor drifted in. His name was Estéban Gómez, and he was a black navigator seeking treasure for the king of Spain. The hills of New York on a gray winter day did not show much golden promise. Gómez decided that going ashore would be a waste of time.

Eighty-five years passed before another European adventurer came to call. Henry Hudson, an Englishman, was exploring for a company, not a king. Hudson had been hired by the Dutch East India Company to try to find that hoped-for Northwest Passage. Captain Hudson steered his small

ship, the *Half Moon*, up the river that now bears his name. He did not discover a shortcut to Asia, but he did find curious and friendly Indians camped on an island at the river's mouth. The Algonquin Indians called this place *Manhattan*, "island of the hills." Henry Hudson stayed for a full month, swapping cookpots and trinkets with the Indians for beaver and otter skins. He wrote in his log: "It is as pleasant a land as one can tread upon."

In that same year, 1609, another unexpected guest appeared, but from a different direction. The French explorer Samuel de Champlain crossed into what is present-day New York State from Canada. He claimed this new territory for France, a claim that would lead to trouble nearly a century later.

Thanks to Hudson's explorations, the Dutch East India Company took possession of all the land between the English colony of Virginia to the south and the English colonies of New England to the north. The company named its province New Netherland, and set up a Dutch West India Company to manage its affairs.

In 1624, the Dutch West India Company paid the passage for eight families to come to Manhattan Island. They called their community New Amsterdam. The next year, four more boatloads of settlers—and dozens of cows and pigs and horses—joined them. The company appointed a director general to live in the colony and oversee its business.

The colony's business was beavers. Thousands of beaver

skins were sent back to Holland to be made into warm felt hats. Manhattan Island was a favorite Indian hunting ground, for it was home not only to beavers and otters, but also to bears, wolves, foxes, and even mountain lions! Most tribes were eager to trade fur for strings of shiny oblong beads called *wampum*, or for sturdy woolen duffel cloth woven in Holland.

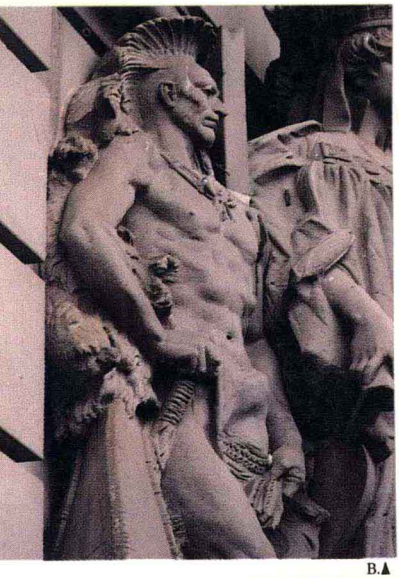
But the Dutch were uneasy about sharing the island with their Indian neighbors. In the early summer of 1626, Peter Minuit, the director general, bought Manhattan from them for beads and cloth and fishhooks worth about twenty-four dollars. Today Manhattan's price tag would be more than sixty *billion* dollars, but both Dutch and Indians thought they had made a splendid bargain.

English, Irish, German, French, Danish, Swedish, and African settlers joined the Dutch in New Amsterdam. By 1643, eighteen different languages were spoken on the streets of New Amsterdam. Besides the trappers and traders who worked for the company, the townspeople included blacksmiths and bakers, woodcutters and chimney sweeps, soldiers and slaves. Protestants, Catholics, and Quakers practiced their religions, and, within a few years, the first Jews had arrived from Brazil.

Still, New Amsterdam looked definitely Dutch. Like those in Holland, some houses were faced with red or yellow brick and topped with tile roofs. By 1642, Manhattan even had its first skyscraper—a long-armed Dutch windmill!

A. Dutch traders and American Indians greeted one another with curiosity and caution (Museum of the City of New York). B., C. On the Surrogates Court building, an Indian and a Dutchman stand as reminders of New York's beginnings. D. A plaque on the base of the Battery Park flagpole marks the founding of New York City. E. Peter Stuyvesant welcomes an Algonquin Indian (American Museum of Natural History).

A.▲



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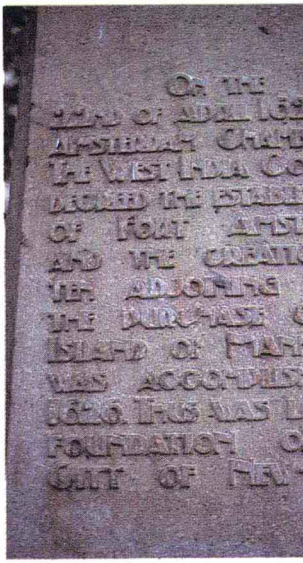

Progress and problems went hand in hand in the colony. The citizens of New Amsterdam were worried by the growing English settlements on Long Island and by the increasing number of Swedish landowners moving into Delaware. Moreover, hostile Indians made repeated raids on New Amsterdam. In 1644, to protect the city from enemies, Director Willem Kieft ordered "a good stiff fence" twelve feet high built on the north side of town. The wooden wall ran across the entire island, and the path beside it was called "Waal," or Wall, Street. Although the wall is long gone, today's Wall Street follows that original lane.

The last Dutch director general was Petrus—or Peter—Stuyvesant. He was the original "Peg-Leg Pete," for he had lost a leg in battle and wore a wooden peg, trimmed in silver. From the time Director Stuyvesant arrived in 1647, he ruled New Amsterdam with strict laws, a sharp tongue, and an iron fist. He was the *boss*, a word that comes from the Dutch *baas*, meaning "master."

To discourage pigs from roaming, Stuyvesant declared that anyone caught throwing garbage into the streets must pay a fine. This was America's first litter law—and to help to enforce it and other decrees, Peter Stuyvesant ordered the construction of a stout jail.

In 1658, Director Stuyvesant started the first paid police force in the country. Nicknamed the Prowlers, they patrolled the city at night, on the lookout for lawbreakers. They worried more about fire than about crime, and if a

Prowler saw a blaze beginning, he clattered a huge wooden rattle to awaken the volunteer fire brigade.

Even under Stuyvesant's vigilant eye, the troubles of the Dutch West India Company grew worse. The English were squeezing New Amsterdam from every direction. In 1664, Charles II, the king of England, gave his brother James, the Duke of York, all of Long Island and the city of New Amsterdam as a present. At once the Duke of York sent four gunboats into the harbor.

Stuyvesant was furious and tried to rally the citizens of New Amsterdam. But the practical townspeople refused to fight. Without a shot being fired, the city surrendered. The orange and white and blue banner of the Dutch West India Company was hauled down, and the red, white, and blue flag of England was raised above the city walls.

The Duke of York promptly renamed New Netherland and New Amsterdam. He called them both New York. But, nine years later, his pride took a tumble. Britain and the Netherlands went to war. This time it was the Dutch who sailed their warships into the harbor. The Dutch retook New York City.

The city then became New Orange, after the Dutch prince William of Orange—but not for long. When the war ended in 1674, New Orange was returned to England as part of the peace treaty.

The name New Orange was changed back to New York. And New York City it has remained.