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For Immediate Release

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Restored 1770 Ratzer Map Now on View to the Public at BHS February 2-May 1, 2011

February 2, 2011, Brooklyn, NY – Due to popular demand following the article about the Ratzer map that ran on the [front page of *The New York Times*](#), the recently restored 1770 Ratzer map is now on view to the public between February 2 and May 1, 2011. The map is available for viewing during the Brooklyn Historical Society's hours as follows: Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, 12pm-5pm and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Museum admission is free for BHS members; \$6 for adults; \$4 for teachers/students/seniors; children 12 and under are free.

While bringing our collections out of deep storage, we came upon an extremely rare map of New York City made by Bernard Ratzer in the late 1760s – only the fourth known copy of the map in the world. The map was in horrible condition. Varnished more than 200 years ago, it was discolored and brittle, with horizontal cracks every few inches along the entire map. Happily, our professional archive team sprang into action, and got the map to a conservator who first took emergency measures to stabilize it, and after 12 weeks returned the map to a magnificently conserved state (scroll down to see before and after images).

This map may be one of the most important artifacts representing New York on the eve of the American Revolution. We are gratified to fulfill our responsibility as caretakers of such an important document. You can now view this map in BHS' historic tile lobby through May 1, 2011.



The 1770 map before, left, and after its restoration.

The mission of the Brooklyn Historical Society is to connect the past to the present and make the vibrant history of Brooklyn tangible, relevant, and meaningful for today's diverse communities, and for generations to come. Founded in 1863, BHS functions as a library, museum and urban education center dedicated to the people of Brooklyn, providing opportunities for civic dialogue and thoughtful engagement.