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BANK OF NEW YORK CO INC

Form 424B3

October 12, 2004

The Bank of New York Company, Inc. [LOGO]

The Bank of New York Company, Inc.

\$529,297,000

The Bank of New York Company, Inc. CoreNotes(Registered Service Mark)

Filed under Rule 424 (b) (3), Registration Statement No. 333-103003,
333-103003-01, 333-103003-02, and 333-103003-03
Pricing Supplement No. 56 - dated October 08, 2004
(To prospectus dated August 10, 2004 and
prospectus supplement dated August 10, 2004)

| CUSIP Number | Aggregate Principal Amount | Price to Public(1) | Purchasing Agent's Discount(1) | Proceeds Before Expenses(1) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0640P1AC7 | \$4,249,000 | 100% | 2.00% | 98.00% |

| Interest Rate Per Annum | Interest Payment Frequency | Stated Maturity Date | Survivor's Option |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 5.40% | Semiannual | 10/15/2019 | YES |

Senior Subordinated Medium-Term Notes Series F

Interest Payment Dates: The 15th day of April and October of each year commencing 04/15/2005.

Redemption Information: Redeemable at the option of The Bank of New York Company, Inc. on 10/15/2007 and each Interest Payment Date thereafter, at a price equal to 100% on 30 calendar days notice.

| CUSIP Number | Aggregate Principal Amount | Price to Public(1) | Purchasing Agent's Discount(1) | Proceeds Before Expenses(1) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0640P1AD5 | \$1,400,000 | 100% | 2.50% | 97.50% |

| Interest Rate Per Annum | Interest Payment Frequency | Stated Maturity Date | Survivor's Option |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 5.55% | Semiannual | 10/15/2029 | YES |

Senior Subordinated Medium-Term Notes Series F

Interest Payment Dates: The 15th day of April and October of each year commencing 04/15/2005.

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Redemption Information: Redeemable at the option of The Bank of New York Company, Inc. on 10/15/2009 and each Interest Payment Date thereafter, at a price equal to 100% on 30 calendar days notice.

The Bank of New York Company, Inc.
One Wall Street
New York, New York 10286

Trade Date: 10/08/2004
Issue Date: 10/14/2004
Minimum Denominations/Increments: \$1,000/\$1,000
Original Issue Discount: No
All trades settle without accrued interest and clear SDFS: DTC Book-Entry only
Merrill Lynch DTC Participant Number: 161

The defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the Senior Indenture and the Senior Subordinated Indenture described under "Description of Senior Debt Securities and Senior Subordinated Debt Securities - Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance" in the Prospectus will apply to the Senior and Senior Subordinated Notes respectively.

(1) Expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount
"CoreNotes(Registered Service Mark)" is a registered service mark of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

Merrill Lynch & Co.
Purchasing Agent
Acting as Principal

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