



History Behind the Scenes

A Workshop Series for Elementary and Middle School American History Teachers



New York City Department of Education • Brooklyn Historical Society
Museum of the City of New York • New-York Historical Society

Join us for a series of workshops and discussions to learn what goes on behind the scenes in some of New York City's foremost history museums. Meet historians, curators, and museum educators to learn how they piece together clues to develop and utilize exhibits and write historical accounts. Work with museum staff and colleagues to engage in your own history investigations. Books and materials provided. Each of the institutions in this series will provide a 2-part workshop, one full-day and one after-school session. Register for one or both in the pair.

PART 3 and PART 4: **MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK** **March 24th, 4:30-6:30 PM and March 25th, 8:30-3:00 PM**

Part 3: Do Objects Tell Stories? An Evening with Archaeologist, Dr. Nan Rothschild

Museum of the City of New York

March 24th 2010, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

We are natural collectors and curators. Our objects, the things we collect and keep around us, can be pieced together creating stories of who we are. Museums often become the repositories for these pieces of history. Join us at the Museum of the City of New York for an evening of scholarly inquiry and debate focusing on the use of lost, broken or abandoned objects as primary sources in uncovering history's many layers. Dr. Nan Rothschild, Archaeologist and Director of the Museum Anthropology Program at Columbia University, will discuss archaeology in New York City and the use of objects in expressing history. From 1979-1981, Dr. Rothschild co-directed excavations at the Stadt Huys and Hanover Square Sites in Lower Manhattan, uncovering foundations of some original Euro-American structures in New Amsterdam/New York City, bringing to life the Colonial history of the city. During this session, we will use these sites as case studies to discuss the reciprocal relationship between museums and archaeology. Participants will receive a free book detailing the history of archaeology in New York City. Light refreshments will be provided. Participants are encouraged to attend the following full day session, which will build on Dr. Rothschild's lecture by exploring the "life" of a museum object.

Part 4: A Day in the Life of an Object

Museum of the City of New York

March 25th 2010, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

What do a *Delft* tile, tin toy, script from the Great Depression, 17th century map, and portrait of Dewitt Clinton all have in common?

Join us at the Museum of the City of New York for a full day of exploration as we "live the life" of a museum object and investigate the various ways objects are interpreted and analyzed, documenting the history of New York City, beginning with the 17th century. Participants will look at objects the way historians, archaeologists, and curators do, combining observation and inquiry with prior knowledge to discover the nature and function of objects in historical context. Furthermore, we will examine the role our modern objects, our everyday belongings, will play in telling future generations about our lives in New York City. Participants will learn strategies to bring objects to life in the classroom, from the remnants of yesteryear to the plastics of today. Participants will meet with Collection's Access staff for hands-on (while gloved of course!) activities and a behind the scenes look at a piece of the Museum's collection that includes more than 1.5 million objects, images, and documents. Participants will receive materials to use in the classroom. Light breakfast and lunch will be served.

To register for a workshop in the series, visit <http://pd.nycoit.org> , click on the Social Studies department, and scroll to "History Behind the Scenes."

www.nyctah.org