

January 30, 2006
Curator Brainstorming Meeting
NMAH

Curators Consulted:

1. James B. Gardner, Associate Director, Office of Curatorial Affairs
2. Ellen Roney Hughes, Associate Curator, Division of Music, Sports and Entertainment
3. Katherine Ott, Curator, Division of Medicine and Science
4. Marvette Perez, Curator, Division of Music, Sports and Entertainment
5. Harry R. Rubenstein, Chair and Curator, Division of Politics and Reform
6. Fath Davis Ruffins (Absent), Curator, Division of Home and Community Life
7. David H. Shayt, Associate Curator, Division of Work and Industry
8. Carlene E. Stephens, Curator, Division of Work and Industry
9. William H. Yeingst, Chair and Curator, Division of Home and Community Life

Concerns:

Pedagogical goals – analyzing material culture; object as launch point; multiple stories and interpretations

Not presenting objects in isolation

Presenting a range of genres: photographs, textiles, documents, objects, images

Iconic objects v. social history pieces

Coverage of standards – avoiding the black/white binary, and presentation of people of color as victims rather than creators and activists

Objects:

- 1750 Silver Teapot, made by Samuel Casey for Abigail Robinson, Little Rest (later Kingston), Rhode Island, 1750s
(<http://www.smithsonianlegacies.si.edu/objectdescription.cfm?ID=249>) and
(<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=183>)
- Revolutionary clocks, built by Peter Hill, African American craftsman
(<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ontime/marking.html>)
- **Jefferson's Declaration Desk 1776 (note from 1825)**
(<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=544>)
- 1802 Russian Chain Mail vest – owned by first governor of Alaska given to local Native American tribe (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=173>)
- Star Spangled Banner (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=526>)
- "Harp of Judah," Nineteenth-Century African Methodist Episcopal Church hymnal
(<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=96>)
- Sunstone Capital from the Mormon Temple in Nauvoo, IL. (1840s)
(<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=199>)
- Lancets (bleeding, health and origins of disease)
- Mechanical Leeches
- Ginger root beer (early 19th century; alcoholic republic, water supply)
- 1848 Gold Nugget (expansion, the West, Mexican American War and relations)
(<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=122>)

- General Sheridan's Horse (or famous horses more generally) (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=527>)
- Lincoln's Hat (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=310>)
- John L. Sullivan's boxing belt (first major sports celebrity, 1880s) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/sports/exhibit/firsts/sullivan/index.cfm>)
- Rubel Offset Lithographic Press (1905) (<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=395>)
Lithographic printing became the dominant printing process.
- Ballot Box (invention of secret ballot, how and why people vote, who)
- Gertrude Ederle's goggles from her swim across the English Channel (World War I – proving German loyalty) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/sports/exhibit/firsts/ederle/index.cfm>)
- "Jailed for Freedom" pin (1917) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=186>)
- English Language Poster (1917) (<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=118>)
- Fitter Family medals (1920)
- Pullman Porter's Blanket (1930s-1950s) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=151>)
- Japanese Lantern (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=525>)
- "We Can Do It!" poster (2 week display, 2 originals, contrast with other WWII posters that are not about empowerment, but about discipline and production) (<http://americanhistory2.si.edu/victory/8713107a.gif>)
- Electric guitars (range, "Dragon" from the 1950s [2000.0074.01] (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=225>), Prince's Yellow Cloud [1993.0435.01] (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=68>))
- Liquid Stockings (WWII, appearance, make-up, consumer culture) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=133>)
- Fallout Shelter
- 1950s Chemistry Set (<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=89>)
- Racine Bell's Yearbook (1954) (<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=174>)
- **Greensboro Lunch Counter** (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/6-legacy/freedom-struggle-2.html>)
- Caesar Chavez's Union Jacket (1993.0409.01) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=104>)
- Short handled hoe (http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_1034.html)
- Korean adoption materials
- Immigration materials from Vietnamese boat people
- Dizzy Gillespie's Trumpet (1972) (<http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=68>)
- Dave's Dream Lowrider (<http://www.historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=215>)
- Barbie doll is costumed and accessorized as a representation of The Virgin of Caridad del Cobre, Patron Saint of Cuba (1997.0178.01) (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object.cfm?key=35&objkey=120>)
- Sewing Machine from 1995 El Monte, Calif., sweatshop raid (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/sweatshops/intro/intro.htm>)