

PETER LIEBHOLD

National Museum of American History
MRC 629
PO Box 37012
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
(202) 633-3915
liebholdp@si.edu

Current Research Interests

Culture of work, agriculture, management practice, manufacturing technology, methods and motivations of technological change, work imagery, immigration and migration

Professional Experience

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History
Curator, Division of Work and Industry – 2016-present
Chair, Division of Work and Industry - 2005 - 2016
Curator, Division of History of Technology, 1988-2005
Museum Specialist, Division of Photographic History, 1985-1988

National Council on Public History
Executive Board, 2009 - 2012
The Public Historian, Editorial Board, 2004 – 2010

Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1981-1985
Exhibits coordinator

Maryland Historical Society, 1980-1981
Technician glass plate negative project

Education

BFA Maryland Institute College of Art 1980

Exhibitions

Hidden Workers, Forgotten Lives: Chinese Immigrant Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad, co-curator, (New Perspectives case within American Enterprise), January 2018 – July 2019

Precision Farming, (New Perspectives case within American Enterprise), January 2018 – July 2018

Work Incentives, (New Perspectives case within American Enterprise), July 2017- January 2018

Starting Up (New Perspectives case within American Enterprise), April 2016- September 2017

American Enterprise: Stories of Business, 1770- present, co-curator, July, 2015

American Roots: A photographic history of farming and ranching in the United States, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations; Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies hearing room, 11-2013

Sweet and Sour: The Chinese Restaurant in the US, co-curator, March 2011

Creating Hawai'i: Perception versus Reality, co-curator, August 11, 2009 – March, 2011, co-curator

Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program 1942 – 1964, September 9, 2009– January 3, 2010, (currently traveling), Project Director

Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration after Exclusion, November 21, 2008 - August 4, 2009, co-curator

Treasures of American History, National Air and Space Museum, November 2006 – March 2008, co-curator

History in the News: September 11, September 2003, an ongoing changing exhibition 2003 - 2006, co-curator

America on the Move, National Museum of American History, November 2003, co-curator

The Spirit of America, National Museum of American History, lead curator 2001-2002, project canceled by donor

From Turbines to Tupperware: Two Centuries of Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian Institution, Payne Gallery, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, August 3 - November, 2001, co-curator

Preview Center, National Museum of Industrial History, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in development

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops, 1820 - Present, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC, April - Dec. 1998, Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles, California, November 1999 - March 2000, co-curator

The Family Car, National Museum of American History, June 1997- August 1997, co-curator

Images of Steel: 1860-1994, National Museum of American History, 1994-1995, co-curator

The Paper Shuffle, National Museum of American History, Information Age Theater, 1993, multi-media presentation, co-curator

Who's In Charge? Workers and managers in the United States, SITES traveling exhibit, 1992-1996, co-curator

The Tool Chest, National Museum of American History, 1991-2003, co-curator

Workers and Manager's: The Crises of Control in American Manufacturing, National Museum of American History, 1989-1990, co-curator

Information Age, National Museum of American History, 1990-1996, section coordinator

Large Object Installations

Waterloo Boy (large object installation), January 2018 -

Tucker (large object installation), 2016 – January 2019

Cotton planter (artifact walls),

John Deere plow (artifact walls),

Publications

David Allison, Nancy Davis, Kathleen Franz, and Peter Liebhold. *American Enterprise: A History of Business in America*, Washington, DC, Smithsonian Books, 2015

Peter Liebhold, Harry Rubenstein, "El Monte Sweatshop," article contribution in *The Encyclopedia of Modern Slavery*, ABC-CLIO, 2011

Katy Kendrick, Peter Liebhold, *Smithsonian Treasures of American History*, New York, Collins, 2006

Peter Liebhold, Harry Rubenstein, "Bringing Sweatshops into the Museum," a chapter in *Sweatshops USA*, Richard Greenwald and Daniel Bender eds., Taylor and Francis Books, Inc., New York, 2003

Peter Liebhold, "Industrial Photographs," an essay in *At First Sight: Photography and the Smithsonian*, Merry Foresta ed., Smithsonian Press, summer 2003

Peter Liebhold, "Hillotypes: A Sad Tale of Invention," *Photographic History*, Spring 2000, Vol. 24, No. 1, p 52

Peter Liebhold, "Experiences from the Front Line: Presenting a Controversial Exhibition during the Culture Wars," *Public Historian*, Vol. 22, No. 3, summer 2000, p. 67-86

Peter Liebhold, Harry Rubenstein, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops, 1820 Present*, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Los Angeles, CA, 1999

Peter Liebhold, Steven Lubar, "What Do We Keep?" *Invention and Technology*, Spring 1999, vol. 14, no. 4, pp 28-38

Peter Liebhold, Harry Rubenstein, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops, 1820 -Present," entry on History Matters web site (www.historymatters.gmu.edu)

Peter Liebhold, Harry Rubenstein, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," *Labor's Heritage*, Vol. 9, No. 4, Spring 1998, pp 4-25

Peter Liebhold, "Seeking The One Best Way: Frank and Lillian Gilbreth's Time-Motion Photographs 1910-1924", *Labor's Heritage*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Fall 1995, pp 30-61

Peter Liebhold, "Communicating Business: Corporate Agendas Through Photographs", *Antenna*, Vol. 7, No. 2, April 1995, p 4-5

Peter Liebhold, "Presenting History: Democracy on Display, *Exhibitionist*", Vol. 14, No. 2, Fall 1995, p 18-21

Peter Liebhold et al, *Who's in Charge: Constructed Realities*, SITES, Washington, D.C. 1992, co-author

John Garraty, editor, *American National Biography*, "Albert Kingsbury," article contribution

Peter Liebhold, *Cutting Tool Engineering*, "History of Tools" series " 1989-1991: The Development of high-speed Steel", June, 1989; "Bicycle Wheels and Grinding Wheels", August, 1989; "The World's Most Elegant Lathe", October, 1989; "Evolution of Drilling", February, 1990 ; "Threading Through History", August, 1990; "The Milling-Machine Revolution", October, 1990; "Hand Files", February 1991; "Gaging Change", March, 1991

Peter Liebhold, "J. B. Colt at Chautauqua", *Rittenhouse*, vol 2, no 2, February 1988

Reviews (journals)

Peter Liebhold, "Levi's Lobby," an exhibition review of the Levi Strauss lobby exhibition in San Francisco, CA, *The Public Historian*, vol. 33, no. 1, pp 82 – 85, February, 2011. vol. 33, no. 1, pp 82 – 85, February 2011

Peter Liebhold, "Special Review Section: Corporate Presentations of History", vol. 33, no. 1, pp 71- 72, February, 2011

Peter Liebhold, "The World Forestry Center Discovery Museum," an exhibition review of the World Forestry Center in Portland, OR, *The Public Historian*, winter, 2010

Peter Liebhold, "Tasty Treats: Johnson and Wales Culinary Archives and Museum," an exhibition review of the Johnson and Wales Museum and Culinary Archive in Providence, RI, *The Public Historian*, 2009

Peter Liebhold, "Washington City Museum", a review essay looking at the future of heritage tourism and city museums, *Public Historian*, fall 2004

Elizabeth Brayer, *George Eastman: A Biography*, book review, *Technology and Culture*, October, 1998, vol. 39, no. , pp. 784-785

M. Susan Barger and William White, *The Daguerreotype Nineteenth-Century Technology and Modern Science* and John Wood (edited by), *America and the Daguerreotype* book review, *Technology and Culture*, vol 34, no 2, April 1993

Lorraine Giordano, *Beyond Taylorism*, book review, *Annals of the History of Computing*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1994, pp 90-91

“The Working People of Richmond: Life and Labor in an Industrial City, 1865-1920”, Valentine Museum, exhibit review, *Technology and Culture*, volume 33, number 3, July 1992, p564-570

Selected Presentations

“Agricultural History at the Smithsonian,” RURAL conference, Homestead, VA., December 6, 2017

“America on the Move at middle age, T2M conference, Lancaster University, Lancaster, England, October 4, 2017

“Work Incentives: Poster, Pins, and Perks, 9/12/17 – NMAH colloquium

“Historians Under Pressure: Self-censorship and Worse in a Time of Change” (organizer and delivered presentation), NCPH 2017, April 2017

“American Experience Initiative,” Smithsonian/ASU Chinese Scholar Workshop, October 11-12, 2016, S.C. Johnson Conference Center, National Museum of American History, (organizer and participant)

“GMOs and Pioneers of Genetic Engineering,” 9/20/16 – NMAH colloquium

“Commercializing Agriculture,” National Defense University, 2/2/16, (invited speaker)

“Business History: A Layered Approach,” Business History Conference, 4/2/16 (session organizer and participant)

“American Enterprise,” Canadian Museum of Science, 12/15/15 (invited speaker)

“50 years of Public History: A retrospective through the experiences of the National Museum of American History,” organizer and moderator), NCPH, March 19-22, 2014

“Henry Ford: Visionary Industrialist,” Washington, DC Rotary, 4-22-14

“Culture of American Innovation,” East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, 2-2014

“American Enterprise,” American Studies Association conference, November 2013

“Respecting the Audience: American Enterprise – A Case Study”, at the 2013 NCPH conference, Ottawa, Canada, April 2013.

“Who Drank What: Chocolate and Other Beverages in Colonial America”, American Chocolate Society Annual Meeting, November 2012, Williamsburg, VA.

“American Enterprise: Stories of Business in America”, European Business History Association, Paris, France, April 2012

“Biography and Museum”, organized and co-directed a working group at NCPH, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2012

“Agricultural Frontiers: Chemurgy to Biotech” NMAH colloquium, October 2011.

“Food for the Future: Chemurgy to Biotech,” The Public History of Science and Technology conference, University of South Carolina, September 2011

“Remembering The Bad Times,” at the 2011 NCPH conference. The paper looked at the challenge of doing controversial topics.

“Mining Landscapes and Their Publics”, commenter, NCPH conference, March 13, 2010, Portland, Oregon

“Who’s History Now? Guestworkers on Exhibition” an invited participant in National Museum in a Transnational Age: A Conversation Between Historians and Museum Professionals, Prato Italy, November 1-4, 2009

“From Cacao to Complexity: The Mass Production of Cocoa Powder and Chocolate Bars” at Chocolate: The North American Experience, March 7, 2009 Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History

"Collecting Contemporary Trauma," an invited lecture in the Frontiers of Public Humanities: New Challenges and New Directions colloquium series at the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University, Providence, RI., March 8, 2006

"Collecting Current Events: September 11 at the National Museum of American History, " in the session *History in the News: September 11 and the Role of Institutions*, organizer and panelist, National Council on Public History, Annual conference, Houston, Texas, April 25, 2003

Building a National Museum, Filipino American National Historical Society conference, Los Angeles, California, July 26, 2002

Photography exhibitions at the National Museum of American History, Filipino American National Historical Society conference, Los Angeles, California, July 27, 2002

Public History Under Scrutiny, MARAC conference, Towson, Maryland, April 19, 2002

Managerial Propaganda? Deconstructing Work Incentive Posters, presentation, Monrovia College, October 17, 2001

Panelist National Council on Public History, Annual conference, Ottawa, Canada, April 21, 2001

Panelist, *Documenting Immigration and Migration*, MARAC conference, Richmond, VA, October 26, 2001.

Museums as News: Insights on Controversial Exhibitions, presentation, College of Notre Dame, Renaissance Program, Baltimore, MD, September 25, 2001

Filipino History at the National Museum of American History, Filipino American National Historical Society conference, Stockton, CA, March 23, 2001

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Sweatshop in America, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 11, 1999

Sweatshops and Efforts of Reform, symposium No Sweat U: Labor Standards and Codes of Conduct, October 6, 1998, Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History

Sweatshops and the Culture Wars, colloquium presentation, June 30, 1998, National Museum of American History

Between a Rock and a Hard Place, Industrial History Conference, Bethlehem, PA, March 27, 1998. paper

Crafting a New Image in the American Steel Industry, 1940-1960, Society of the History of Technology conference, London, August 2, 1996

Retouching the Corporate Image, National Museum of American History colloquium, May 7, 1996

Challenge of Doing Work History for Museums, Working Class Lives/ Working Class Studies conference, Youngstown State University, June 10, 1995

Rationalization or Technomorphism: Frank and Lillian Gilbreth and the Cult of Scientific Management, "Industrialization and the Human Body", Hagley Fellows Conference, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE, March, 12, 1993

Blogs

These Tractors Show 150 Years of Farming History, NMAH website, February, 2017

Great napkins of history: Laffer and Zandman's sketches of breakthrough ideas, NMAH website, October 6, 2017

Coming of age: Young women and the FFA, NMAH website, May 24, 2017

Populism and the World of Oz, NMAH website, November 2, 2016

Preston Tucker's sedan: Showcasing a beautiful business failure, NMAH website, August 10, 2016

Remembering Forrest Mars, Jr., NMAH website, July 28, 2016

Is America exceptional: A business history curator's perceptive, NMAH website, August 18, 2015

Collecting September 11: One curator's story, NMAH website, August 3, 2011

Catalog entries and other miscellanea

"The Dairy Industry and the Canning of Milk"— a short essay for the National Film Preservation Foundation website describing a silent industrial film produced for Libby, McNeill & Libby Company in 1917, submitted May 2017

"From Ore to Finished Product" — a short essay for the National Film Preservation Foundation website describing a silent industrial film produced for National Tube Company in 1917, submitted February 2015

Prizes

The 2010 Outstanding Public History Project Award from the National Council on Public History. The award recognizes the Bracero History Project, a collaboration between the NMAH, University of Texas El Paso, Brown University, and George Mason University in creating an important oral history project (over 700 individual stories), an exhibition (Bittersweet Harvest), and a large website

The G. Wesley Johnson Prize, for outstanding article in *Public Historian*, National Council on Public History, 2001.

Public Programs

Pioneers of Genetic Engineering, 11/17/16 – evening event

Chocolate: The North American Experience, March 7, 2009 Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, co-organizer

Object of History program, (an online collaboration with George Mason University and NMAH featuring museum objects such as the short handle hoe and the Sutter Mill gold nugget.) 2007

"Envisioning Bracero History," conference, El Paso Texas, Nov. 10-12, 2005, co-organizer

No Sweat U: Labor Standards and Codes of Conduct symposium, October 5-6, 1998, Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History

25th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, April 29, 1996, Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History

Economic Security and Progress: Commemoration of the 50th year of the Employment Act of 1946, February 20, 1996, NMAH

Wages and Jobs in an Era of Downsizing (part II of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Employment Act of 1946), May 1, 1996, NMAH

Coordinator of “Work in Progress” lecture series, NMAH, 1988 - 1995

“Workers and Managers” a series of evening programs including symposia and films on the changing relationship between labor and management; December 1989 - February 1990, Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, co-organizer

Video History

El Monte, 1997

Washington Steel, 1997

Gerber Scientific, 1996

Chic Blue Jeans, 1996

Delphi Electric, 1996

New United Motor Manufacturing, 1991

Research Fieldwork

Motorola (Phoenix)

Iowa farming

Chicken production (Harrisonburg, VA)

Illinois farming (harvest)

Earthbound farms

3-M (sandpaper and Ziploc bags)

Intel (California)

Intel (Hillsboro, OR)

Consulting Activities

Planning and development consultant to National Museum of Industrial History, 1996- 2016

Point Reyes National Seashore, Museum Management Plan, January 2005

American Library Association, American Immigrant Literature, October 2004

Development plan for West Point Foundry Preserve, Countryside Exchange,

Scenic Hudson Land, September 2004

Planning charette, Presido, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara, California, 2003

National Roundtable on Collecting Textile History, Museum of Textile History, Lowell Massachusetts, October, 2001

Design charette, Sloss Furnace, Birmingham, Alabama, 1997

Committee Work

2017 NCPH Conference Program Committee, co-chair

The Public Historian editorial board, 2006-2010
National Council on Public History national board, 2010-2012
SI Fellowship Review Committee
NMAH Collection Committee

Film, TV, and Magazine content reviewer (non-peer review publications)

Richard Platt, *Smithsonian Visual Timeline of Inventions*, 1994 review board member

Pearson textbook project (John Deere plow, Joseph Miller knife maker's sign, Laffer curve napkin, sugarcane harvesting knife, sweatshop sewing machine, time clock, and gold washer's snuffbox). Review images and script of short films highlighting NMAH objects to accompany a Pearson textbook on American history. Work took place throughout 2017

SI Networks TV, content review

America in Color - reviewer

Crime; reviewed 2017

The 1930s; reviewed 2017

The 1940s; reviewed 2017

The 1950s; reviewed 2017

Titans; reviewed 2017

Mad Men - reviewer

Episode 1; reviewed 2016

Episode 2; reviewed 2016

Episode 3; reviewed 2016

Episode 4; reviewed 2016

Andrew Carnegie: Rags to Riches, Power to Peace; reviewed 2015 - reviewer

Pioneers to Millionaires: John Jacob Astor; reviewed 2010 - reviewer

Pioneers to Millionaires: Henry J. Heinz; reviewed 2010 - reviewer

Mighty Machines: Power Plants - reviewer

Hidden Workers, Forgotten Live; mission critical proposal in consideration;
submitted May 10, 2018

Drinks, Crime, and Prohibition; two part mission critical show, proposal co-
author, content interviews, and reviewer; aired June 11 and June 18, 2018

Cotton Culture; mission critical proposal co-author; in consideration; submitted
May 11, 2017

WWII Women on the Home Front & Beyond, mission critical proposal co-author;
in consideration; submitted September 2016