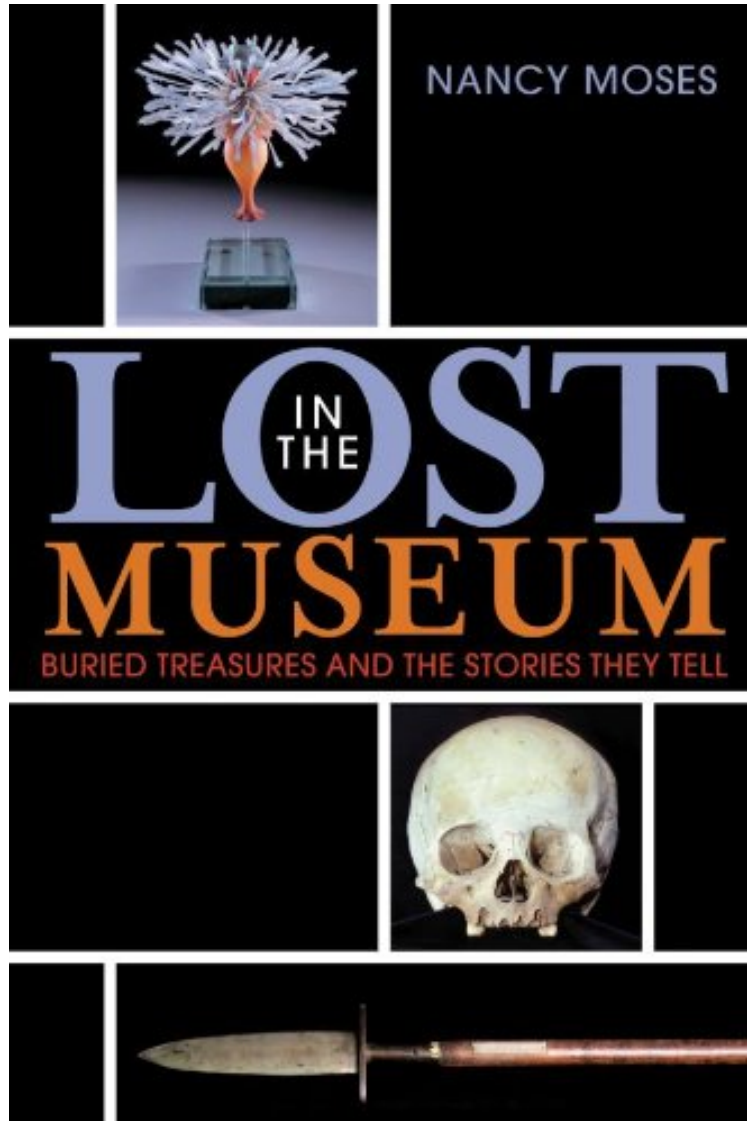


(Download) Lost in the Museum: Buried Treasures and the Stories They Tell

Lost in the Museum: Buried Treasures and the Stories They Tell

Nancy Moses

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Nancy Moses : Lost in the Museum: Buried Treasures and the Stories They Tell before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Lost in the Museum: Buried Treasures and the Stories They Tell*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Lost (and found) in the Museum* By Customer Since Nancy Moses was just named Chair of the PA State Historical Museum Commission, and I volunteer at a PA Museum, I thought I would read her dreary book. Boy was I wrong! I've been up late at night reading this page turner. Ms Moses takes what sounds like a dry, dusty subject and breathes life into it. She goes into several museums and asks the director for the story on his or her favorite piece that the public seldom or never sees. Then, Ms Moses takes you on the fascinating

journey to get "the rest of the story". She gets to go places we would never be able to get into: archives, research areas of museums, storage areas, all places labeled "Keep Out" to us, to get the story. We see the drawing for the plan of the US Capitol Dome, then go with Ms Moses up into the inside of it. We see an exquisite and colorful glass sea creature, and learn about the father and son that devoted their lives to recreating many exotic sea animals. All in all if you have any interest in history, this book is for you. I can't wait to read her next book!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I think this book is fun for museum professionals but also enjoyable for casual readers.

By PSReviews I think this book is fun for museum professionals but also enjoyable for casual readers. You get to see some of the stranger items being housed in museums - and all the items are completely different.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Illuminating

By Old Saratoga Books This is an engagingly written and interesting overview of the difficulties and challenges facing museum curators today. From the excellent introduction to its helpful resource section, the book accomplishes what a great museum does: it lets one immerse one's self in another time and place.

Few beyond the insider realize that museums own millions of objects the public never sees. In *Lost in the Museum*, Nancy Moses takes the reader behind the employees only doors to uncover the stories buried along with the objects in the crypts of museums, historical societies, and archives. Moses discovers the actual birds shot, stuffed, and painted by John James Audubon, America's most beloved bird artist; a spear that abolitionist John Brown carried in his quixotic quest to free the slaves; and the skull of a prehistoric Peruvian child who died with scurvy. She takes the reader to Ker-Feal, the secret farmhouse that Albert Barnes of the Barnes Foundation filled with fabulous American antiques and that was then left untouched for more than fifty years. Weaving the stories of the object, its original owner, and the often idiosyncratic institution where the object resides, the book reveals the darkest secret of the cultural world: the precarious balance of art, culture, and politics that keep items, for decades, lost in the museum.

This wonderful book not only tells the stories of fascinating museum objects rarely seen by the public, but also recounts the difficulties and triumphs faced by museums in preserving them for future generations. It is about time that the role of museums as stewards of collections takes center stage in our public discourse. This book will help to achieve this end. (Ildiko Pogany DeAngelis, Director, Museum Studies Program, The George Washington University) A deliciously written narrative that takes us through an intimate and layered exploration of nine museums, their most extraordinary artifacts and the characters who are revealed through them, from John Brown to a Tibetan princess. Full of surprises and fun. A gem for anyone who loves museums and their 'stuff.' (Anne D. Emerson, president, The Boston Museum)

In my efforts as a History Detective on PBS, I am often asked to enter the employees only sections, the crypts and the hidden archives in the vaults of museums, libraries, and storage rooms. Nancy Moses' book takes the process of detecting history to another level and puts it down on paper. I like what she has done, and I believe that others will find her work inviting and appealing. (Tukufu Zuberi, PBS's History Detectives and Professor, University of Pennsylvania)

The one thing that this book can teach us, especially those who hold the purse strings, is this: collecting objects is not enough. Caring for objects is not enough. What is needed above all else are curators to expand the pool of knowledge about these objects and to pass that knowledge on to this and future generations. (Colin Hynson *Museums Journal*) A fascinating look at what is in our vaults and storage areas . . . *Lost in the Museum* should be a required read in museum studies courses. It would enlighten museum staff and volunteers, and should be presented to any municipal council member whose district includes a museum. (*Muse*, November / December 2008)

Taking the almost five billion items in the possession of America's museums and archives as her point of departure, Nancy Moses takes us on a fascinating exploration of the 'stuff' in the attics, basements, and storage vaults of these institutions. Along the way she regales us not only with wonderful narratives about selected objects, but also rich insights into museum politics, curatorial decision-making, and struggles for resources and relevance. This behind-the-scenes expedition will appeal not only to museum professionals, but to anyone who has ever wondered about the workings of modern museums. (James A. Miller, Chair, American Studies Department, The George Washington University)

About the Author A cultural development consultant and former executive director of the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia, Nancy Moses has spent much of her career bringing history to light and to life.