



LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Free, drop-in. For interested large groups, please email mksklar@dar.org.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

12 pm

Hal Wallace
Home in New Light



Americans adopted a new way of lighting their homes around 1900. Incandescent electric lamps were convenient and flexible but seemed complex and required connecting to electric lines. Over time, consumers and designers began reconsidering the very definition of good lighting. Mr. Wallace draws upon the Smithsonian collections to explore changes and tradeoffs people made as they shifted from open flames to electric lights in their homes.

Hal Wallace is Curator of the Electricity Collections at the National Museum of American History, and is a specialist in the history of electric light and power. Since joining NMAH in 1995, his work includes exhibitions, websites and publications.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

12 pm

Alice Kamps
Keeping Them Down on the Farm: Films from the National Archives on the Department of Agriculture's Efforts to Modernize Rural Households



Poor Mrs. Jones, 1925

The Department of Agriculture was involved in numerous efforts to help farm wives manage their household chores. Learn about their efforts through film clips from the motion picture holdings of the National Archives. Beginning with *Poor Mrs. Jones*, a 1925 silent film that tells the tale of a harried farm wife who discovers that city life is not what she had imagined, National Archives Curator Alice Kamps will show how the Department of Agriculture went from promoting the joys of fresh eggs to programs and outreach designed to modernize rural households.

Alice Kamps joined the exhibit department at the National Archives in 2009. She was the curator for the *Records of Rights* interactive table and the exhibits *America's Founding Documents* and *What's Cooking, Uncle Sam?*