



history

Detectives

23 X 53 **HD**



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contact

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: +1-617-208-0735
FAX: +1-617-208-0783

jt Koch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

Traditional investigative techniques, modern technologies, and plenty of leg-work are the tools the *History Detectives* team of experts uses to give new—and sometimes shocking—insights into history. Each hour-long episode features three investigations that delve into family legends, local folklore and stories behind potentially extraordinary objects in everyday American homes, cities and small towns. Follow the twists and turns of each investigation and find out more about the historical events that shaped America.

Hosted by a high-energy group of renowned experts in the world of historical investigations, their expertise ranges from architecture, popular culture and sociology to archeology, collectibles and genealogy. Wes Cowan is an independent appraiser and auctioneer; Elyse Luray is an independent appraiser and expert in art history; Gwendolyn Wright is a professor of architecture, planning and preservation, and professor of history at Columbia University; Tukufu Zuberi is a professor of sociology and director of the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and Eduardo Pagan is the Bob Stump Endowed Professor of History at Arizona State University.

Here are 3 sample investigations:

Ronald McDonald Costume

Have we found the original costume that launched Ronald McDonald? The label credits a well-known costume designer, and the costume looks similar to the suit in an early commercial, but there are some curious differences. The team consults with a food and social historian, meets McDonald's first chief marketing officer, and finally speaks with the widow of one of the first Ronald McDonald clowns.

Japanese Carved Cane

A California man hopes that a hand-carved cane that belonged to his grandparents who were sent to an Arizona relocation camp after Pearl Harbor will reveal more about his family's past, but he can't read the characters and his grandparents have passed away. After translating the Japanese words, a curator places this cane into the tradition of "gaman"—the art of living with the unbearable, also revealing a surprising clue about the cane's original owner.

Drug Smuggling Doll

Did the Confederacy use a child's doll to smuggle drugs past the Northern blockade? The family of Major General James Patton Anderson says the general's young niece carried the doll named 'Nina' past the blockade with morphine and quinine tucked inside her hollow head. *History Detectives* tracks down the story behind 'Nina,' a 'much loved member of the Anderson family' and determines if she helped to relieve suffering and save lives during the War Between the States.

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credits

Producers: Steve J. Boettcher and Michael J. Trinklein

Director: Steve J. Boettcher

Writer: Michael J. Trinklein

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