

Celebrating 275 Years of Useful Knowledge

Guiding Questions

- What names do you recognize in this timeline? What are these people well known for?
 - There are a lot of well-known historical figures associated with the APS. Have you ever heard of the APS before this? Why might these people be famous, but not the Society? How are they different? What do they have in common?
- From its beginning to 1869, Ekaterina Romanova Dashkova was the only woman elected to the APS. Why do you think that is?
 - How do people become scientists? Why might a woman or person of color not have these chances in the past (or now)?
- The first African American member of the APS was elected in 1950. Why do you think it took so long? How were African American people treated when the Society was founded in 1743?
- The APS holds a collection of Native American objects and languages from over 600 Indigenous communities. Why are collections like this important?
 - Explore the database (<https://indigenousguide.amphilsoc.org/>) for digitized records of Indigenous languages and identify how this might be currently utilized.
- In 1942, the APS returned a segment of the Tribute Roll of Montezuma back to the Mexican people. More recently, museums have begun to focus on reparations and decolonization of their collections in order to deconstruct traditional museum narratives that focus on telling historical narratives from a Eurocentric perspective and, in some cases, return collections and objects to their original owners.
 - Why do you think the APS returned the Tribute Roll of Montezuma to the Mexican people, but not other objects originating from Mexico?
 - Should museums return objects that were taken without asking? How does this factor into decolonizing museums?

Classroom Activities

- Examine how the APS collections in this exhibit represent changes and growth in American History.
 - Consider as well how much further museums and collections such as the APS need to work in becoming more diverse and inclusive and conducting meaningful change.