



Celebrating P.T. Barnum's 200th Birthday!

How to Pull Off a Sort of Successful Archaeological Hoax: The Sordid but Silly Tale of the Cardiff Giant

On Saturday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. The Barnum Museum will feature a discussion by Central Connecticut State University Professor Kenneth Feder about the astounding story of P.T. Barnum's Cardiff Giant and the truth behind one of the most famous hoaxes in U.S. history.

How to Pull off a Sort of Successful Archaeological Hoax: The Sordid But Silly Tale of the Cardiff Giant will delve into the story behind the Cardiff Giant, once thought to be the remains of a human being dating back to a period early in the history of the world.

As part of the story goes, George Hull of Syracuse N.Y. actually created the fake "Cardiff giant" and had it buried on the property of his brother-in-law. Hull then staged a discovery of the fake giant on October 16, 1869. As the 141st anniversary of this "discovery" nears, Professor Feder will explore the truth behind the hoax, the role that P.T. Barnum played in it and why people were willing to pay 50 cents each to view the giant. Once you hear the explanation, it will be clear why the people who lined up to see the giant were considered "suckers."

Kenneth Feder has been a professor in CCSU Department of Anthropology since 1977. He is the founder and director of the Farmington River Archaeological Project, a long-term investigation of the prehistory of the Farmington River Valley. He is the author and co-author of several books including: *"Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology"* and *"Frauds, Myths and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology."*

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Phineas Taylor Barnum, born July 5, 1810 in Bethel CT this year, The Barnum Museum is chronicling the life and times of this extraordinary showman and the history of Bridgeport where Barnum served as Mayor. For a complete listing of anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, visit www.barnum-museum.org. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

What: *How to Pull Off a Sort of Successful Archaeological Hoax:
The Sordid but Silly Tale of the Cardiff Giant, a tale by Kenneth Feder*

Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

When: Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Program is free with General Admission: Adults: \$8, Seniors and College Students: \$6, Children 4 - 17: \$5, Under 4: Free

For more information visit www.barnum-museum.org or call 203-331-1104.

Regular museum hours Wednesdays – Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sundays noon – 4:30 p.m. Last admission at 3:45 p.m.