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## Life Below Stairs at Downton Abbey An Illustrated Talk *Upstairs* at Bartow-Pell

*Cultural Historian Lorella Brocklesby Discusses the Series' Portrayal of Servants' Lives*

*Bronx, NY, January 6, 2014*— The *Downton Abbey* series spends almost as much time on the lives of the household staff as it does on the aristocrats they serve, but how accurate are the portrayals of life below stairs? On Thursday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m., Lorella Brocklesby will give insight into this and more in an illustrated talk in the elegant Greek Revival double parlors of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum.

The popular BBC series, which just commenced its fourth season on PBS, takes place during a time when domestic service was Great Britain's largest single occupation. Ms. Brocklesby, a Londoner who has lived in the U.S. for many years, is a cultural historian with a focus on the history of architecture, literature, art, design, and social history in England and America.

She is an Adjunct Professor of Humanities at New York University, the on-campus Program Director for NYU's non-credit summer program at Christ Church, Oxford, and is on the faculty of Parsons: The New School for Design where she is a part-time associate teaching professor.

A frequent speaker at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Ms. Brocklesby has given many Smithsonian Seminars as well, most recently in February 2013 on Edwardian England. For several years she taught the history of garden design at the New York Botanical Garden. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts which was founded in 1754.

There will be a reception after the presentation. **Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via email at [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).** Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students, and members.

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*Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.*