

THE HISTORY OF SALONS

ORIGINS

Salon was the name for a social gathering, typically at the invitation of a woman that was common in Europe in 17th century. The origins are traced to Italy but they were popularized and formalized by a French aristocrat, Madame Catherine de Rambouillet, who invited Parisian intelligentsia to her home to discuss various topics ranging from politics to arts.

EUROPE AND ABROAD

Early gatherings were typically informal but became increasingly less so as the concept spread across the continent, out to their colonies, and across the globe. During the Enlightenment, as well as at the American Revolution, salons were an occasion for artists, politicians, writers, and thinkers to gather. Rules of etiquette, determined by the *salonnière*, shaped how participants interacted and what they discussed.

AN AMERICAN SPIN

Early American salons were most commonly held in the homes of white women with access to political or social capital through their father or husband, including Martha Washington. Black literary societies during Reconstruction added debate and text-based discussions. During the Harlem Renaissance, the salon was adapted by authors such as Zora Neale Hurston, who used the structure to support Black playwrights and poets. In the 50s and 60s, salons were a way of establishing common ground between political groups in NYC and D.C.

Sources:
It's Time to Bring Back the Experience of the Salon. Here's How to Do It (<https://www.veranda.com/luxury-lifestyle/entertaining/a37078833/salon-entertaining/>)
SchoolmarmAdvisors.com
(<https://schoolmarmadvisors.com/why-schoolmarm/>)

WHAT'S A SCHOOLMARM?

Schoolmarm is an archaic term for a woman who worked in a school. Depending on which resource you read, a schoolmarm was a vibrant young, unmarried woman teacher or an elderly, unattractive woman teacher who lost her *joie de vivre*. A schoolmarm was gentle and kind. She was harsh and beat her students to achieve her pedagogical goals. She was a wise, rich source of knowledge. She was naïve and knew nothing about the “real” world. She was terse. She was patient. She was someone to be pitied. She was someone to be admired.

In a word, “schoolmarm” captures the tensions and dilemmas of American education.

NO MORE APPLES FOR TEACHER; NEW RULES BAR ALL PRESENTS

Can't Give “Schoolmarm” Shower or Party During Hours, Rules Say.

No longer need little Johnny and Mary spend their time before school in polishing a nice red apple to give teacher in hopes of obtaining a better report card!

This custom, as old as the public

BLUESTEM WHEAT BEST IN PALOUSE

Farmers Who Substitute Other Varieties Are

Every nook and corner of interest in Washington is being inspected by prying girls from Kentucky. More than 300 of the young women from the Blue Grass state reached this city yesterday. They are all schoolmarms and will remain here sightseeing several days before going to Atlantic City.

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