

In view of the knowledge to be acquired':  
public visits to New York's asylums in the  
nineteenth century.

## 'In View of the Knowledge to be Acquired': Public Vis New York's Asylums in the Nineteenth Century.

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### **Abstract:**

This chapter examines asylum tourism in nineteenth-century New York. It argues that the popularity of visits by undermines the notion that asylums were segregated from greater society, and instead, suggests that these insti embedded within the social and cultural landscape of the time. While challenging many of our assumptions reg relationship of asylums with their greater communities, the phenomenon of visiting enhances our understandi attitudes towards the mentally ill and the experiences of patients themselves. As people believed asylums repres remarkable in society, visiting provides new perspectives on the social role of these institutions and nineteenth- practices more generally.

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