

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHILADELPHIA TREASURES
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER
A supplement to Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives

Philadelphia, PA – Over the years, Philadelphia has served as the location of countless memorable events. The National Constitution Center will pay homage to these unforgettable moments with *Philadelphia Treasures*, a special supplement to *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*, on display from May 25 through September 3, 2007.

Philadelphia Treasures will feature a wide array of artifacts pertaining to major local events, including the formation of the Underground Railroad, the outbreak of Yellow Fever, and the certification of the first United States Mint, among others.

Treasures on display will include the first written protest against slavery, which was recently rediscovered in a vault at the Arch Street Meeting House, on loan from Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Special Collections, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Records, Germantown Monthly Meeting; the Minute Book of the Vigilant Committee, the first Underground Railroad organization founded and run by African Americans, on loan from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Francis Scott Key's manuscript copy of the *Star Spangled Banner*, on loan from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; a vest worn by a Philadelphia man who fell victim to Yellow Fever in 1793, from the Germantown Historical Society; a bleeding/shaving bowl used during the Yellow

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ADD ONE/PHILADELPHIA TREASURES

Fever epidemic, on loan from the Mutter Museum; an iron lung – first used in Philadelphia, also on loan from the Mutter Museum; certification appointing Henry Voigt the coiner of the Mint in Philadelphia, which was written while Philadelphia was the capital of the U.S., on loan from the National Archives, Mid-Atlantic Region; Edgar Allen Poe's bankruptcy filing, on loan from the National Archives, Mid-Atlantic Region; and more.

Visitors can also have a seat to watch original footage of the classic Philadelphia-based show, *American Bandstand*, which will be shown on a 1950s television set in the exhibit. Video clips of the top ten Philadelphia occurrences, as voted by area residents, will be provided by CBS 3 and shown throughout the exhibit. Visit www.cbs3.com for details.

Philadelphia Treasures was developed in partnership with the America Philosophical Society, Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute, Free Library of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, The Library Company of Philadelphia, National Archives and Records Administration Mid-Atlantic Region, and University of Pennsylvania Library.

From May 25 through September 3, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*. The exhibition presents first-hand accounts of watershed events in American history. Through letters, diaries, photographs, and audio and film recordings from the National Archives and its Presidential libraries, visitors to the *Eyewitness* exhibition will gain new and unique insights into well-known occurrences.

Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives is free with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. An Acoustiguide audio tour is available for \$3 per person and \$2 for members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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ADD TWO/PHILADELPHIA TREASURES

Eyewitness was created by the National Archives and Record Administration, Washington, DC, and the Foundation for the National Archives. The national tour of *Eyewitness* is sponsored by The Boeing Company. Beneficial Savings Bank is the local presenting sponsor and CBS 3 Eyewitness News is the official media partner for the Constitution Center's showing of the *Eyewitness* exhibit.

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

CBS 3 (KYW-TV) is part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation consisting of 39 stations, including 21 CBS, 11 The CW, three MyNetworkTV and four independent stations not affiliated with major networks.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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