



# PRESS RELEASE



Inspiring curiosity through exploration



Valuing nature's wisdom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SCIENCE MUSEUM TO DISPLAY ONE OF THE LARGEST & OLDEST COLLECTIONS OF SOUTH PACIFIC ARTIFACTS IN THE COUNTRY

*Journeys Into Papua* features the PGT Black collection and items of Charles Rand Penney, Harold & Mary Cohen and the Australian Museum

**BUFFALO, NY (September 2, 2011)** - *Journeys Into Papua*, a unique, collections-based exhibit of Oceanic culture, is scheduled to open at the Buffalo Museum of Science (BMS) on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit presents artifacts collected from different South Pacific explorers and combines them to form a revealing look into life in Papua New Guinea. The exhibit runs through January 8, 2012 and is presented by Bank of America and its education sponsor is AAA Travel.

The exhibition features items from one of the museum's signature anthropological collections – the Percy George Theodore (PGT) Black Collection. Acquired in the 1930s due to the fundraising efforts of former Museum president, **Chauncey J. Hamlin**, the collection is one of the largest assemblages of Oceanic items in North America and rivals the A. B. Lewis collection at Chicago's Field Museum. This will be the first time many of the PGT Black pieces have ever been displayed for public view at BMS.

Born in England in 1860, PGT Black moved to Australia as a young man where he began working for Burns Philp & Co., Ltd., a company that supplied mission stations. Through his work and various contacts, Black made extensive collections of objects from the people he met on his travels between 1886 and 1914, making him among the earliest Westerners to visit the islands.

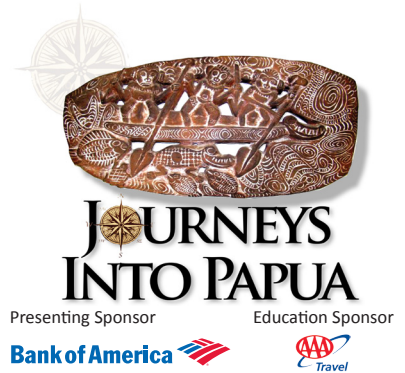
*Journeys Into Papua* presents a look at a selection of the 6,200-piece Black collection, photographs from the Australian Museum from explorer Frank Hurley, and additional pieces from Buffalonians **Charles Rand Penney** and **Harold and Mary Cohen**, Buffalo citizens who traveled to the unique islands in the Pacific. In all, *Journeys Into Papua* looks at over 100 years of travel to the South Seas.



PGT Black (second from left) dressed in New Guinea fashions

This special exhibit was created in part to honor the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences** (actual anniversary date is December 6, 2011). BMS will also offer scholarly lectures and other special programming during the exhibit run, including special **family programming on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays** focusing on South Pacific-inspired crafts such as New Guinea masks, jewelry and storyboards. Family activities are included with admission and take place from 10:30am-noon on Fridays and 11am-1pm on weekends.

This exhibit will appeal to a range of ages interested in the social sciences, history, travel and culture, as well as the experiences of the five different explorers. This exhibit is premiering at the Buffalo Museum of Science and portions of it will be available to rent to other museums after it closes.



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*Journeys Into Papua* and the museum's permanent galleries will be open 7 days a week, 10am to 4pm. More information about the museum and the exhibition can be found at [www.sciencebuff.org](http://www.sciencebuff.org).

## ADMISSION

Entry to *Journeys Into Papua* is included with general admission to the museum and free to Museum Members. General admission rates are increasing on the opening day of *Journeys Into Papua* and will be as follows:

	<b>Museum Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
<b>Adult (18-61)</b>	FREE	\$9
<b>Senior (62+)</b>	FREE	\$8
<b>Children (2-17) Students &amp; Military w/ID</b>	FREE	\$7
<b>Children under 2</b>	FREE	FREE

Visitors will also be able to visit *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*, the museum's summer travelling exhibit that has been extended through October 23, and the *If a Starfish Can Grow a New Arm, Why Can't I* travelling exhibit, which is on view through January 8, 2011. All three exhibits are included with general admission.

## ABOUT THE BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

BMS is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 700,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. The museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land. For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716.896.5200 or visit [www.sciencebuff.org](http://www.sciencebuff.org).

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