



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BANK OF AMERICA WILL BE PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBITION AT THE SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

*San Diego, CA: April 26, 2006*—The San Diego Natural History Museum announces Bank of America as Presenting Sponsor of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum, featured from July through December 2007. The Museum expects attendance of over 400,000 visitors.

“This is the biggest blockbuster exhibition the Museum has ever undertaken,” said Executive Director Dr. Michael “Mick” Hager. “It will be an unforgettable event for San Diego and a magnet for visitors from all around California and the entire Southwest. We are delighted that the Bank of America is sponsoring this ambitious endeavor.”

“Bank of America is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Cultural institutions are not only sources of great learning and inspiration, they are also key to the economic vitality of the communities they serve. By supporting these anchor institutions, we are able to invest in our communities in yet another way while creating benefits for our customers,” said Joye Blount, Senior Vice President for Bank of America.

Through a partnership with the San Diego Natural History Museum and the Israel Antiquities Authority, a unique selection of important scroll pieces and additional artifacts such as scroll jars, textiles, pottery, ancient coins, leather sandals are coming San Diego. The scrolls are the oldest discovered copies of biblical books as well as hymns, prayers and other important writings. Their discovery has been termed the greatest archeological find of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and are the subject of great scholarly and public interest. They shed light on the life, faith and culture in ancient Israel and are a bridge to a period that laid the foundations of western traditions, beliefs and practices throughout the past two millennia.

The science of interpreting the scrolls will be fully presented including the use of infrared photography, DNA, chemical analysis and carbon 14 dating. The scrolls will also be placed in the context of the geography and climate as well as the biological and geological diversity of the region.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation asked the San Diego Natural History Museum to host the exhibition based upon the new museum facility and the exhibition’s success at other natural history museums in the United States. The Museum’s facility will accommodate the visitors and patrons with an 8000-square-foot dedicated and secure exhibition hall, a 10,000-square-foot, four-story atrium, rooftop catering, six meeting rooms/classrooms and a 300-seat giant-screen theater.

As explained by Dr. Hager, Southern California and Israel are situated in two of the five regions of the world with a Mediterranean climate. They have a sea or ocean in the west, rising to central

mountains and are bordered on the east by a rift valley below sea level. Because of the climatic, topographic and geologic similarities, the animals and plants of each region have made similar adaptations and the overall appearance of these widely separated regions is similar. "Sharing this regional similarity positions the Natural History Museum to be the perfect host of the Dead Sea Scrolls," said Dr. Hager.

The Museum plans to offer a robust educational program which will include lectures by world-class scholars, films, classes, and audio tours. Additionally, a curriculum will be prepared for use in schools, homeschools, synagogues and churches.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is the second oldest scientific institution in California; third west of the Mississippi. A binational Museum, its mission is to interpret the natural world through research, education, and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment. Located in Balboa Park at the intersection of Village Place and Park Blvd. it is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org). 619.232.3821. The scrolls website is [www.sdscrolls.com](http://www.sdscrolls.com).

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