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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

***Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America***  
**Special Exhibition Opening & Panel Discussion**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2007, 6-8 pm**

***Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America* opens at the American Swedish Historical Museum on Thursday, February 15, 2007, part of an international celebration marking the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of the great Swedish scientist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778). The opening reception begins at 6:00 pm and will include a 7:15 pm panel discussion considering, *Why Linnaeus Matters Today*, featuring guest curator Dr. Karen Reeds.**

The exhibition offers visitors an exploration of the contributions of Carolus Linnaeus, whose research, teaching and ideas transformed the realm of biology and medicine. Many visitors might be familiar with Linnaeus from high school biology – remember all those Latin labels for plants and animals? Linnaeus started that system of scientific names and classification and gave all of us human beings the name of *Homo sapiens*!

At ASHM visitors will discover unexpected links between Linnaeus and America's national identity through over 100 scientific specimens, drawings, manuscripts, books, and works of art – some being exhibited for the first time. Visitors to *Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America* experience the wonders witnessed by Pehr Kalm, Linnaeus's student and direct connection to America. Kalm was the first trained scientist to observe the people, wildlife, and landscapes from the Delaware Valley to Canada.

**The exhibition and special panel discussion at the opening also grapple with the connections between Linnaean ideas, modern biology and contemporary issues such as religion, race, evolution, genetics and the environment.**

**The panel includes:**

- **Dr. Joseph Lorenz**, Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Camden, New Jersey, who uses molecular biology to study the evolution of primates.

- **Dr. A. E. Schuyler**, Curator Emeritus, Lewis & Clark Herbarium, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. This spring, Dr. Schuyler, an expert on American botany, is teaching a course on the history of botany at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, Philadelphia.
- **Prof. Kim Pearson**, College of New Jersey, Ewing, New Jersey, an educator, journalist, and essayist on the science, history, and rhetoric of race. In 2000 Prof. Pearson was named the New Jersey Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement in Support of Education (CASE).
- **The guest curator, Dr. Karen Reeds**, an independent scholar living in Princeton. Dr. Reeds is a Visiting Scholar, History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and member of the Princeton Research Forum; formerly, she served as the science medicine editor at Rutgers University Press and the University of California Press. Her four books and her exhibitions deal with the history of biology and medicine from the Middle Ages to our own time.

**Admission to the exhibition opening and panel discussion on February 15 is free. *Come into a New World: Linnaeus and America* runs through July 1, 2007 at the American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, in Philadelphia. More information about the exhibition and related programs can be found at [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org). Questions may be emailed to [info@americanswedish.org](mailto:info@americanswedish.org) or call (215) 389-1776.**

Planning for *Come into a New World: Linnaeus and America* was supported by a "We the People" Consultation Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibition has been funded by generous gifts from Astra Zeneca, the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Robert Savage, SWEA New Jersey, and The Swedish Council of America.

The exhibition *Come into a New World: Linnaeus and America* is part of the ongoing mission of the American Swedish Historical Museum to promote awareness in America of the contributions of Swedish culture.

**The American Swedish Historical Museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 10-4; Saturday and Sunday, noon-4. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for students and senior citizens. Museum members and children under 12 are free. ASHM is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance, or SEPTA's Route 17 (Naval Base) can bring you right to the Museum.**

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