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World-Famous Astronomy Collection Unveils Rare Books and Manuscripts

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CHICAGO, IL—The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum announces a new program of regularly changing historical astronomy exhibits. Visitors will find new displays of rarely seen materials each time they enter the museum. The small exhibits—highlighting gems of the Adler’s world-famous collection of over 2000 rare books and manuscripts—will delight bibliophiles and the general public alike.

Handwriting through History will be on display late April through May 30. Highlights include:

- a 13th century illuminated copy of Johannes Sacrobosco’s *Sphaera*
- autographed presentation copies of Johannes Kepler’s *Rudolphine Tables* (1627) and Johannes Hevelius’s *Machina Coelestis* (1672)
- personal letters from the Alvan Clark family (a prominent American telescope-maker from the 19th century)
- over 20 other items related to the history of astronomy and scientific instruments, including several volvelles

Historical Discussions of Life on Other Worlds continues through May 30. Highlights include:

- John Wilkins's *The Discovery of a World in the Moone* (1638), the first printed book to discuss the likelihood of an inhabited lunar world
- Thomas Dick's *The Sidereal Heavens* (1855), which declares the certainty of life on other worlds
- Giovanni Schiaparelli's *Memoires of the Academy of Linxes* (1910), which describes "canals" on Mars

Chasing the Goddess of Love Across the Sun will be on view from June 4 through September 5. This selection of historical books and maps documents the history of the twice-in-a-lifetime event, a transit of Venus. During the phenomenon, Venus visibly passes in front of the Sun; **the first transit of Venus visible in over 120 years will occur on June 8.** Exhibit highlights include:

- Johannes Hevelius's 1662 publication of the first observations of any transit of Venus in history (by Jeremiah Horrocks in 1639)
- a collected volume of the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* (1769) with an account of the transit that year by the eminent early American astronomer David Rittenhouse
- many other fascinating popular and scholarly works from the 18th and 19th centuries

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum houses one of the world's greatest collections of material pertaining to the history of astronomy and related sciences. For more information on these exhibits, please visit www.adlerplanetarium.org

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
1300 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
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The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, America's first planetarium, has inspired tens of millions of visitors since its opening in

1930. Nine state-of-the art exhibition galleries, located in the stunning Sky Pavilion, present modern space exploration and the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, features daily virtual flights through the cosmos. The Adler's mission to promote a better understanding of the Universe is led by educators and Ph.D. scientists and historians, working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history.

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