

# ADLER)75

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## AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

Contact: Molly O'Connell  
312-322-0524  
moconnell@adlerplanetarium.org

Amy McGee  
312-542-2424  
amcgee@adlerplanetarium.org

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **APOLLO 8 EXHIBIT OPENS TODAY**

*This Holiday Season at the Adler See Original Apollo 8 Flight Manual,  
Rediscover the Star of Wonder and Don't Miss the Last Chance to See the Lost Spacecraft*

CHICAGO (November 22, 2005) – On Christmas Eve 1968, Apollo 8 Astronauts Captain James A. Lovell, Jr., Captain William Anders and Colonel Frank Borman, captivated millions of television viewers by beaming pictures of the Moon's surface while reading from the Bible's Book of Genesis. Today, the Adler Planetarium opened its holiday season with a special Apollo 8 exhibit that features the original flight manual that the astronauts read from nearly four decades ago.

In that historic Christmas Eve broadcast, one of the largest audiences in television history tuned in to an amazing sight: a live telecast of the Moon's surface as seen from Apollo 8, the first manned space flight to orbit the Moon. Original footage of this broadcast, as well as a reproduction of Captain Anders' historic photograph of the Earth rising over the Moon's horizon, and the original flight manual from which the astronauts read on Christmas Eve 1968, are included in the exhibit.

The original Apollo 8 flight manual is on loan to the Adler from **Captain James A. Lovell, Jr.**, who is currently serving as the Honorary Chairman of the Adler's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

"Apollo 8 was one of the most important flights of the program because it was the first time that men had left the confines of the Earth – the first real exploration into space," said Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. "The Adler's mission is to inspire the next generation of explorers, and I think this exhibit will encourage visitors – young and old alike – to continue to dream about what the next adventure in space might be."

The Apollo 8 exhibit will be on display across from *Quest for Exploration*, a sculpture of Captain Lovell unveiled earlier this year in the Adler's newly restored Art Deco Rainbow Lobby. The seven-foot, 700-pound bronze sculpture features a likeness of Captain Lovell aboard the Apollo 8 spacecraft looking through its window and holding up his thumb, which blocked the entire Earth from his view.

"Nearly 40 years ago, Apollo 8's historic journey captivated people around the world," said Adler President Paul H. Knappenberger, Jr., PhD. "This holiday season is a perfect time to revisit this awe-inspiring event and encourage visitors to imagine their futures and think about where space exploration will take us 40 years from now."

As part of the Adler's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and new focus on human space exploration, the museum is offering exciting exhibits as well as revered holiday sky shows for the entire family. In addition to the Apollo 8 holiday exhibit, visitors can rediscover the story behind the Star of Bethlehem with the Adler's longest-running holiday show, *Star of Wonder* (now presented in Spanish) and don't miss the last chance to see the LOST SPACECRAFT exhibit, which ends January 8, 2006.

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### Adler's Longest-Running Holiday Sky Show STAR OF WONDER Now Presented in English and Spanish

This holiday season the Adler is proud to present *Estrella de Maravilla* the Spanish-language version of *Star of Wonder*. The sky show, which takes a journey back in time to rediscover the story behind the "Star of Bethlehem," is one of the first planetarium sky shows in the United States created for a Spanish-speaking audience.

The Adler's longest-running sky show and one of Chicago's favorite holiday offerings has become a tradition for many families who return each year to hear the remarkable story of the Magi – the Three Wise Men. Using the technology of the Zeiss projector, visitors are able to view a recreation of the skies that shone over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. Audiences experience the stars and the moving planets just as they appeared in the sky during the likely time of the Magi's travels.

*Star of Wonder (Estrella de Maravilla)* examines various theories about the celestial event that prompted the Three Kings to travel to Bethlehem. Was this heavenly light an exploding star, a brilliant comet, or an unusual grouping of planets? Carefully exploring modern ideas, *Star of Wonder (Estrella de Maravilla)* presents dramatic conclusions based on ancient astronomical records and modern computer simulations. *Estrella de Maravilla* is sponsored by LaSalle Bank.

### Last Chance to See LOST SPACECRAFT: Liberty Bell 7 Recovered

**Don't miss your last chance to see LOST SPACECRAFT: Liberty Bell 7 Recovered.** For 38 years, it was NASA's only lost spacecraft, but visitors can find Liberty Bell 7 at the Adler Planetarium through January 8, 2006. As part of the Adler's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the museum's new focus on human space exploration, the LOST SPACECRAFT exhibit is being offered free to visitors with paid general admission.

In 1961, Liberty Bell Seven was America's second manned space flight. When it splashed down in the Atlantic, the hatch blew open unexpectedly. Astronaut Lt. Colonel Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom narrowly escaped before the spacecraft sank to the ocean floor. For nearly four decades, it remained NASA's only lost spacecraft.

LOST SPACECRAFT offers visitors the opportunity to experience astronaut training, learn about spacecraft technology, run through shuttle launch sequences and more. As part of the exhibit, visitors will experience what it is like to train as an astronaut with the Centrifuge Test Facility – a "pod" that replicates a real space launch by spinning visitors up to two G-Forces and perform pre-flight tasks in the Capsule Simulator. **Lost for 38 Years – Find it Only at the Adler through January 8, 2006.**

The Adler Planetarium is marking its 75th Anniversary by launching a year of celebration and a new vision for its future. A new mission will expand the museum's current focus on astronomy to celebrate human space exploration and America's space heroes. Through this new vision, the Adler will help inspire the next generation of explorers.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**For photos and additional information, please visit our website at [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org).**

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