

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Receives International Award from the American Association of Museums

CHICAGO (April 25, 2006) – The Adler Planetarium has been selected by the American Association of Museums (AAM) for a prestigious international grant to underwrite an exchange program with a partner museum in Germany, the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon of the Dresden State Art Collections. The Adler is one of only 17 museums in the nation, and the only one in Illinois, to receive this award during the 2005-2007 grant cycle of the program "International Partnerships Among Museums" (IPAM).

The grant will allow Dr. Marvin Bolt, the Adler's Director of the History of Astronomy and Dr. Michael Korey, Curator of Mathematical and Philosophical Instruments at the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon in Dresden, to improve the understanding and display of their respective collections on both sides of the Atlantic. The Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon, one of the oldest and most renowned European collections of historic scientific instruments, has been an independent museum in the Dresden Zwinger since 1730. The Adler, founded exactly 200 years later, is America's first planetarium, and holds the largest and most significant collection of early modern scientific instruments in the Western Hemisphere.

"We are thrilled to be selected for this grant examine the special ties linking the two museums," said Dr. Bolt. "The Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon played a decisive role in the founding of the Adler 75 years ago and was extensively involved in the preparation of the first catalogue of what came to be the core of the Adler's historic collection."

The ties between the two museums were largely broken by the Second World War and the Cold War that followed, but they form the basis for a renewed collaboration. During his visit to Chicago in April and May 2006, Dr. Korey will study the Adler's holdings of mathematical instruments, including many of German and Central European origin; in turn, Dr. Bolt will visit Dresden in September and October 2006 to examine the Dresden archives, offer his expertise on the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon's early telescopes, and assist with planning future exhibitions.

The IPAM program was founded in 1981 with the aim of promoting lasting partnerships between American museums and their international counterparts. One museum staff member from each institution participates in an exchange visit to carry out a collaborative, mutually beneficial project. Over the course of the last quarter century 242 partnerships with museums in 85 countries have been established. The program is organized by the American Association of Museums and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Additional information can be found at <http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/ipam/about.cfm>

The Adler – America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The Adler is home to two full-size planetarium theaters, including the world's first StarRider Theater, and one of the world's most important antique instrument collections. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.