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### **Special Event at Cultural Heritage Center to Mark Departure of Horse Effigy Stick**

PIERRE, S.D. -- The Sioux Horse Effigy stick, which also serves as the logo of the South Dakota State Historical Society, will be featured in an upcoming international traveling exhibit, "The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky."

The departure of the internationally acclaimed artifact will be marked by a special open house on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre from 1-4 p.m. CDT. A brief program will be held at 2 p.m. with featured speakers including Historical Society Director Jay D. Vogt and Gaylord Torrence, who is the Fred & Virginia Merrill senior curator of Indian art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

Refreshments will be served and there will be no admission fee to attend the open house. Museum staff members will be on hand to answer questions about the effigy stick throughout the day.

"This is a great opportunity for the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society to showcase one of its most important artifacts outside the state, and to provide new audiences with an opportunity to witness the power and resonance of the history and heritage of South Dakota," said Museum Director Jay Smith.

Along with Curator of Collections Daniel Brosz, Smith and other museum staff have worked to ensure the security and safety of the effigy stick while it's in transit and on display.

"Brand new cases had to be built that meet international customs regulations," Smith said.

The exhibit is being organized by the Musée du Quai Branly museum in Paris in collaboration with The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It is curated by Gaylord Torrence, one of the nation's leading scholars of Plains Indian art.

"It is our goal with this exhibition to present the extraordinary vision of Plains Indian artists throughout time to the present," Torrence said. "The objects embody both the creative brilliance of their individual makers and the meaning and power of profound cultural traditions."

"The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky" will be on view at Musée du Quai Branly from April 7 to July 20, 2014; then travel to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art from Sept. 20, 2014 to Jan. 11, 2015; and then move to the Metropolitan Museum from March 2 to May 17, 2015.

### **About the Effigy Stick**

This masterpiece of Lakota sculpture is one of only two known horse effigy dance sticks of its kind in the world. Though the master sculptor's identity has not been officially confirmed, it is highly likely that a Hunkpapa Lakota man named No Two Horns was the maker.

The effigy is thought to have been carved around 1875 to honor a horse that fell in battle. Observers will notice multiple "bullet holes" with "blood" seeping from them and the red-dyed horsehair beneath the mouth, which likely represents "blood" pouring from the horse's muzzle. The sculptor further accentuated the horse's pain by molding ears that are pinned and slanting backwards.

Mary C. Collins collected this piece and donated it to the South Dakota State Historical Society in 1920. She was a Congregationalist missionary at Oahe Mission and then on the Standing Rock Reservation. She was well regarded among the people on Standing Rock and was a personal friend of Sitting Bull. No Two Horns and Sitting Bull were cousins. No Two Horns was among the people that joined Sitting Bull in his escape to Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and his subsequent return and surrender at Fort Buford in 1881.

The artifact first garnered international attention after its inclusion in a blockbuster exhibit entitled "Sacred Circles: 200 years of North American Indian Art."

### **While the Effigy Stick is away from the Cultural Heritage Center**

Museum staff will track the whereabouts of the effigy stick for the public through a display at the entrance of the primary gallery during the effigy stick's travels. Museum staff members are also trying to arrange a live feed on the web, or video footage of the artifact while on display in the galleries of the museums in Paris, Kansas City and New York.

The return of the effigy stick will be marked with a special ceremony and a new display designed by museum staff. It is anticipated that the effigy stick will be back on view at the Cultural Heritage Center by the fall of 2015.

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*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*