



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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**TINY TREASURES: TRAVELING MINIATURE BOOK EXHIBIT VISITS
CENTRAL LIBRARY TO COMPLEMENT WANGENHEIM ROOM'S
MINIATURE BOOK COLLECTION.**

The Miniature Book Society's Traveling Exhibition featuring 123 miniature books from around the world will be on display on the 1st floor of the Central Library located at 820 E St in downtown San Diego from October 1st – November 1st 2008.

The Miniature Book Society was founded in 1983 with the intent to “stimulate and sustain interest in miniature books”. Generally, a miniature book is a book whose dimensions measures 3 inches or less. Books which are 1 inch or less in size are referred to as “micro-minis”. The Traveling Exhibit has been in operation for 21 years and highlights modern examples of miniature books, primarily from the entrants and winners of the annual MBS Competition. Recently, older volumes have been loaned to the exhibition to allow viewers to see more historic materials. Perhaps one of the most unique books in the traveling exhibition is *Old King Cole* published by the Glennifer Press in Scotland in 1986 which measures .04” x .04” and held the record, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, as the Smallest Book in the World until 2002.

The Traveling Exhibit has traveled throughout the United States, and has received much positive publicity. It has also had its share of adventure, including being in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina made landfall and it survived without a scratch. After the Exhibition ends here on November 1st in San Diego, the exhibition will be packed up and headed toward the East Coast bound for a library in Florida in Mid-November.

In addition to these miniature books, the Central Library's rare book room, the Wangenheim Room, located on the 3rd floor, will also be displaying more than 50 of its 250 permanent miniature books collection. Many were donated to the Wangenheim Room by Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, Former University Librarian of UCLA and noted author on books and book collecting. Tiny tomes have existed since man began recording information on stone, clay, bark, bamboo and other plants. The Babylonian clay tablets of 4000 years ago are considered to be the first miniature “books”. The Wangenheim Room owns 24 of these ancient tablets from 2300 BCE. Other highlights of the Wangenheim

Page 2

Press Release – Miniature Book Society Traveling Exhibit

miniature book collection include a miniature Bible published in 1780, a miniature Koran with magnifying glass locket from around 1900 and an ABC book published in Mainz Germany that measures 2.4 mm x 2.9 mm. This book is no larger than the head of a matchstick and at one time was also considered to be “the world’s smallest published book”.

The Wangenheim Room is open to the public from Monday through Saturday, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information about the room and its collections, please call Heidi Wigler at 619-236-5807 or visit our website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/wangenheim.shtml>

For more information about the Miniature Book Society or the MBS Traveling Exhibit contact Karen Nyman at 619 226-4441 or visit the MBS website at: <http://www.mbs.org/>

NOTE TO EDITORS: A digital image of the Miniature Book Society Traveling Exhibit is available on request from the librarian, Heidi Wigler.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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