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BUFFALO'S CENTRAL LIBRARY LAST STOP ON NATIONAL TOUR OF ACCLAIMED HAMILTON EXHIBITION

Buffalo, NY -- His face is on the ten-dollar bill, but most Americans know more about his death in a notorious duel than his remarkable life as one of the most brilliant and influential figures in U.S. history. Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804), at age 32 the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, is the focus of an image-laden exhibition that will conclude a more than four-year tour of America with an appearance at the Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, **May 1 through June 12, 2009**.

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America looks at Hamilton's life and death through the relationships he forged with important people in politics and government, and through his ideas -- ideas that often clashed with those of other prominent national figures. Hamilton was a complex and controversial figure -- a Revolutionary War patriot and soldier, financial and legal genius, and an ardent opponent of slavery. He was the chief architect of many of the financial, political and legal institutions so familiar to Americans today.

"We are delighted to have been selected as one of 40 sites nationally for this exhibition," said Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey**. "Alexander Hamilton was a fascinating figure in the early history of the United States, but we know too little about his contributions to modern society. In light of today's economic turmoil, discovering more about the man who virtually created the U.S. banking system can be a truly enlightening experience."

The Library's Rare Book Room has mounted a complementary exhibit that will feature more than 20 items from its extensive collection, including an original copy of *The Federalist Papers*, largely authored by Hamilton supporting adoption of the U.S. Constitution, which was owned and annotated by Thomas Jefferson; a handwritten letter from George Washington dated September 15, 1776; and a July 25, 1804 edition of the *Massachusetts Spy* that provides an account of the Burr-Hamilton duel and Hamilton's funeral.

Additional artifacts supporting the Hamilton story have been borrowed for inclusion in the display from partner institutions JP Morgan Chase, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Old Fort Niagara, and Hamilton College.

"We are incredibly excited that we can showcase some of the Library's rare treasures with a special display that adds a significant new dimension to the traveling exhibition," Quinn-Carey said.

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2-2-2-2- BUFFALO THE LAST CHANCE TO SEE HAMILTON EXHIBIT

The traveling exhibit, consisting of six colorful, freestanding 18-foot long by 7-foot high panels of visual images and informational text, was organized by the New-York Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the American Library Association, and has been made possible, in part, through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The original exhibit, at the New-York Historical Society, in 2004-2005 was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Hamilton's death as well as the 200th anniversary of the 1804 founding of the Society.

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library is hosting a weekly series of Thursday evening events for the public in connection with the exhibition. Highlighting the library programming will be a presentation by noted author, historian, and commentator Richard Brookhiser, senior editor of *The National Review*. There will also be a "Colonial Kids' Day," with hands-on activities for children, held on Saturday, May 30. All programs are free and open to the public. Visit the library's web site at www.buffalolib.org for additional information.