



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

Peabody Museum Weekend of the Americas Seminar
Visualizing Power: Plains Pictographic Arts April 4, 2009



A warrior captures three mules under fire. Ledger drawing by unknown Indian warrior, possibly Lakota, ca. 1865. Half Moon ledger book. MS Am 2337, Houghton Library, Harvard University. Gift of Harriet J. Bradbury, 1930.

(Cambridge, February 26, 2009) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents the Weekend of the Americas seminar, *Visualizing Power: Plains Pictographic Arts*, with special lectures, discussion, and tours on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9 AM–6:30 PM at the Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St. in Cambridge. Ledger books, rock art, and buffalo robes are stunning examples of Native

American pictographic arts, offering the warriors' perspective on life in the West. What stories do they tell? What can we learn from them? What significance do they have for Native peoples today? Explore current understandings of Plains pictographic arts, how they changed after contact with non-Natives and exposure to written documents and new materials. Topics include warrior societies, rock art, ledger



Horse stick, Lakota, 2003, Butch Thunder Hawk, private collection.

books, and tribal perspectives on cultural resources. Peabody Museum Director of Exhibitions Sam Tager will also lead a discussion with two contemporary Native American artists: ledger artist Dwayne Wilcox (Oglala Lakota) and exhibition co-designer/tribal arts instructor Butch Thunder Hawk (Hunkpapa Lakota).

The seminar expands on themes presented in the Peabody's new exhibition *Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West*, which features a newly discovered Lakota ledger book from the mid-nineteenth century (see Related Events, below). A complete schedule of events is available at www.peabody.harvard.edu/weekend.html. Registration is required; call 617-495-2269. Members free, Non-members \$35, Student/Senior \$25. Membership Single \$40, Family \$60, Student/Senior \$25.

Related Events: Lecture followed by Exhibition Opening and Reception

Peabody Museum Weekend of the Americas kicks off on Friday, April 3 at 5:30 PM with a free public lecture by award-winning writer Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea* and *Mayflower*. In his illustrated lecture ***Starting at Standing Rock: Following Custer and Sitting Bull to the Little Big***

Horn, Philbrick will describe his over 300-mile journey following General George Custer's route from Fort Lincoln to the Little Bighorn National Monument in Crow Agency, Montana.

Immediately following the lecture, the public is invited to the free **Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West** Exhibition Opening and Reception at the Peabody Museum. The exhibition explores the meanings of a recently discovered nineteenth-century "artist's book," in the collection of Harvard's Houghton Library, that had been recovered from the Little Big Horn battlefield after Custer's defeat in 1876. The exhibit presents colored drawings by Plains Indian warriors from the book with historic Lakota objects from the Peabody's collections, displayed in a gallery designed by contemporary Lakota artist Butch Thunder Hawk.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Hours and Location: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, \$6 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call 617-496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu. The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station, and is handicapped accessible.

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