

DRAFT FESTIVAL PROGRAM (2/28/06)

Title: **Genghis Khan's Mongolia: 800 Years of Nationhood**

Organised by: The Mongolia 800 Festival Committee with the Arctic Studies Center, NMNH/SI

Sponsored by: Embassy of Mongolia, National Museum of Natural History.....[and others]

Dates and venue: The event will take place October 6-9**, 2005 at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Museum, Washington, DC.

(** *The festival may have to be limited to three days. If so, we feel it is mandatory that the program days be Sunday thru Monday.*)

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Mongolia Family Festival: Friday through Sunday, 10:00 to 5:00 pm

The festival is open to all; it will introduce children and families to Mongolian culture and life through games, theatre, participatory story-telling, films and art. Events will take place throughout the Museum, but especially in Hall 11.

A welcome station with staff in Mongolian dress will be set up in the Rotunda to promote the festival, answer questions, hand out information, and direct visitors to activities throughout the museum. The major activities will take place in Hall 11, where a ger will be assembled and wall-mounted exhibits will be displayed. Half of the hall will be devoted to stations or booths dedicated to different activities; for example, an archaeology table with some artefacts and a person or two to talk to the visitors; stations for Mongolian crafts-people to demonstrate their art and crafts activities; areas for small children to engage in supervised drawing, listen to story-tellers, and participate in traditional Mongolian games; perhaps to be photographed in Mongolian hats and costumes.

Ger occupies center of 'Festival Hall' as a focus for activities throughout the festival

Traditional dancers and singers perform periodically in Rotunda and in exhibition hall

Mongolian artisans to work at booths or tables in Mongolia Hall (crafts may include painting, carving, felting, weaving, horse-hair rope-making, jewellery-making, wrestling, and acrobatics...)

Children's activities: story-telling, art, paper construction, knuckle-bone dice games....some of which could take place in the ger

Ger Construction: carving, painting and fitting out a traditional Mongolian ger

Wall-Mounted displays in Festival hall:

Gary Tepfer photographs (Mongolia Petroglyphs and Deer Stones)

A variety of other photographs of Mongolia

Paintings and other arts

Poster panels on key themes (history, archaeology; culture, art, religion, festivals)

Deer Stone Demonstration: SCMRE, OEC, and NMNH staff demonstrate scanning of deer stones using the NMNH deer stone cast and SCMRE laser-scanning equipment, and computer processing of the images (accompanied by posters explaining the purpose and process, and some results)

Collection Presentations: NMNH curators and experts will demonstrate Mongolian natural and cultural history collections to the public at stations throughout the museums. Featured materials to include paleontological fossils, animal furs, birds, fish, insects, minerals, botanical collections; archaeological and ethnographic collections, and archival photographs.

Craft and Book Sales: crafts, books, garments, art, and other possible sales items (to be negotiated with Smithsonian Business Ventures, hopefully in the festival hall area)

Friday, 6 October

Morning: Set-up and organization – no demonstrations

12:00 Noon. Friday Lecture in Baird Auditorium. Speaker and topic TBD, but this is a good chance to have a talk or panel present a talk to a more academic museum audience, perhaps on NMNH research in Mongolia

1:00-5:00 pm Family Festival throughout museum

1:30-4:00pm Mongolia films and web programs in Baird (perhaps more of an academic or specialized nature than the Sunday film festival)

7:00-8:00pm Evening TSA Event, Baird Auditorium: Official 'opening' of the Festival with short official welcomes followed by a short introductory lecture (*Genghis Khan's Mongolia*) and a musical and dance performances. National Dress encouraged.

8:00-10:00pm Reception in Rotunda: Following performance, audience ascends to Rotunda for refreshment.

Saturday, 7 October

9:30-5:00 Baird Auditorium: Ticketed symposium series organised in co-operation with *The Smithsonian Associates and the Embassy of Mongolia*.

This program should be of interest to a wide public and not be dry academic lectures. Subjects should be illustrated talks on a cross-section of Mongolia: landscape, history, archaeology, traditional and modern culture presented by American and Mongolian speakers with good English skills. At least one lecture should feature the Smithsonian's current Mongolian research programs. Should be widely advertised. We need to find sufficient subsidies so that the program can be open to all who wish to attend, not only TSA ticketed subscribers. (5-6 lectures: half by Mongolians, half by American/Canadians)

Lunch (Mongolian barbecue?) served by Atrium Cafe

Artisans work in the Rotunda

Family Festival continues

Saturday Evening: reception at Mongolian Embassy to thank performers, presenters, donors, etc.

Sunday, 8 October

10 am -5pm. Family Festival exhibits and artisan activities continue.

12:00-5:00 pm. Mongolia Film Festival. Films by Mongolian and American film-makers covering many aspects of Mongolian culture and life. Moderated by film-makers and other experts.

Closing Ceremony Event (4:00-5:00pm) Depending on whether we close the festival Sunday or Monday, we would like to do a 'closing ceremony' in Baird or in the hall toward the end of the afternoon of the last day, to wrap up, thank the performers, and have short performances. This was a very successful event in our Greenland program last spring.

Monday, October 9

It is uncertain whether the festival can continue into Monday – Columbus Day – because of staffing and organizational questions, but this is a heavy day for museum visitors, and it would greatly increase the reach and impact of the program if the festival can continue until Monday afternoon.