













Seeds of Success/National Museum of Natural History

In 2012, the National Museum of Natural History acquired 1182 botanical vouchers in 27 acquisitions, all from the Seeds of Success (SOS) program. Established in 2001 by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) SOS collects, conserves, and develops native plant materials for stabilizing, rehabilitating and restoring lands in the United States. The initial partnership between BLM and MSB quickly grew to include many additional partners, such as botanic gardens, arboreta, zoos, and municipalities. These SOS teams share a common protocol and coordinate seed collecting and species targeting efforts.

Emancipation Proclamation/National Museum of African American History and Culture

This printing of the Emancipation Proclamation was commissioned by John Murray Forbes, a Boston abolitionist, a month before the Proclamation took effect and was the only contemporary printing of the Proclamation in book form. The miniature pamphlet reportedly was issued by the tens of thousands to Union troops for distribution to African Americans along the front lines. It was Union Army policy to read the Proclamation aloud at public gatherings as troops moved through the South.

Animal Births/Smithsonian National Zoo

Although somewhat overshadowed by the birth and subsequent death of the panda cub, the National Zoo is celebrating the arrival of some precious animals with the birth of two cheetah cubs, two fishing cat kittens, two Cuban crocodiles, and a black howler monkey. Each birth represents a step forward in conservation efforts; some are the first offspring of their species at NZP.

Nike Flyknit Racer/Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum recently acquired Nike's latest high performance running shoe, Flyknit Racer, which uses the most advanced knitting technology and only the most essential materials to create an ultra-light and fast racing shoe.

Madeleine Albright's Suit/National Museum of American History

On Thursday May, 24, 2012, the National Museum of American History's Division of Political History received a collection of material from former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. The donation represents Albright's career at the United Nations and State Department and includes the suit worn for the public announcement of her 1996 nomination to be the sixty-fourth, and first female, Secretary of State; the briefcase she used as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) and later as Secretary of State; a Peacekeeper's Helmet which she kept on the head of a bust of Adlai Stevenson in her office at the UN; and a "spare" dove pin she kept in her briefcase.