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NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Historical Society to Host First Public Exhibit of “The Magna Carta of Baseball”

On exhibit July 1 – October 9, 2016

Portland, OR – June 1, 2016 – Documents that the official historian of Major League Baseball declared “the Magna Carta of America’s national pastime” will be on exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland (1200 SW Park Avenue) from July 1 – October 9, 2016. **The exhibit will be the first public display of these 1857 papers**, which only recently came to light at [an auction in California](#). More, the content of the documents thoroughly change the early history of baseball by naming Daniel “Doc” Adams the proper father of the modern game, not the often mis-credited Abner Doubleday.

The hand-written documents were drafted by Adams for presentation to an unprecedented special meeting of all New York area baseball clubs in 1857, and include his notations of the meeting’s proceedings. Up until this meeting, games were played under a variety of rules, including teams that ranged from eight to eleven players, games that ended when a team scored twenty-one runs, and no set base path distances. Among other rules, the document entitled “Laws of Base Ball” established the base paths at ninety feet, conclusively set the number of men to a side at nine, and fixed the duration of the game at nine innings.

“Few states are more passionate about sports than Oregon,” said Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. “Baseball has been part of Oregon’s history since the early days of statehood. In fact, the Pioneer Baseball Club of East Portland—the first organized baseball team in the Pacific Northwest—was founded on May 28, 1866, 150 years ago last week. We are honored that an anonymous friend of the Oregon Historical Society has chosen us to host the first public exhibition of these

priceless documents, and we invite baseball fans from across the country to make a road trip to Portland this summer.”

The Oregon Historical Society’s museum is open seven days a week, Monday – Saturday from 10am – 5pm and Sunday from 12pm – 5pm. **The museum and exhibit will also be open on Independence Day, Monday, July 4, from 10am – 5pm.** Admission is \$11, and discounts are available for students, seniors, and youth. Admission is free for OHS members and, thanks to the recent renewal of the Oregon Historical Society levy, Multnomah County residents also receive free admission every day.

About the Oregon Historical Society

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state’s collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website (www.ohs.org), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon’s history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon’s cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.