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THE PATRIOT

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BABC- OC Helps to Bring 'The Queen of Sheba' to Orange County!

The "Queen of Sheba" will be visiting Orange County! Two of the world's most famous exhibits, "Queen of Sheba" and "Death and The Afterlife in Ancient Egypt" will be the first exhibitions from The British Museum to be shown at one of Southern California's leading museums, The Bowers Museum of Cultural Art in Santa Ana. This is result of a landmark five-year joint venture agreement, the first-of-its-kind accord between an American museum and The British Museum.

The first exhibition, the "Queen of Sheba" will be hosted from October 2004 to December 2004 and will include extraordinary artifacts largely from the area of Yemen, attributed to this famous queen. Immediately following will be the "Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt" exhibition which will open in January 2005 and will feature a collection of mummies and other ancient objects from The British Museum's most famous collections.

To celebrate the landmark joint venture, the Bowers Museum held a gala honoring The British Museum Director Neil MacGregor. The gala affair was held in the Bowers' picturesque courtyard and British Consul

General Peter Hunt, CMG, was among the dignitaries attending the event.

In addition to forming an alliance with The British Museum, the Bowers Museum has formed an alliance with the Orange County Chapter of the BABC and our very own Sarah Agee (Chairperson) and Valerie Blackholly (Executive Director) are active members of the Gala Committee charged with orchestrating and arranging support for a festive gala event to celebrate the opening of the "Queen of Sheba" exhibit in the fall. Furthermore the two organizations have made an accord to assist each other in the marketing and publicizing of each other's events. This arrangement promises to be a win-win for both organizations and we look forward to finding out what other treasures and delights the Bowers Museum and The British Museum has in store for Orange County.



Figure of curvaceous woman wearing a horned headdress characteristic of a Mesopotamian deity holding a rod and ring of justice, symbols of her divinity. Her long multi-coloured wings hang downwards, indicating that she is a goddess of the Underworld. Her legs end in the talons of a bird of prey, similar to those of the two owls that flank her. The background was originally painted black, suggesting that she was associated with the night. She stands on the backs of two lions, and a scale pattern indicates mountains. This treasure is made of baked straw-tempered clay.

- Orange County Chapter News
- San Diego Chapter News

