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California State Library Presents Rare Documents and Artifacts in its Juneteenth 2012 Exhibit

SACRAMENTO – June 4 – The California State Library presents its Juneteenth National Freedom Day Exhibit 2012 in the California State Library’s Rotunda and Lobby at 900 N Street, Sacramento.

The exhibit features historical items from the State Library’s collection that document the African American experience before, during and after the Emancipation Proclamation. The Juneteenth Exhibit will be on display from June 4 through July 31, 2012, and is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Gary Kurutz, Special Collections Librarian Emeritus for the State Library, has created an exhibit that includes among other items the following:

- The first California printing of the *Emancipation Proclamation* [San Francisco: B.F. Butler, 1864].
- A copy of the Thirteenth Amendment.
- Rare books on slavery and the Abolitionist Movement.
- A trial transcript of the Amistad Slavery Trial from 1839.
- Works by Illustrator Grafton Tyler Brown, on loan from a private collector.

The oldest and only African American holiday in the United States, Juneteenth was first observed June 19, 1865, over two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. On June 19, 1865, a few months after the Civil War ended, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and freed the last slaves in America. Also known as Emancipation Celebration, Freedom Day, and Jun-Jun, this event sparked celebrations throughout the country when word spread to African-Americans of their freedom.

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor’s office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, visit www.library.ca.gov.

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