Media Advisory

WHAT: Smithsonian to mark centennial of Natural History museum

Event to also pay tribute to distinguished Natural Historian Solomon G. Brown, Smithsonian’s first African-American employee

WHEN: Tues., June 15, 2004, 9:30am

WHERE: Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History
Entrance at 10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

WHO: Cristián Samper, Director
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution


David L. Evans, Under Secretary for Science, Smithsonian Institution

Descendants and relatives of Solomon G. Brown will be in attendance.

The Smithsonian Institution will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the National Museum of Natural History Building with a public ceremony on Tuesday, June 15, 2004 in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian will also pay tribute to the memory of Solomon G. Brown, the Smithsonian’s first African American employee, with a reading of one of his poems at the ceremony. Brown, who was present at the 1904 groundbreaking, was a self-taught natural historian and prolific poet who worked for the Smithsonian for more than 50 years. Smithsonian Under Secretary David Evans, National Museum of Natural History Director Cristián Samper, Smithsonian historian Gail Lowe and descendants and relatives of Brown will participate in the event, during which a Cedar of Lebanon, a tree species that was removed in 1904 in order to erect the building, will be planted on the northwest lawn.

*** The public and press are invited to attend the ceremony.

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