

Historical Society Helps Build New Charter School Library

PHILADELPHIA, April 22, 2003

Students at the MaST Community Charter School in Northeast Philadelphia will now be able to enjoy the ambiance and all the trappings of a professional library thanks to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. In a unique arrangement, The Historical Society has donated over 20 pieces of library furniture to the school. The gift was made possible following the merger of The Balch Institute into the Historical Society last year. The donated furniture from the former Balch library was no longer needed by the combined institution following the relocation of the Balch library and archival collections to the Society's building at 13th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia.

"We are pleased that a part of the legacy of the Balch Institute will continue at MaST," said David Moltke-Hansen, President of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. "A comfortable library environment is conducive to reading, learning and research. We are delighted to assist MaST with this."

"Our students and staff can't thank The Historical Society enough for this generous contribution to our library," said Rich Trzaska, Chief Administrative Officer of the MaST Community Charter School. "It truly shows their commitment to our most precious resource – our children."

The Society donated a circulation desk, 10 sections of shelving, four reading tables, a library countertop, a glass display case, four lounge chairs, an office desk, numerous pictures and photographs depicting different ethnicities in Philadelphia, along with various items needed to run a library. The circulation desk, newest of these items, was originally acquired with funding from the Arcadia Foundation.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and The Arcadia Foundation will be honored with a plaque to be mounted on the circulation desk. These benefactors will also be invited to the MaST library grand opening in September, 2003.

MaST Community Charter School, founded in 1999, is a K-12 school with a focus on mathematics, science, and technology. The school's goal is to provide students with access to technology in all grades, provide a living laboratory to study and implement current theories of learning, and strives to bring teachers, students, families and community together to better educate all students.

#

MaST Community Charter School
1800. E. Byberry Road
Philadelphia, PA 19116

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 732-6200, ext. 235