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Media Contact:
Nicholas Glenn
312-799-2161
Glenn@chicagohistory.org

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S PROP CANE ON DISPLAY

The famous comedian's trick cane will be on display through November

CHICAGO (November 7, 2011) – Beginning **Friday, November 4**, visitors to the Chicago History Museum can get up close with a piece of comedic history: a prop cane used by Charlie Chaplin in his signature pratfalls. The thin, breakable bamboo cane **will be on display throughout the month of November until Friday, December 2**.

Charlie Chaplin's influence, particularly his unique brand of physical comedy, can still be felt today in the world of entertainment. Famous for his signature pratfalls, Chaplin's comedy style matured and developed over the years while still retaining the elements of slapstick that made him a household name. A key component of his routine was the breakaway cane, a thin accessory made of lightweight bamboo that lent itself well to snapping and launching Chaplin into one of his famed falls. This item is one of many treasures in the Museum's collection of over 22 million artifacts featured monthly as part of our ongoing *Unexpected Chicago* exhibition.

More information can be found on this artifact online through the Museum blog starting November 4. For more information on *Unexpected Chicago*, please visit www.chicagohistory.org/unexpectedchicago. *Unexpected Chicago* is supported by a gift from The Jacob and Rosaline Cohn Foundation.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.