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For Immediate Release

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Undercover: Tea Cozies of China and Beyond **Opening & Reception, Sunday, January 16, 2011 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

The San Diego Chinese Historical Museum is pleased to present a new exhibit, *Undercover: Tea Cozies of China and Beyond*, featuring a collection of finely embroidered and exquisitely carved tea cozies from around the world.

From exquisitely embroidered silken sleeves to intricately carved and lacquered boxes, these tea cozies are as rich and sophisticated as China's finest leaf. Beginning in the 17th century, the import of tea from China transformed Western, and especially British, culture forever. With the advent of afternoon teatime in the 1800s came fine Chinese porcelain teapots and the necessity of insulated tea cozies to keep the pot warm. This exhibition of fine cozies from China and Europe features motifs that highlight various values and aesthetics from different cultures, while also reminding us that in spite of drastic cultural differences, we can all take delight in sharing a pot of hot tea.

Special thanks to Sally Yu Leung who kindly loaned many pieces from her personal collection for this exhibit. Ms. Leung specializes in Chinese culture and folk art, often producing and curating cultural exhibits. She has also had many active roles at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum including Senior Docent and serving on the Commission of the Asian Art Museum. In addition, she has served on the boards of the Society for Asian Art, the Chinese American International School and the Chinese Cultural Foundation.

The exhibit opening will be held in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Extension building at 328 J Street on Sunday, January 16th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. An introductory lecture will be given by the collector, Sally Yu Leung, at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be served at the reception held in the Chinese garden at 404 Third Avenue. Admission is \$2 and free for members and children under 12.

The San Diego Chinese Historical Museum is located at 404 Third Avenue in downtown San Diego. For more information, please visit our website at www.sdchm.org.

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