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Amsterdam, January, 2010

Subject:

***Bakelite in Yonkers: Pioneering the Age of Plastics***

This is the title of a new exhibition, which is organized by the Amsterdam Bakelite® Collection in partnership with the Hudson River Museum. For the first time in history this European collection returns to her original birthplace in Yonkers, NY. For it was in the city of Yonkers where, in 1907, Leo Baekeland invented *The Material of a Thousand Uses... Bakelite!*

The story of the Belgian-born Leo Henricus Baekeland (1863-1944); his immigration to the US, his successful transaction with George Eastman and the stormy exploitation of this miraculous material are generally well known.

Of great importance is the fact that Baekeland was a prominent citizen of the city of Yonkers. Here, from his Snug Rock Estate, he laid the foundation for his later successes.

Special private collections are seldom accessible to the general public. The Dutch collector/producer Reindert Groot is now exhibiting a number of the best pieces from his collection for the first time in Yonkers. During the past twenty years he has gathered about 4000 objects and documents that give a very representative picture of the history of the thermosetting plastic materials and their applications. Thanks to Mr. Groot's passion for industrial design you will get acquainted with this fascinating world. Designs by Raymond Loewy, Philip Starck, and other important names are included.

The Hudson River Museum is delighted to be able to present a selection of about 300 objects from the Amsterdam Bakelite® Collection. Additional pieces on loan from the Yonkers Historical Society and from Mr. Hugh Karraker, one of Baekeland's great grand children, complete the exhibit. Rare objects such as a 1906 travel log handwritten by Baekeland, the silver goose quill that he received as a wedding present, and several awards, offer us a glance into the famed past of the man that was one of the contributors of America's image.

For additional information: <http://www.hrm.org/>  
and <http://www.amsterdambakelitecollection.com/>

PS The Museum Shop is offering exclusive handmade Bakelite jewelry, designed by Jorge Caicedo Montes De Oca.

Exhibition Dates: Saturday, February 6 – Sunday June 6, 2010

Advance Press Availability: February 1, 2010

Opening Preview Reception: February 5, 2010

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