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¡CARNAVAL! BOOK A COLORFUL COMPANION TO MUSEUM EXHIBITION
Book Offers Exciting International View of Carnival in 11 Cities and Towns
in Europe and the Americas

SANTA FE, N.M.—¡CARNAVAL!, a colorful companion publication to the ¡CARNAVAL! exhibition at the Museum of International Folk Art, will be released by the University of Washington Press in conjunction with the exhibit's opening in November 2004.

Edited by Barbara Mauldin, curator of Latin American folk art at the Museum of International Folk Art, with contributions from 10 other scholars in the field, ¡CARNAVAL! offers an exciting international view of Carnival in 11 cities and towns in Europe and the Americas. Featuring in-depth essays, with more than 300 dazzling color photographs, the book explores Carnival festivities in New Orleans and Basile, Louisiana; Laza, Spain; rural Bulgaria; Venice, Italy; Basel, Switzerland; Tlaxcala, Mexico; Oruro, Bolivia; Recife and Olinda, Brazil; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; and Haiti.

In addition to Mauldin, the book's primary contributors include Jason Berry, Donald Cosentino, Alessandro Falassi, Valeria Fol, Carl Lindahl, John Nunley, Katarina Real, Mariana Regalado, Cynthia LeCount Samaké and Peter Tokofsky. Their unique voices and perspectives take readers on an entertaining, educational journey through Carnival in these 11 far-flung locations, outlining the history of Carnival in each area and its present form. Carnival events in each location are described, from excited preparation to last-gasp revelry, with tastes of festival food and drink and musical rhythms along the way.

While Carnival takes similar shapes everywhere European Catholics carried their religion and its festivals, with people disguising themselves in elaborate costumes and parading through the streets in preparation for Lent, ¡CARNAVAL! examines indigenous Carnival customs with even deeper roots. The book shows how, in many places, customs that accompanied enslaved Africans in their diaspora became integrated into the festival to give it distinctive local flavors.

Readers are also introduced to the major masquerades at each site — from Venice's classic Harlequin and Pierrot to Bulgaria's "Kouker" and Port of Spain's "Midnight Robber"— along with the kinds of groups who participate, such as Recife and Olinda's African "nations" and Tlaxcala's *charro* dancers.

¡CARNAVAL! is a joyous celebration of this many-faceted festival and a tribute to those who have kept their Carnival traditions alive.

—more—

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¡CARNAVAL!

350 pp., 300+ color illus., 8.5" x 11"

Cloth: ISBN 0-295-98426-0, \$60.00

Paper: ISBN 0-295-98427-9, \$40.00

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