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**VALENTINO’S SHIELD AUTHENTICATED BY COLLECTIONS MANAGER AT
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**Prop from “The Sheik,” Never Before Displayed, and Other Artifacts from Silent Star’s
Movie Career on Display Feb. 13 at Newhall’s Hart Park and Museum**

Los Angeles – The Natural History Museum’s History Department has attributed a shield from Rudolph Valentino’s “The Sheik,” which will now be donated to the Museum. It and other rare Valentino artifacts will be on display for the first time Saturday, February 13 for a one-night event in celebration of Valentine’s Day at the William S. Hart Park and Museum. The Hart Museum, located in Newhall, California, is part of the Natural History Family of Museums.

The North Hollywood prop house History for Hire contacted the Museum’s History Collections Manager, Beth Werling, with an offer to donate the piece. If she could verify it was in fact from “The Sheik” (1921), the Museum would accept the gift.

Werling did just that, by photo comparison to movie stills, and by provenance — the prop house acquired the piece from Paramount in the mid-1980s, and has had it ever since. Because of its significance, the prop house felt the shield belonged in a Museum. Werling also discovered that the piece was re-used by Cecil B. De Mille in “Samson and Delilah.”

At the Feb. 13 Hart event, called Valentino for Valentines, the special history exhibit will include the actor’s baby collars; historic movie stills; a pastel portrait made from life; and a shirt and rifle from Valentino’s last film, “The Son of the Sheik” (1926), the sequel to “The Sheik.” The former will be screened and a catered Italian buffet dinner served.

About the Hart Park and Museum

Silent film star William S. Hart purchased a ranch house and surrounding property in Newhall, north of Los Angeles, in 1921. He built a 22-room mansion and filled it with Western art, Native American artifacts, and early Hollywood memorabilia. Hart bequeathed the 230-acre estate to Los Angeles County for the enjoyment of the public at no charge. Tours and programs such as silent movie screenings take place frequently at the Hart Museum. Among the Hart Park’s permanent residents is an assortment of animals, including a small herd of bison, a gift from the Walt Disney Studios in 1962.



A movie still from “The Son of Sheik.” The actor’s shirt is one of many artifacts on display Feb. 13 at the Hart Park and Museum.

The Hart Park and Museum is located at 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall, CA, 91321. Open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with tours every half hour. Admission is free. For more information, visit the Museum's website at [.hartmuseum.org](http://hartmuseum.org) or call (661) 254-4584.

About the Valentino for Valentines Event

The evening will include a special display of Valentino artifacts, catered dinner, and a screening of Valentino's "The Son of the Sheik." Advance ticket purchase is required and can be made by calling (661) 254-4584. Ticket price: \$40 per person. Sorry, no refunds will be permitted.

This event is sponsored by the William S. Hart Park and Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, and the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation.