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**MUSEUM'S FIFTH ANNUAL *MONUMENTS & MASTERPIECES* TOUR TO
VISIT THE ORIENT**

Loretto – This fall, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will embark on its fifth annual *Monuments & Masterpieces* tour but for the first time will set foot on a new continent: Asia. SAMA is pleased to announce that its 2013 tour, scheduled for October 3 through 13, will visit China.

Through the *Monuments & Masterpieces* tour, guests will spend eleven days and ten nights visiting some of the most popular destinations in China. The tour will begin in Beijing, where guests will have an opportunity to visit Tiananmen Square, erected in 1417 at the height of the Ming Dynasty, and the Forbidden City. Known today as the Palace Museum, the entire site is comprised of 800 buildings with more than 9,000 rooms. The Great Wall of China and Beijing Olympic village also are on the itinerary, as is a trip to the Beijing Zoo to see its world famous pandas. Later, the group will fly to Xi'an for stops at the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum and a tour of the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, where more than 8,000 finely sculpted, life-size terracotta soldiers and horses were uncovered nearly forty years ago. The tour concludes with nearly three full days in Shanghai. While there, guests will have an opportunity to visit the five-acre Yuyuan Garden and take a trip along the famous Grand Canal, the longest man-made canal in the world. For a complete list of all the 2013 *Monuments & Masterpieces* destinations, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

Monuments & Masterpieces is arranged in conjunction with Vacation Station Travel in Greensburg. Cost ranges between \$3,750 and \$3,950, depending on number of passengers. Tickets include motor coach transportation to Washington Dulles International Airport; round-trip air travel; eight nights of first class accommodations in China; twenty-two meals (eight breakfasts, six lunches and eight dinners); all sight-seeing fees (per itinerary); services of an English-speaking tour manager throughout the trip; and group travel insurance. There are a limited number of spaces available, so please reserve your spot soon. For reservations or additional information, call Michael Philomena of Vacation Station Travel at (724) 832-7117.