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U.S. NEWS

Paul Revere's time capsule unveiled in Boston

Cristina Maza
Wednesday, 7 Jan 2015 | 10:47 AM ET

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More than 200 years ago in **Boston**, a prominent silversmith, a political philosopher, and a local real estate developer conspired to leave trinkets for future generations. Placing a capsule of keepsakes inside the cornerstone of the **Massachusetts** State House, the three men left the items to be uncovered at a later date.

The men were Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and William Scollay, three important figures of early American history. Adams was the governor of Massachusetts at the time, and construction on the State Building had just begun. Revere would later go on to overlay the State House dome with copper.

Throughout the years, the time capsule lay encased in plaster along with an assortment of coins. Now, 220 years later, the lid of the capsule has been painstakingly pried open by Pamela Hatchfield, head of objects conservation at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Using a porcupine quill, Ms. Hatchfield spent hours removing the box's lid to reveal its contents.



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Museum of Fine Arts Boston Head of Objects Conservation Pam Hatchfield removes a folded 19th century newspaper from a time capsule at the museum, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in Boston.

The time capsule, whose contents were unveiled on Tuesday, is one of the oldest in the country.

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"Tonight is a new chapter in a story that began in 1795," Malcolm Rogers, director of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, was quoted saying by CNN.

The capsule was originally removed from the Massachusetts State House cornerstone on Dec. 11 after the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance discovered that a leak threatened to damage the box. It took around seven hours to remove the capsule, which officials say weighed 10 pounds.

The contents of the box include five folded newspapers, which museum representatives say are in an excellent state of conservation; a Massachusetts commonwealth seal; an engraved silver plate; and around 24 old silver and copper coins.

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The collection includes some of the country's first coins, including half-cent, one-cent, half-dime, 10-cent and 25-cent pieces. A set of coins including a pine tree shilling from 1652 and a copper medal showing George Washington were also included within the capsule.

Conservators at the museum will begin immediately to work on preserving the newly unveiled items.

This was not the first time the box has been uncovered. In 1855, the time capsule was removed and its contents cleaned before being placed back in the cornerstone for another 160 years. The box's contents were recorded in reports of the time.

This time, all of the items will be put on display temporarily. Eventually,



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however, officials plan to return the box to its original home. It remains to be seen whether new, modern items will be included for future generations to find.

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murtwitnessone • 14 days ago

It would be nice if the items would be photographed and put on line and also, for ONCE could we not put politics in every subject on the internet?This is a piece of history and not a political debate for crying out loud. .

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Peppermint Butler • 16 days ago

I hope these things arent stolen by republicans.

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 I hope you become more creative and start making more sense.
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 dont worry Bama will auction off the coins and distribute the proceeds to the poor!!! Yes we can end America! =P
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 The repubs will steal the coins and use the proceeds to try and get Romney elected again. That way they can steal from the poor.
 1 ^ [v] • Reply • Share ›

 **boBNunny** → jim • 14 days ago
 Wow, how original. Even though wages have been going down under Obama and the rich continue getting richer, it's still Republicans, right? Get a new song!
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 Since Dems don't respect the Constitution anymore, what value is any of this to them?
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 They stopped respecting it after the repubs began destroying it
 3 ^ [v] • Reply • Share ›

 **Just Sayin'** • 16 days ago
 Well that wasn't as exciting as I was hoping for.
 5 ^ [v] • Reply • Share ›

 **Scott Henderson** • 16 days ago
 well la de da. I buried a time capsule in the desert a few years back, I'm sure it's fertilized a cactus by now.
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 **Richard Villeneuve** • 16 days ago
 Big whoop.
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