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"HADROSAURUS FOULKII: THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD," NEW EXHIBIT OPENS NOV. 22

PHILADELPHIA—When it was discovered in Haddonfield, N.J., in 1858, *Hadrosaurus foulkii* was the most complete dinosaur skeleton ever found. Ten years later, Philadelphia became the first city in the world to display a full dinosaur skeleton, and The Academy of Natural Sciences became the first museum in the world to do it.

Now, to mark the 150th anniversary of the scientific description of *H. foulkii*, the museum will once again display a fully mounted skeleton of the famous animal that started the public's fascination with dinosaurs. The 25-foot-long South Jersey plant-eater will be the centerpiece of a new exhibit called "*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World," opening Nov. 22. This will be the first time the fully mounted skeleton will be on display in Philadelphia since the 1930s, although casts of individual fossils have been displayed in the Academy's Dinosaur Hall nearly continuously for the last 80 years.

"In the mid-19th century, *Hadrosaurus foulkii* was the best dinosaur skeleton in the world, and when it was first put on display at the Academy, it began a long tradition of dinosaur exhibits in natural history museums," said Dr. Ted Daeschler, Academy paleontologist and a curator of the exhibit. "We can look back at *Hadrosaurus* as the beginning of the public's fascination with dinosaurs. And it all started right here in the Philadelphia region."

Created by Academy scientists and exhibits staff, with the help of dinosaur-mounting specialists from Canada, the exhibit will be on view through April 19, 2009. The exhibit is free with regular museum admission.

What visitors will see

Visitors to "*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World" will feel like they stepped back in time to the Victorian period, except for the lack of female visitors wearing hoop skirts and gentlemen sporting stiff-collared shirts, as was the fashion of the day. At center stage is the skeleton of *H. foulkii*. It stands on a wooden platform, much as it did 140 years ago, except that it has been remounted and reinterpreted based on 21st-century science. The rest of the exhibit is organized into three main scenes with three main characters—each an important chapter in telling the compelling story of *H. foulkii*.

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“It took three remarkable men to transform *H. foulkii* from a jumble of bones to a towering skeleton,” said Barbara Ceiga, vice president for public operations, who led the exhibit team. “William Parker Foulke, who discovered the bones, Joseph Leidy, who described and interpreted them, and Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who created the skeleton.”

In the re-created Haddonfield marl pit, visitors will learn that the fossilized bones of *H. foulkii* were discovered twice—once by farm workers in 1838 and 20 years later by Foulke, a Philadelphia lawyer and amateur geologist. Foulke gave the fossils to Leidy, an Academy curator and University of Pennsylvania anatomy professor. The real fossils, which are normally housed in the Academy’s research collection and are extremely fragile, will be on display in this section in a sealed case.

Leidy identified the fossils as a dinosaur and published a paper naming the species after Foulke. Visitors will see a re-creation of Leidy’s busy workroom, including a desk he used, his microscope slides, actual fossils he worked on, and other historic artifacts and personal belongings.

The third scene is the studio of artist-naturalist Hawkins, one of the first people in the world to show what dinosaurs looked like. Visitors will see the studio as it looked in the late 1860s, when Hawkins was busy making copies of skeletons of *H. foulkii*.

The star of the show is the nine-foot-tall skeleton of *H. foulkii*. Unlike the original display which contained some real fossils, this reincarnation is a full cast based on digital scans of the real fossils. The real fossils are too fragile to be mounted. Visitors will see the original iguana-like skull that Hawkins created for the Academy’s 1868 mount. It is the only existing piece of *H. foulkii* out of all the casts he made for display at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Paleozoic Museum in New York City, and the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art in Scotland.

Why is *Hadrosaurus foulkii* so important?

Hadrosaurus foulkii (had row SAWR us FOLK eye) occupies a singular place in the history of American paleontology and that of the Academy. At the time of its discovery in 1858, it was the most complete dinosaur skeleton in the world. And when it was placed on exhibit at the Academy 10 years later, it was the first mounted dinosaur skeleton displayed anywhere in the world. It was an instant sensation with the public.

Nowadays, “*Tyrannosaurus rex*” practically rolls off the tongue of a two-year-old. But imagine a time when only a few scientists were familiar with the word “dinosaur,” and even fewer had any idea what one looked like. When *H. foulkii* was put on display, crowds flocked to the Academy, then located in a smaller building at Broad and Sansom streets. Within a year, 100,000 people had

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crowded the halls prompting officials to impose a 10-cent admission fee in hopes of keeping the number of visitors down. This sudden “dinosaur mania” propelled the Academy into the realization of the need for a museum that would handle large crowds on a regular basis. Within a decade, the museum moved to larger quarters at its present location.

Haddonfield, N.J., celebrates “Haddy”

Philadelphia isn’t the only city paying homage to *Hadrosaurus foulkii*. Across the Delaware River in the New Jersey community where the dinosaur was found, a group called HATCH (Haddonfield Acts To Create *Hadrosaurus foulkii*) is planning a raft of activities this fall and into spring. Haddonfield elementary schoolchildren wrote essays on “Haddy,” the town’s nickname for the famous dinosaur. Businesses on Main Street will compete for the best dinosaur window display; talks by authors, historians, and Academy scientists and educators are being planned.

In 1991 the New Jersey Assembly designated *H. foulkii* the state dinosaur after a lobbying effort by a teacher and her students.

For more information

www.ansp.org/media

www.ansp.org/hadrosaurus

<http://www.ansp.org/museum/leidy/index.php>

www.hadrosaurus.com

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on weekends. Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for “Butterflies!”

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas. Our mission is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.