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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT “*HADROSAURUS FOULKII*: THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD”

PHILADELPHIA—When *Hadrosaurus foulkii* first went on display in Philadelphia in 1868 it made headlines around the world and people flocked to see it. Now this famous dinosaur is back as the centerpiece of “*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World,” on view at The Academy of Natural Sciences Nov. 22–April 19, 2009. Here are some fascinating facts to keep in mind when visiting the exhibit:

***H. foulkii* was** discovered twice. The first time was around 1838 when farm workers in Haddonfield, N.J., were digging in a marl (mineral-rich claylike substance used at the time as fertilizer) pit and stumbled across odd-looking bones. Not knowing what they were, they gave them away. The second time was in 1858 when William Parker Foulke, an amateur naturalist and member of The Academy of Natural Sciences, heard the story about the bones and decided to start digging himself. His persistence paid off.

At the time of its discovery, 49 individual bones and teeth were unearthed. This made it the most complete dinosaur skeleton in the world.

On Dec. 14, 1858, Dr. Joseph Leidy, a paleontologist at the Academy and an anatomy professor at the University of Pennsylvania, presented a paper describing the anatomy of the dinosaur that he named *Hadrosaurus foulkii*. The event helped catapult Leidy to world fame as a dinosaur authority and established him as the father of North American vertebrate paleontology.

When it went on display in 1868, *H. foulkii* caused the museum’s attendance to skyrocket. The institution imposed a 10-cent admission fee in hopes of limiting the crowds. It didn’t work, and the Academy went on to build a bigger museum at its present location.

Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins made several copies of *H. foulkii* for museums in Princeton, N.J., Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Scotland. None of the casts exist today, except for one skull reconstruction that Hawkins made for the Academy’s mount. This skull is part of the current exhibit.

Thanks to a years-long lobbying effort by a teacher at Strawbridge Elementary School in Haddon Township, N.J., and her fourth-grade students, the New Jersey Assembly in 1991 designated *Hadrosaurus foulkii* its state dinosaur.

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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 weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3–12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 entry fee for “Butterflies!”