

## News Release

## The Government of Nunavut and the Canadian Conservation Institute Partner to Analyze Gjoa Haven Box

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (September 28, 2010) - On Friday, September 24, 2010, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) opened the wood box recently excavated in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut and brought to Ottawa for examination and conservation treatments.

Two members of the Porter family and a representative from the Government of Nunavut were present during the opening.

The remains of a cardboard box lined the bottom and sides of the interior of the wood box. Pieces of newspaper, and what appeared to be tallow, were discovered beneath the sand and rocks that filled the box. No items related to either Amundsen or to Franklin were found.

The Government of Nunavut and CCI will release an update in the coming days once the contents of the box have been further analyzed and assessed.

Despite the fact that the box did not contain the objects originally thought to be inside, this was an important project to undertake given the potential significance of these items and their importance to the local community. "We were pleased to respond to the community's request for assistance concerning this matter. We worked in close partnership with CCI and made arrangements to ensure that the recovery and analysis of any important artifacts could be handled properly," noted Douglas Stenton, Director, Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut.

As part of its commitment to this project, in the coming year the Government of Nunavut will work with the community of Gjoa Haven to plan the rebuilding of the cairn beneath which the box was discovered. The cairn was erected to honour the memory of HBC trader William Gibson and early discussions include the possibility of engaging youth from the local community to place a time capsule under the new cairn.

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