

## A Gift for Historians of the 22nd Century: History Department to Bury a Time Capsule on Campus in Commemoration of HKBU's 60th Anniversary

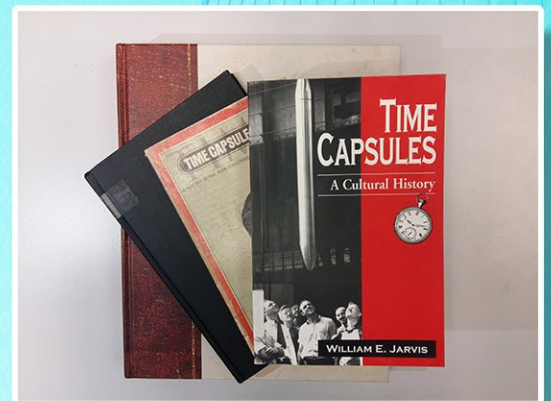
送給下世紀史學家的禮物：歷史系將準備時間囊祝賀六十周年校慶



The History Department is excited to announce that it plans a 100-year time capsule on campus to commemorate HKBU's 60th anniversary.

The time capsule is a collection of historical information and mementos of era as well as a method of communication with the future. According to faculty librarian William E. Jarvis at Washington State University, the time capsule not only has “a unique combination of archival-history record and archaeological-dimensions,” but it can transfer essential information and evidences of human artistic, cultural and technical-material civilization to future recipients. Above all, creating a time capsule can be seen as a socio-cultural event that allows the public to contribute to the survival of particular collective memories.

The time capsule has become increasingly popular since the burial of the “Westinghouse Time Capsules,” which will be opened until AD6939, in Queens, New York during the 1939's World's Fair. This famous time capsule was hardly the first, however. In Boston, for example, the “Samuel Adams and Paul Revere's Time Capsule,” which was considered one of the oldest time capsules in America, was buried in a cornerstone of the Massachusetts State House in 1795, and another time capsule was placed inside the golden lion at the roof of Old State House for 113 years since 1901. In Asia, it is notable that a time capsule containing six Singaporean newspapers was buried beneath the foundation stone of the Old Supreme Court Building in Singapore in 1937 that was planned to be opened in AD 3000. Interestingly, some of the time capsules were created unofficially and accidentally. A forgotten family shoe store was found in an American old building in 2014. The shoe store has been closed for more than 40 years and it accidentally preserved the fashion of footwear of 1940s to 1960s. Another famous example is an entire Paris apartment discovered in 2010 that was full of historical items such as amazing paintings, a stuffed ostrich, and a Mickey



Scholarly works on time capsule.



Westinghouse Time Capsules (1939)





Left:  
Samuel Adams and Paul Revere's  
Time Capsule (1795)

Right:  
Time capsule in head of 113-year-old  
lion statue atop Boston's Old State  
House (1901)



Left:  
Forgotten Paris Apartment (1942)

Right:  
Forgotten family shoe store (1960s)



Mouse doll, which had remained undisturbed since 1942. Other important examples from around the world include:



The "Crypt of Civilization" in Brookhaven,  
Georgia(1940)



The "Time Capsule Expo 1970" in Japan (1970)



Steve Jobs' Lost Time Capsule (1983)



Mysterious Time Capsule at Washington Monument (1915)





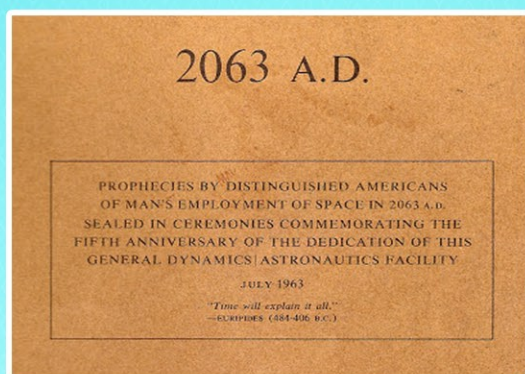
Pennsylvania Armory Time Capsule (1900)



Burbank Time Capsule (1959)



Yahoo! Time Capsule (2006)



General Dynamics Time Capsule (1963)



Paris Opera Vault (1907)



General Dynamics Time Capsule (1963)



Paris Opera Vault (1907)

In fact, there are many time capsules around us in Hong Kong too.



Left:  
Open University of Hong Kong's  
Time Capsule in commemoration  
of its 25th anniversary (2014)

Right:  
M+ Time Capsule at the West  
Kowloon Cultural District  
(WKCD) (2015)



Left:  
Time Capsule in Ma On Shan Park (2002)



Right:  
The Central & Western District's Time Capsule in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR Coordination Committee in Sheung Wan (2007)



Left:  
Time Capsule at the Science and Technology Park in Sha Tin (2007)

Right:  
The Rotary Centennial Time Capsule in Tai Chi Garden, Hong Kong Park (2005)



A Time Capsule in celebration of the American International School's 25th Anniversary (2011)



A Time Capsule in celebration of the Opening of the Wu Yee Sun College of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) (2014)



A Time Capsule in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) and the inaugural Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination in North Point (2012)

The Department's time capsule will allow historians one hundred years from now (AD 2116) to see how people understood and constructed history in 2016. More importantly, it is a chance for us to preserve historical memories and items of sentimental value, and thus to communicate with future historians in 2116. It is also meaningful because it is a time capsule buried by all faculty members, staff and History Majors as well as alumni.

Paper form messages (2-dimensional, paper size not exceeding the A4 size, and must be folded twice) and three-dimensional items (not exceeding the size of 5cm x 5cm x 5cm) are qualified contributions to the time capsule. Three-dimensional items can be placed by all members of the Department, including aca-



demic and teaching staff, research and office supporting staff, research postgraduate students and student organizations. Paper-form messages can be placed by all current History Majors (in all programmes and years) as well as the Class of 2016.

In addition, alumni are welcome to contribute to the time capsule by making donations (Paper-form message: not less than \$100 HKD/\$15 USD/14 euro; 3D item: not less than \$10000 HKD/\$1500 USD/1400 euro). All donations are welcome at anytime but the Department would appreciate your confirmations before June 2015 for a better arrangement before the sealing of the time capsule. For more details of the donation methods, please see the form attached to this entry.

It is worth noting that the items must be in permanent form, or completely sealed off by a package in permanent form, and must not be damaging to other items. For example, lithium batteries and flammable items are not allowed. Furthermore, in order to ensure that the time capsule's contents will be protected from decomposition during their 100-year burial, items will be separately put into large water-proof bags, which are then placed in the time capsule randomly. The Department shall retain the right to fill in any remaining space. Please also note that contributors may choose to disclose their identity with their messages/objects or not.

The time capsule is scheduled to be buried on campus in the morning of 5 October 2016 and the actual place and time will be announced soon. Professor Roland T. Chin, the President and Vice-Chancellor, will officiate at the Ceremony. Stay tuned for more updated information in the coming issues of this *E-Newsletter*.



#### Words from the Department Head, Prof. Clara Wing-chung HO

新年伊始，萬象更新。首先在這裡恭祝各位同事、同學和校友在新的一年身心安康、事事如意、學業進步和工作愉快。

對歷史系來說，2016年將別具意義，而且肯定會寫入歷史。為了慶祝大學創校六十周年，歷史系的獻禮是一座將在一百年後才開啟的時間囊。今期系訊的焦點，也是報導這項計劃。

這是一個極其難得的機會，我們打算透過文字或物體作媒介，與一百年後的史學家隔空對話。我們將刻意保存一些會為下世紀學者帶來驚喜的資料，對方會收到可能在他們的年代已經絕迹或是進化至面目全非的種種物件，該等細項當可從不同角度反映我們今日所處年代



的日常生活片段。又或者我們之中，會有人選擇乾脆直接寫下分享文字，坦誠地向後人剖白自己的所思所感。例如我們追求的梦想、我們堅持的核心價值、我們對社會現象的解讀、我們對下一代的寄望等等。詩人陳子昂曾發出「前不見古人，後不見來者」的永恆慨歎。「來者」我們固不得見，但原來經過精心的安排，我們竟然可以為「來者」保留一些「古人」的聲音，讓他們直接觸碰「古人」留下的禮物。如此壯舉，想來已感興奮，更何況這些物件，是一群受過歷史學專業訓練的人，千篩百選地保留下來的？

古今中外都有形形色色的時間囊，等待開啟的日子短至十年八載，長至過百上千。今次歷史系這個時間囊的開啟日期定在2116年，固然是有期諸百年的想法，但其實也希望證明這純粹是一份誠意地送給後人的禮物，而不是用來在我們有生之年見證風光的道具，希望2116年的朋友會明白我們的心意。

不知道後人打開我們這個時間囊的時候，我們這一代人的共同心願是否已經實現？又或者我們最害怕的局面如化武核武擴張，以致人類無止境互相殘殺等噩夢真的會出現嗎？我們這個時代面對許多自然災害都束手無策，但下一個世紀人類的智慧是否已經可以令許多難題迎刃而解？還是依然要無奈面對亙古以來的挑戰？一百年後科技的先進程度，是否已發展到不費吹灰之力就已經可以打開我們層層深鎖、封泥固土的時間囊？這一切一切沒有答案的問題，實在十分有趣，也是讀歷史的人極感興趣的地方。

歷史系是一個大家庭，所有持份者都有權參與投放既定尺寸及名額的物件。2016年是花甲校慶年，我們熱烈歡迎所有今年內在職的老師、職員及在學的同學（包括應屆畢業班同學）投放物件。此外，歷屆校友也是我們的一份子，不過時間囊的空間有限，未能滿足歷屆校友一人一物。因此，我們呼籲歷屆校友如有興趣投放物件在這個時間囊內，請一概以贊助方式進行，無任歡迎。詳情請見本期系訊有關報導。

易地而處，假如我們今時今日收到一百年前的史學家精心為我們讀歷史的人準備的一份禮物，我們會何其驚喜感恩？人同此心，就讓我們努力安排好這份滿載時代烙印的厚禮，送給下世紀的朋友、同行吧！





### Words from the Time Capsule Project Coordinator, Dr. Kin-sum (Sammy) LI

Hello everyone,

First of all, happy year of the monkey! I wish you all a fruitful year ahead.

It is my honor to be the coordinator of the time capsule project. This is my important “mission” in the department, as it is a 100-year project! As an archaeologist, I am interested in studying how and why people buried things. But this time I become the one who buries things, and these items buried by you all will be excavated by historians and archaeologists 100 years later. This sounds very fascinating, as we are trying to communicate with those future historians and archaeologists! They will “communicate” with us through these objects, and attempt to “decipher” our language, writing system, beliefs, social structures, hierarchy, and so on!

Please use your imagination and historians’ sixth sense to think of something you feel that is unique and representative to put into the time capsule. We are historians interested in studying the past. But this time we are creating “histories” to be studied by others. What kinds of “histories” will we create? And as a kind of collective creation, who knows what kinds of historical images we will leave to the future historians?! Any crazy ideas are welcome!

Some of us may live long enough to see the day of excavating the time capsule, but many of us may not, unless life science advances significantly in the upcoming years 😊. So we should feel free to leave any kinds of message or item because the majority of us will not be able to see them! The future generation historians and archaeologists, who should be interested in the past, and of course the histories that take place in AD 2016, should feel excited to see things survive 100 years. And of course, we can bury things produced earlier; for example, we can bury some older stuff, to lie to the future historians that these things were produced in AD 2016. See if they believe us! We can also encode our writing system, like using popular Internet phrases or 火星文, let the future historical linguists decipher them!

I hope you will all use your creativeness and imagination for the project, and see you soon!



### Time Capsule Project in Commemoration of HKBU's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 香港浸會大學六十週年校慶：歷史學系時間囊計劃

Department of History  
Hong Kong Baptist University



#### Cheque Donation Form 支票捐款表格

Name 姓名：\_\_\_\_\_ (English) \_\_\_\_\_ (中文)

Title/Position 職銜：\_\_\_\_\_ (English) \_\_\_\_\_ (中文)

Organisation 機構：\_\_\_\_\_ (English) \_\_\_\_\_ (中文)

Name on Receipt：\_\_\_\_\_ (English)

捐款收據名稱：\_\_\_\_\_ (中文)

Office Tel. 辦公室電話：\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile 手提：\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address 電郵地址：\_\_\_\_\_ Fax 傳真：\_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence Address 通訊地址：\_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation (for alumni only) 畢業年份 (校友適用)：\_\_\_\_\_

I/ Our Organization wish(es) to contribute:

本人/本機構樂意捐贈：

- ☐ A one- page paper-form message (paper size not exceeding the A4 size, and must be folded twice, and sealed with a sticker or place in an envelope)

一頁文字/圖像 (紙張尺寸不得大於 A4，並須折疊兩次，用貼紙封口，或放進信封內封口)

I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ (not less than HK\$100 / US\$15 / Euro14).

我將捐資 \_\_\_\_\_ (不少於港幣 100/美元 15/歐元 14)。

- ☐ A 3D item (not exceeding the size of 5cm x 5cm x 5cm)

立體物品 (立方體體積不得大於 5cm x 5cm x 5cm)

I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ (not less than HK\$10000 / US\$1500 / Euro1400).

我將捐資 \_\_\_\_\_ (不少於港幣 10000/美元 1500/歐元 1400)。

- ☐ An Item larger than the required size, the size is about \_\_\_\_\_.

比上述體積尺寸大的立體物品，它的體積約是 \_\_\_\_\_。

Please contact the Department to further negotiate on the size of donation in person.

請聯絡歷史系，進一步商討捐款事宜。

#### Donation Procedure 捐款程序

1. Please issue a crossed cheque made payable to "Hong Kong Baptist University"

劃線支票抬頭敬請寫上「香港浸會大學」

Bank 銀行：\_\_\_\_\_

Cheque No. 支票號碼：\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please send the crossed cheque together with the completed Cheque Donation Form to the following address:

Head

Department of History

Hong Kong Baptist University

Kowloon Tong

Kowloon

Hong Kong

請將劃線支票捐款連同此表格郵寄至香港九龍塘香港浸會大學歷史學系系主任收

3. After sending the donations, please send your messages/objects to the Department by post by **September 15, 2016**. Alternatively, please bring them to the Department on **October 4, 2016** between 9 am and 5 pm. The capsule will be sealed after 5 pm and latecomers will not be entertained.

捐款寄出後，請將準備投放在時間囊內的文字/圖像/物件於二〇一六年九月十五日前寄交歷史系。亦可在二〇一六年十月四日上午九時至下午五時內親自將投放物交送浸會大學道校園學校教學及行政大樓 11 樓歷史系辦公室。當日五時後將進行真空處理及封蓋，逾時不候。

4. Donations over HK\$100 are exempted from tax in Hong Kong

港幣一百元以上捐款可申請本地免稅

I/The signatory below hereby understand(s) and agree(s) that Hong Kong Baptist University will apply for a matching grant, if applicable, from the Education Bureau of University Grants Committee with the donation made by me/our organisation.

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I ☐ wish / ☐ do not wish my name/the name of our organisation to be disclosed for acknowledgement purposes via the University publications or website.

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Signature of Donor/Authorised Representative of Organisation 捐贈人/機構之授權代表簽署

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