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Czar's jewels go back to Russia Houston museum still waiting for word of exhibit's return

WASHINGTON (AP) — The czars' jewels went back to the Russian Embassy on Monday after a two-week standoff had kept them locked in a vault at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

There was still no word whether the jewels of the Romanov dynasty would continue on to Houston, the next stop in a planned seven-city American tour, or return to Russia.

The Houston museum said it heard the dispute was over and that the jewels would come to Texas.

But in Washington, Mikhail Gusman of the Russian committee that organized the tour, said: "There is no agreement yet on whether the exhibit will go to Houston or beyond."

Lawyers for the two sides remain in meetings trying to work out a deal.

A Corcoran official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the deal being hammered out at a Washington hotel might result in sending the jewels to Houston but to no other American sites.

The diamonds, rubies, court vestments and paintings—including the most extensive collection of crown jewels ever to leave Russia—were due to open in an exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts on May 11.

Future scheduled showings included Memphis, Tenn., and San Diego. Three more sites were being negotiated.

But when the exhibit closed April 13 at the Corcoran in downtown Washington, a dispute surfaced between Russian authorities and the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation, headed by former Rep. James W. Symington.

The Russian Embassy demanded that the whole exhibit be returned.

"It's all about money," said one Corcoran official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

For a week, cars from the Russian Embassy blocked a truck loaded with part of the exhibit, including gowns, icons, paintings, church vestments and other relics of the Romanov empire that ruled Russia for 304 years.

After a week's negotiations, during which the Russians complained about the truck being left on the street in Washington's wet spring weather, the truck went back to the embassy.

Levy said he would hold on to the jewels—locked in his museum's vault—until the parties could reach agreement or a court issued an order.

On Monday afternoon, two Brinks trucks pulled into the Corcoran's back yard and Levy supervised the loading of five cases of jewels and two more cases of equipment.

"Wonderful as these objects are," he told reporters, "they pack up in pretty small crates."

During the exhibit's 10 weeks at the Corcoran, 80,000 visitors came to see such items as a rattle set with emeralds, rubies and diamonds made for the son of Catherine the Great.

None of the items had ever been seen in the United States before, including the 70 jewels and uncut gems of the Romanovs, who ruled until 1917.

State Group rallies for choice of school

AUSTIN (AP)—A group of business leaders and parents supporting school choice, gathered Monday to individual legislators.

Gov. George W. Bush, who turned to his office after an appearance at the rally.

"He told them Texas should have a choice of schools. Our goal is to have if competition and school choice that happen, Texas should have a choice of schools."

Under a current Senate bill, students who fail the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test may attend a school deemed lower by the Texas Education Agency.

But the bill would allow students to attend private school.

"I'm not trying to hurt the schools. I'm just trying to take my children and provide them the best education," said Jennifer Pearsall.

"There's got to be a choice when children graduate and go to college. (A good education) should be for kids that can afford it, but be for everyone," she said.

Nation Human remains identified as pilot

Colo. (AP)—Human remains found at the site of an A-10 Thunderbolt II crash have been positively identified as those of Capt. Craig Butten.

The 800 miles off course before crashing down, the Air Force said.

Positive identification was through DNA testing by scientists at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., on Monday.

Butten was on a routine mission April 2 when his A-10 was shot down by a missile from a F-16.

Wreckage of the plane and parts of the plane were found in the rugged mountains south of state 70, ending a three-week search.

National Guard helicopter continue training missions at a crash site looking for the plane. Officials believe the plane was covered by snow.

An Air Force board has been pointed to try to determine why the plane flew to Colorado.

This day in history

Today is Tuesday, April 29, the 119th day of 1997. There are 246 days left in the year.

On this date: In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orléans to lead a victory over the English.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1945, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp; that same day, in a Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Admiral Karl Doenitz his successor.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese leaders were indicted as war criminals.

In 1974, President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of secretly made White House tape recordings related to the Watergate scandal.

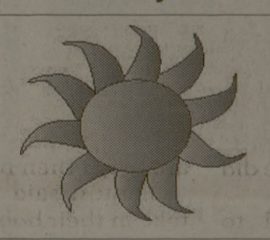

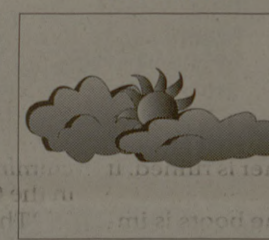
In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, deadly rioting that claimed 54 lives and caused \$1 billion in damage erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

Today's birthdays

Poet Rod McKuen is 64. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 61. Actor Lane Smith is 61. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 54. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 43. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 42. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 40. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 40. Actress Eve Plumb (*The Brady Bunch*) is 39. Rock musician Phil King (Lush) is 37. Singer Carole Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 29. Actress Uma Thurman is 27. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 27. Country singer James Bonamy is 25. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 24. Actor Zane Carney (*Dave's World*) is 13.

Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High 88°F
Sunny and warmer.	Fair skies becoming partly cloudy toward morning.	Partly cloudy and hot.	Tonight's Expected Low 56°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High 86°F
			Tomorrow Night's Expected Low 66°F

Student Savings	Student Savings	
One Medium Pizza \$6.99 (up to 3 toppings)	One Large Pizza \$8.99 (up to 3 toppings)	
Or Get Two For \$11.99	Or Get Two For \$15.99	
		
2610 Texas Ave. Bryan/Dine in 779-5422	4207 Wellborn Rd. Campus 846-3355	1103 Anderson, #103 Delivery 693-9393
102 University Dr. Delivery/Dine in 696-2512	All Locations Carryout. Limited Delivery Area.	3131 Briarcrest Dr. Bryan/Delivery 774-3222

Student Counseling HelpLine

Are You a good listener?
Do you like to help others? Are you a responsible and committed person?

Volunteers Needed
to begin service in the Summer '97 or Fall '97 Semester.

INTERVIEWING NOW
Summer training will be May 28-31. Fall training will be August 25-30.
Application DEADLINE for Summer Training is May 9.

ALL MAJORS are welcome to apply.

Applications available in Room 104 Henderson Hall.
For further information call Susan Vavra at 845-4427 ext. 133.

The International Business Association invites you to a special presentation featuring John Atterbury, President of SBC Communications International Group, and Alex Travieso, corporate Recruiter for SBC.

Date: April 29th
Location: Wehner 135
Time: 7 p.m.

•Business attire
•Refreshments provided

Great Career Opportunity


IBA: "Preparing Aggies For Global Leadership In Business"

Attention Student Organizations
FREE PUBLICITY

The information that will be used in the 1997-98 Student Organization Guide will be compiled from the information each group provided on the purple recognition card, filed in the Department of Student Activities for the 1996-97 academic year.

Go to: http://stuact.tamu.edu/external_contact_info.html to check out your organization's information for accuracy.

Changes can be made by filling out a change form in Student Activities (Dorothy's desk). Changes submitted by April 30 will be reflected in the year's Student Organization Guide.

 Student Activities
At Texas A&M University

It's time to
REGISTER
for MSC Fall Open House
theme is "You're Link to the Future"
Open House is Sept. 7
from 2-6 p.m.

Information at MSC Box Office
call 845-1234 for more details

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

SPRING '98
Study Abroad in Italy

Informational MEETINGS

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
1:30-2:15PM

Room 358
Bizzell Hall W.

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.



Study Abroad Programs, 161 W. Bizzell Hall, 845-0544

THE BATTALION

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News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Bat@tamvm1.tamu.edu; Internet address: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>.

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per year. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, call 845-2611.

The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843-4352. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.