

Bad hair day: Shock as famed aviator's hair found to be piece of thread

不如意的一天： 著名女飛行員頭髮原來是線



An aviation museum in the US state of Ohio that believed it was displaying a hair sample from famed flyer Amelia Earhart made an unfortunate discovery, after DNA analysis revealed it to be a piece of thread.

"In a disappointing turn of events," as Cleveland's International Women's Air and Space Museum described it in a statement, the lock of "hair" in their possession since 1986 was revealed as thread only after they put it on display this year.

Earhart, one of the greatest female pilots in the history of US aviation, **vanished into thin air** over the Pacific in 1937 at the age of 40 while attempting a **solo** flight around the world.

Museum officials said they had confidence in the **artifact**, having been recovered by a maid at the White House after Earhart — a friend of first lady Eleanor Roosevelt — stayed there shortly before her final flight.

"It was always believed it was her hair," Heather Alexander, the museum's office manager, told AFP.

The museum had lent a small sample of the "hair" to a historian's organization hoping to uncover the truth of Earhart's **demise** and seeking to match DNA to other artifacts found on the central Pacific island of Nikumororo.

The thread remains on display at the museum as part of an Earhart exhibition that is on show until Nov. 15.

"We've changed the sign and explained everything," assured Alexander, adding that visitors "show more interest and are very grateful that we are telling the truth and the whole story."

美國俄亥俄州某航空博物館尷尬地發現，該館正在展出的著名飛行員愛蜜莉亞·埃爾哈特的頭髮樣本，經DNA分析後原來是線。

克里夫蘭「國際女性航空太空博物館」在一份聲明中表示：「這結果令人失望。」自一九八六年納入館藏的這縷「頭髮」，今年展出後被證實只是線。

埃爾哈特是美國航空史上最偉大的女飛行員之一。一九三七年，四十歲的她挑戰獨自環遊世界飛行時，在太平洋上空人間蒸發。

博物館方表示，他們一直相信這件藝術品為真；埃爾哈特是第一夫人愛莉諾·羅斯福的朋友，她最後一趟飛行出發前曾在白宮短暫停留，而這縷頭髮就是一位白宮侍女撿到的。

博物館辦公室經理海瑟·亞莉珊卓對法新社表示：「我們一直深信這是她的頭髮。」

博物館把小部份的「頭髮」樣本送交某歷史學家機構，希望解開埃爾哈特的死亡之謎，並藉由DNA比對其他在太平洋中央的尼庫馬洛島上找到的人工製品。

這根線仍在該博物館的埃爾哈特特展中展示，展期至十一月十五日。

「我們更換了標牌並詳加解釋，」亞莉珊卓保證說，遊客「興致更高了，還很感謝我們把事實一五一十地說出來。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

An undated picture taken in the 1930s shows American female aviator Amelia Earhart at the controls of her plane.

PHOTO: AFP

這張攝於一九三〇年代、日期不明的照片中，美國女飛行員愛蜜莉亞·埃爾哈特在駕駛的飛機儀表板前留影。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **solo** /'solo/ adj.

單獨的 (dan1 du2 de5)

例：Stephan flew solo from India to Afghanistan.

(史蒂芬獨自從印度飛到阿富汗。)

2. **artifact** /'ɑ:rtɪ,fækt/ n.

人工製品 (ren2 gong1 zhi4 pin3) · 手工藝品 (shou3 gong1 yi4 pin3)

例：The national museum has one of the world's finest collections of prehistoric artifacts.

(國家博物館收藏的史前手工藝品品質是全世界數一數二的。)

3. **demise** /di'maɪz/ n.

死亡 (si3 wang2) · 終結 (zhong1 jie2)

例：Digital recording contributed to the demise of vinyl records.

(數位錄音讓黑膠唱片走入歷史。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

vanish into thin air
憑空消失

If something **vanishes into thin air**, it disappears without a trace. Although the term "thin air" was coined by Shakespeare, appearing in *Othello* and *The Tempest*, Shakespeare is not known to have used the phrase **vanish into thin air**.

Example: "Have you seen Sandra recently? She seems to have **vanished into thin air**."

若說某事「vanish into thin air」，就表示它消失地無影無蹤。雖然「thin air」這個詞是莎士比亞所創，出現在他的著作《奧賽羅》和《暴風雨》中，但據信莎士比亞不曾使用過「vanish into thin air」這個片語。

例如：「你最近有看到珊嗎？她好像憑空消失了。」