

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 1, 2019

WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1 (left): View showing layers. PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

Fig. 2 (above): Side view. PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

ARTIFACT 19-02 SPECIFICATIONS:

Four layers of six interlocking wood pieces (six in each layer, a total of 24 wood pieces in the wheel itself, this doesn't account for the two wood pieces that make up the circular clamp. Weight = 2.37kg (5.22lb.); Circumference of wheel = 62.2cm (24.5"); Circumference of inner circular clamp = 24.1cm (9.5"); Diameter of wheel = 30.5cm (12"); Diameter of inner circular clamp = 7.6cm (3"); 2-Square-head bolts, 13cm long (5.25").
continued...

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Fig. 3 (above): Close up view. PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

ARTIFACT 19-02**CLUES:**

This artifact was discovered in a barn that was built in the 1870's. There is a lot of history and a lot of mystery in this wheel. We are wheely looking forward to the thoughts rolling around in your head!

QUESTIONS:

This well used artifact employs the magic of simple machines. The wheel allows us to change the directional magnitude of force, or, in layman's language, it makes work easier. A slew of questions are rolling out:

- What work do you think this wooden wheel did?
- How were the individual pieces of the wheel cut?
 - What's the device in the center of the wheel?
 - Why are the wood pieces layered the way they are?
- What caused the different colors on the outside facing of the wheel?
- The biggest question of all is: Who invented the wheel?

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HOW THIS WORKS:

Every so often an artifact will be on display in the Seymour Library near the information desk and also be posted simultaneously on the Museum website. Seeing the artifact in person at the Library is best because there it can be viewed from different angles and distances (touching the artifact is not allowed).

YOUR GUESS?

Prediction cards can be found near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and on this page. Fill either card out and return it to "Ye Olde Prediction Box" near the exhibit display.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to everyone.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by: **Monday, May 20, 2019**

ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **June 3, 2019** when the next artifact will go on display.


PRIZES

There are NO prizes, but winning entrants names will be posted. (unless you indicate otherwise on the prediction card).

PREDICTION CARD

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY

WHAT'S IT?




Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Contact info (voluntary): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____


Artifact Number: _____ What do you think this object might be, and how would it be used?


Continue on back of card, if necessary.



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Brockport Community MUSEUM
A MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

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A collaboration of the Brockport Community Museum, Seymour Library and the Brockport Central School District.

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WHAT'S IT?

BACKGROUND

“WHAT’S IT?” has been a feature of the BCM website since its inception in 2007. In 2017 Brockport Community Museum board member Archer “Buck” Noble, a Brockport Central School District teacher (now retired) developed “The Mystery of History” school project that encouraged fourth and fifth grade students to use observational and investigative techniques to help determine the type and use of different historic artifacts.

That project was introduced to the general public during a Brockport Community Museum outreach presence at the 2017 Brockport Sidewalk Sale. That success led to this collaboration between the Brockport Community Museum, Seymour Library and Brockport Central School District.

GET INVOLVED

- **Take your best guess** regarding the current artifact.
- **Do you have an artifact** you would like to know more about? Open your query to a larger audience.
- **Have a suggestion** about how we can improve this project?

If so...

Leave your contact information in “Ye old prediction box” near the exhibit display.

CREDITS

Museum project committee

Archer “Buck” Noble
Richard W. Black
Norman Frisch

Seymour Library

Carl Gouveia, Director