

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 4, 2022

WHAT'S IT?



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



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

ARTIFACT 22-02

SPECIFICATIONS:

Material: Wood, with metal hinge; Weight = 11.8oz 334g
 Closed Length = 10.75" 273cm. Open (tips of handles) = 27.25" 43.5cm
 Oval Depression = Diameter Long 2" 5.1cm Diameter Short = 1.75" 2.3cm
 Depth = .56" 1.4cm

CLUES & QUESTIONS:

Proof of Mendel's Miracles!

For this artifact let us use Detective Sherlock Holmes and his partner Dr. Watson to help us solve this mystery. Detective Holmes would look at the facts, put them all together, consider the context of his investigation, and then come up with a deduction (educated guess) or, as In this case, deductionS!

First the facts: The artifact is made from two blocks of wood. They are mirror images of each other. A wooden handle is attached to the end of each block. The center of each block sports a half sphere (hemisphere). The blocks are connected together via a metal hinge which allows one block to fold over onto the other.

Holmes continues to examine the artifact coming up with more details as he opens and closes the object. He is especially curious about the two hemi-

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 4, 2022

WHAT'S IT?

Fig. 3: View of inside. PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

spheres cut into each block. After opening and closing the object a few times, Holmes sets it down and looks at Dr. Watson, his mystery solving partner. Holmes has a glint in his eye Dr. Watson knows what that glint means. Holmes has come to some kind of conclusion and he queries his partner, “Have you made a deduction, Holmes?”

Sherlock Holmes quips, “No. . . not one deduction, two. The first is elementary my dear Watson and it has to do with this artifact functioning as a simple machine to make work easier and more efficient.”

“And the second deduction?” asks Dr. Watson.

“Do you remember the book I received last week? The one titled “Experiments in Plant Hybridisa-

tion”, by Gregor Mendel? The answers are all in there Watson. It has to do with genetics! If you used something akin to this artifact today, it would have been three times larger.” So our friend Sherlock Holmes has made two deductions (thoughtful guesses) about this artifact; 1. In the past this artifact was used as a simple machine to make something easier and more efficient. 2. If it were to be used in today’s world it would have to be three times larger. Your mission is to predict what the artifact was used for and explain why it would have to be three times larger to be of use today.

We’d like to thank Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes for taking time out to give us some clues as to what this artifact is. Happy deducing!

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 4, 2022

WHAT'S IT?

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 23, 2022**

ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **June 6, 2022** 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



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.



Scan the QR code for more details!



Brockport Community MUSEUM
A MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS



Visit us at <http://brockportcommunitymuseum.org>

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

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 4, 2022

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

Norman Frisch

Garrett Roe

Seymour Library

Jennifer Caccavale, Director