

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — AUGUST 1, 2022

# WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1 (left-right): Front, back and side views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

## ARTIFACT 20-04A

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Material: Iron. Overall length = 27.31 cm (10 3/4 in),  
 overall width = 15.24 cm (6 in), overall depth = 4.76 cm (1 7/8 in),  
 stock thickness = 0.95 cm (3/8 in), hole diameter = 0.79 cm (5/16 in).

Pulley: Diameter = 8.89 cm (3 1/2 in), depth = 1.27 cm (1/2 in).

Weight = 1.824 kg (4.02 lb)

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Fig. 2 (left-right): Front, back and side views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

## ARTIFACT 20-04B

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Material: Very badly corroded and warped iron with bolts.  
Length = 24.77 cm (9 3/4 in), width = 11.75 cm (4 5/8 in),  
depth = 5.72 cm (2 1/4 in). Weight = 1.253 kg (2.76 lb).

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**WHAT'S IT?****ARTIFACT 20-04****CLUES & QUESTIONS:***Horseshoes, Wheels, and Archaeology*

At first glance these artifacts look like modified horseshoes, but it looks like it would be awfully hard to get a ringer while pitching. The wheels are a bit of a mystery too, and since we've never seen a horse rollerblading, we can safely rule out these artifacts is being horseshoes. As with all of our previous artifacts, these two sport simple machines—the wheels—used to perform some type of work. The difference with this display is that we have an artifact that was used, buried, and excavated, and one that is “new” and unused. What are some of the differences and similarities between the two? If you only had the excavated (rusty) artifact, how would you go about trying to figure out what it was and how it was used? These are questions that archaeologists tackle. Even before an artifact is found there is a great deal of work that needs to be done before an artifact is discovered, for example, what is the history of the site they are examining, what procedure should be used to excavate a site that may contain artifacts, what other artifacts have been found in the area? Being the an archaeologist is like being a detective of the past—they are the “Black Belts” of the “WHAT”S IT?” world! Devices like this are still being produced and used around the globe. They can be found in barns, large factories, any place where large objects need to be moved in and out of storage. Happy detective work!

—Cheers... Archer Lowell Noble Jr., aka Buck

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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.

## DEADLINE

All entries must be received by: **September 19, 2022**

## ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **October 3, 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).

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to everyone.

## 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.

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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

Norman Frisch

*Seymour Library*

Jennifer Caccavale, Director