

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — FEBRUARY 4, 2019

WHAT'S IT?



ARTIFACT 18-01 ANSWER

Fig. 1. Side view (partially open). In this configuration the artifact is 107.32cm tall and weighs 1723gm. It is made of wood and aluminum. It is used to vaporize materials without destroying them. *Continued...*

PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

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



Fig. 3. Clue photo seen in Fig. 1.
PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black



Fig. 4. Side view (fully open). PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

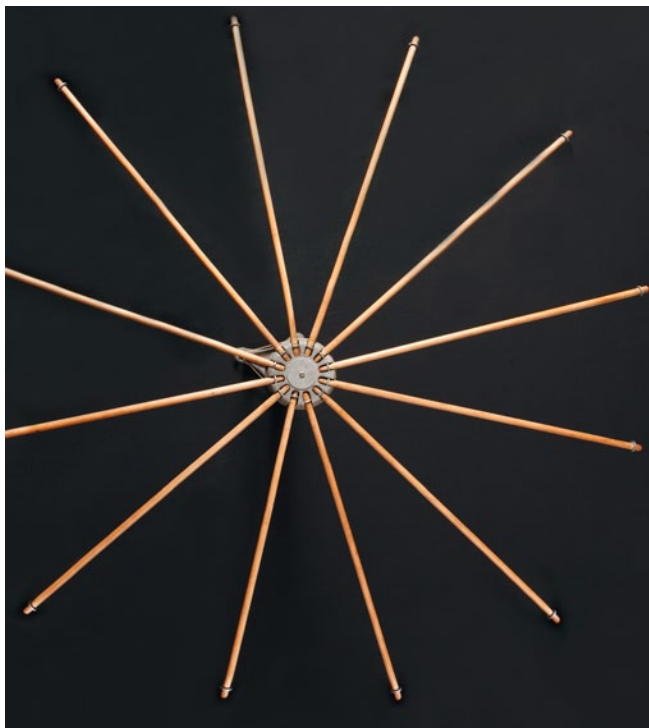


Fig. 5. top view. PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black



Fig. 6. top view (close up). PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

Continued...

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Fig. 7. Side view (artifact fully open). PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

ARTIFACT 18-01 ANSWER

See next page.

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WHAT'S IT?

ANSWER: Yup, a Clothes Drying Rack!

Thanks for participating in our very first “What’s It?” guessing contest! As of the cut-off date we had 38 separate entries by 36 people. While most surmised it was for drying something, some were more specific than others. Some, we noticed, might have been hungry while guessing. And, we thought, the “Really Interesting Guesses” were certainly plausible. Good job everyone! The next artifact is going to be tougher, we’re not certain ourselves what it is. Try re-searching it before guessing and be as specific as possible with your answer.

SPECIFICALLY CORRECT GUESSES

Theresa Alano Clothes drying rack
 Anna Allen..... Clothes to dry, [or]“ ...candles to dry and set...”
 Barb Biljan..... Laundry dryer
 Nancy Breslawski . Clothes dryer *
 Cathy Chesnut..... Folding clothes drying rack
 Chet Fery Laundry dryer / hanger (Second guess)
 Diana Flow..... Clothes drying rack
 Sharon Guiz???* Clothes dryer
 Donna Mancuso .. Clothes dryer (Second guess)
 Kari Pardun Clothes / laundry drying rack
 Dave Preston Clothes dryer
 Bill Sauers..... Clothes dryer rack
 Jessica Sargis..... Mitten / sock / hat dryer
 Jessica Slentz..... Clothes drying rack or pasta drying rack) *
 Cody Sommer Clothes rack for drying clothes
 Cindy Underwood Clothes rack
 Norm Wright Clothes dryer
 “Nete” Clothes dryer
 “Rex” Clothes dryer

GENERALLY CORRECT GUESSES

James Barrett..... Indoor drying rack
 Abby DeVuyst..... Drying rack
 Hank Earle Drying rack
 Hanny Heyen..... Drying rack
 Jan Milliman..... Drying rack
 Mary Ellen Rich... Drying rack
 Mary Rich..... Drying rack

“IN THE BALLPARK” GUESSES

Evan Dobbins Pasta/noodle dryer (Evan had “Clothesline to dry clothes” first, but crossed that off)
 Linda Miller Drying rack—possibly for pasta?
 Jan Preston..... Pasta dryer

REALLY INTERESTING GUESSES

Calvin Cavagiale I think it is an archaic umbrella stand for a table or a beachside outing
 Chet Fery Newspaper rack /holder (First guess)
 M. Herzog..... Tripod—Surveying?
 Donna Mancuso This was the safe when library was on State Street (First guess. Oops, wrong artifact)
 Julie Pruss Spinning rack—probably for winding wool / fiber in a factory
 Pat Schafer..... Artist easel
 Marilyn Slentz..... An Umbrella
 “Debbie” Used for yarn

NO GUESS

Tony Gianni Tony: Thanks for entering, but we couldn’t find any guess on your reply form.

Continued...

* Both of these entrants correctly drew a picture on the back of the card showing how they imagined the artifact fully open.

** Sorry Sharon, we couldn’t make out the rest of the spelling of your last name on the entry form.

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WHAT'S IT?

BACKGROUND

“WHAT’S IT?” has been a proposed feature of the BCM website since its inception in 2007. In 2017 Brockport Community Museum (BCM) board member Archer “Buck” Nobel, 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 determine what an artifact is and how it was used.

That project was introduced to the general public during a BCM 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. The first artifact for identification debuted at the November 17, 2018 Seymour Library “After Dark” gala.

GET INVOLVED

- **Take your best guess** regarding the current artifact.
- **Watch our home page** for the next artifact and clue(s).
- **Do you have an artifact** you would like to know more about? Open your query to a larger audience.
- **Submit a suggestion** about how we can improve this project.

If so...

Leave your contact information in “Ye Olde Prediction Box” near the exhibit display.

CREDITS

Museum project committee

Archer “Buck” Noble
Richard W. Black
Norman Frisch

Seymour Library

Carl Gouveia, Director