

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — JUNE 7, 2021

WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1: Slightly oblique top views views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norm Frisch

ARTIFACT 21-03

SPECIFICATIONS:

Material (all): Cast iron. Metrics (largest to smallest):

Length = 26.04 cm (10 1/4 in), width = 8.10 cm (3 3/16 in), height = 6.03 cm (2 3/8 in)

Weight = 1.280 kg (2.82 lb)

Overall length = 20.96 cm (8 1/4 in), width = 8.26 cm (3 1/4 in), height = 3.65 cm (1 7/16 in)

Weight = 1.098 kg (2.42 lb)

Overall length = 14.61 cm (5 3/4 in), width = 5.08 cm (2 in), height = 4.76 cm (1 7/8 in)

Weight = 578 gm (1.27 lb)

Overall length = 13.49 cm (5 5/16 in), width = 4.45 cm (1 3/4 in), height = 4.60 cm (1 13/16 in)

Weight = 497 gm (1.10 lb)

continued...

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WHAT'S IT?

Fig. 2: One bottom and three side views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norm Frisch

ARTIFACT 21-03

CLUES & QUESTIONS:

The use of these artifacts skyrocketed after Nancy Sinatra's hit single topped the charts in 1966(?) Judging by the shape of the artifact its use might seem obvious, but the history of how these cast iron devices came to be is incredibly rich. Their progenitors show up about 40,000 years ago and allowed our ancestors to travel faster and farther than ever before! The artisans that use these tools were an important part of society and created items that are still in use today (in a modified version). We use them everyday and without them there would be 26 bones, 30 joints, and 100 muscles (times 2) that would not be happy!

Up until a few years ago, there was a craftsman in Brockport, on Market Street, that used these items. If you know his name and where he was located please let us know—you will receive extra bonus points!

Since the shape of the artifact provides the best clue as to its function, this is a great artifact for creating other “outside of the box” uses, e.g., attach a wood pole to the smaller molds and one could create tracks that appear as if a small child was walking alongside of you on soft ground. Because of their mass, they make great bases for things such as candles and vases. Here's where you can unleash your creative brain and, if possible, we will reproduce one of your creations and put it alongside the display safe in Seymour Library!

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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, July 19, 2021 !**

ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **August 2, 2021** 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



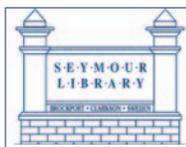
Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

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!



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