

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — AUGUST 2, 2021

WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1 (top): Top view, (middle): Left side view, (bottom): Bottom view © 2020 Norm Frisch

ARTIFACT 20-04

SPECIFICATIONS:

Material: Iron.

Overall length = 67.31 cm (26 1/2 in).

Tine length = 10.16 cm (4 in), average spacing = 3.81 cm (1 1/2 in).

Handle: Proximal end width = 2.22 cm (7/8 in), thickness = 0.64 cm (1/4 in),

Distal end diameter = 1.27 cm (1/2 in).

Weight = 716 gm (1.58 lb)

continued...

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Fig. 2: Close up of distal end, oblique view © 2020 Norm Frisch



Fig. 3: Close up of handle top, oblique view © 2020 Norm Frisch



Fig. 4: Close up of proximal end, side view © 2020 Norm Frisch

ARTIFACT 20-04**QUESTIONS & CLUES:**

Big appetites require big eating utensils! Why in the world would anyone need a fork of this size and strength? This three tined penetrator was hand forged in the late 17th or early 18th century. During this time period, iron implements people needed were made by a very special craftsman in the community. . . any idea who that person would have been? S/he usually produced iron products that required very high temperatures to work with molten (melted) iron - 2800°F (1538°C)! That's 13 times the heat required to boil water, 4 times the heat produced by a match, and 5 times the heat produced by household stoves! How were they able to achieve this extraordinarily high temperature without electricity, lasers, or plasma generators?

Bonus opportunities you may want to note on your prediction cards: During this time period, iron products were either wrought or hand forged. What's the difference? Are there any identifying marks on the artifact that may give you a hint as to where it came from? Where would this have been used and how was it stored? And, drum roll please for the BIG BONUS, what is the difference between this artifact and Poseidon/Neptunes' trident?

We are looking forward to your imaginative ideas as to what this artifact could be used for, e.g., it could have been used to comb out those nasty hair tangles that woolly mammoths must have suffered from. Happy creative thinking!

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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, Sept. 20, 2021 !**

ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **October 4, 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