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LINKS TO CHICAGO'S PAST EMERGE WITH "THE SECRET LIVES OF OBJECTS"

New exhibition at the Chicago History Museum uncovers hints to objects' mysterious roles in history

CHICAGO (March 5, 2015) — What spark led to the deadliest fire in Chicago history? How did a pair of eyeglasses crack the case of one of the city's most notorious murders? And why did only one bamboo cane survive unscathed after a performance with Charlie Chaplin?

The Chicago History Museum proudly announces a new exhibition featuring objects extraordinary and unfamiliar that have emerged from the Museum's protected vaults to tell their tales and shine a light on their mysterious pasts.

Of the millions of artifacts and documents collected by the Museum, just a few more than 40 have been carefully selected for this exhibition. Whether they are artistic works, key evidence from crime scenes, or everyday objects, one thing all the items in *The Secret Lives of Objects* have in common is that they serve as touchstones of Chicago's rich history; tangible evidence of our glorious, surprising, dangerous and infamous past.

Among the noteworthy objects on display, some shown to the public for the first time, are:

- Nathan F. Leopold Jr.'s eyeglasses, which implicated him and Richard Loeb in the murder of Bobby Franks
- The electric typewriter used by the syndicated advice columnist Ann Landers
- The lamp that started the Iroquois Theatre fire in 1903, resulting in the loss of more than 600 lives
- Booth One from the Pump Room at The Ambassador East Hotel
- The table from Appomattox Court House, Virginia on which General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Civil War

"The Museum's massive collection of historical artifacts is filled with remarkable treasures that remind us, every day, that we live in a city with a great history and that there is still much to discover," said John Russick, director of curatorial affairs. The artifacts featured in *The Secret Lives of Objects* connect us to many of Chicago's most important and surprising stories."

To help tell these objects' stories, the Chicago History Museum collaborated with Manuel Cinema, a Chicago-based cinematic shadow puppetry company that uses movie motifs, original music, and detailed sound design to create immersive, theatrical narratives. Using their trademark puppetry techniques, which emulate camera movement and depth of field, they have created a 20-minute film that will run continuously in the exhibition, portraying stories behind some of the exhibition's most intriguing objects.

The Secret Lives of Objects opens at the Chicago History Museum Saturday, March 21. For more information, visit www.secretlivesobjects.com.

The Chicago History Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the people of Chicago.

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ABOUT THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, and 156. Parking is

Chicago**History**Museum

conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission includes our audio tours: \$16 adults, \$14 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. Prices are subject to change. Please call 312-642-4600 or visit us at chicagohistory.org. To learn more follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The Chicago History Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the people of Chicago.