

Fact A

This 1820s English watercolour on ivory eye brooch was worn as a *token of love*. This fashion was first introduced by the Prince of Wales (later George IV) and his great love, Maria Fitzherbert.

Fact B

Since ancient times, the eye has been a symbol of protection against evil. Brooches similar to this circa 1820 English watercolour on ivory of an eye were *worn by young women to save themselves from harm*.



Fact A

This basket was used to *catch and cook freshwater crustaceans* (shrimps and crayfish) by the nomadic Penan Dayaks of Borneo. Bait attracts the crustaceans into the basket and then the wet basket and its contents are placed directly over the embers of a fire, rapidly smoking and drying the contents.

Fact B

This is a *trap for collecting winged ants* and is used by the ethnic minorities in northern Vietnam. The cone is placed over the nest entrance during nuptial flights and the winged ants are caught in between the layers of rattan. The ants are then eaten or fed to chickens or ducks.



Fact A

In Ancient Egypt, a knife made from hippopotamus tooth was placed over the belly of a woman in childbirth to "cut through" her labour pains. Many ancient customs survived in Egypt into Medieval time; this razor-sharp circle of steel was wrapped in hide and *used by labouring women* in the countryside until the mid-nineteenth century.

Fact B

This is a chakram, a 19th century *throwing weapon* probably from the Punjab.

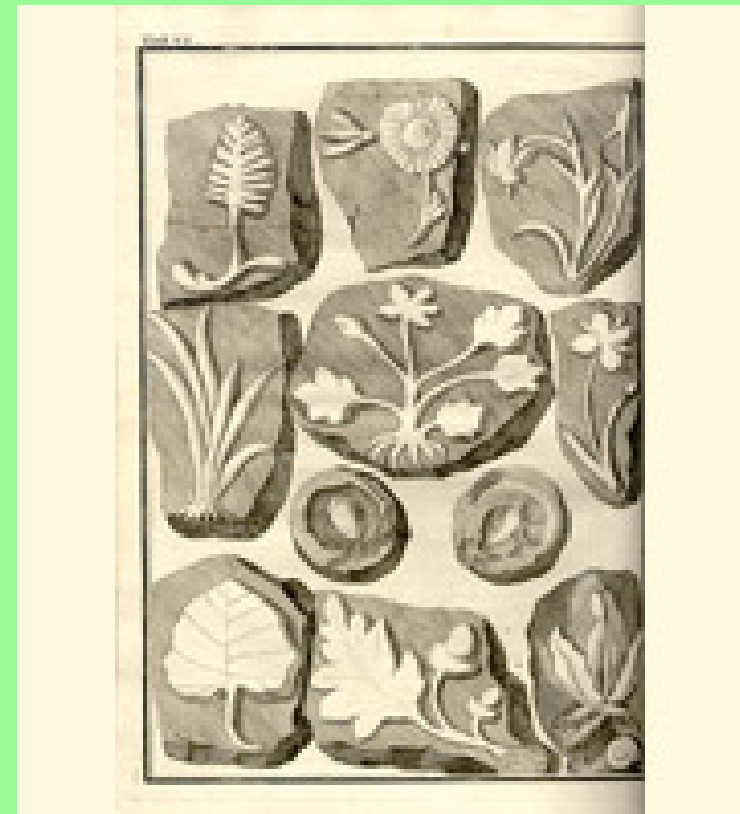


Fact A

These small sennett cakes are part of an ancient Thuringian tradition. They were shaped by hand rather than in molds. They are *good luck charms* for the feast of Walpurgisnacht.

Fact B

These are *engravings of fake fossils* discovered in 1725 by German physician Johann Beringer. Believing them to be genuine, he published a scientific treatise about them. Shortly afterwards he learned it was a hoax perpetrated by jealous colleagues at the University of Wurzburg.



Fact A

This is a Victorian *mantle piece* embellishment. It is a hammered bronze furniture fitting in the form of a reclining lion from the Orientalist vogue in England. It dates from 1880 in Birmingham.

Fact B

This is a Persian bath *pumice-stone holder*. It is a hammered bronze cover in the form of reclining lion which is used to hold a pumice-stone for scrubbing the skin in a Middle-Eastern bath-house. It dates from 10th - 12th century Iran.



Fact A

Mat creasers are used by First Peoples of the Northwest Coast in the sewing of cattail mats. The leaves of the cattail are threaded onto a long, triangular-shaped needle. The grooved edge of the creaser is then used to crimp the leaves around the needle. The crimping forms an opening in the leaves through which a cord is pulled as the needle is withdrawn. The leaves are sewn together in this manner at regular intervals along the mat's length.

Fact B

This is a **fishing line pivot**. The First Peoples of the Northwest Coast jigged for salmon using the barbed hook of bone attached to a line of twisted cedar bark. A fishing-line pivot was used to guide the line over the side of the canoe. Held in an upright position, the line was placed within the groove of the pivot. The line was jigged back and forth and the use of the pivot prevented the delicate line from chafing against the rough canoe edge.



Fact A

This is a Chinese *stoneware pillow* from the Shiwan kilns in Guangdong Province. It was collected by Canadian Anglican missionaries working in South China in the early 20th century.

Fact B

This is a *stoneware container for holding fortune telling sticks* from the Shiwan kilns in Guangdong Province. It was collected in Taiwan by a Canadian Presbyterian missionary.



Fact A

This East African *wooden headrest* has a wide conical base for stability, and a straight top for firm support. It dates from the late 19th to early 20th century.

Fact B

This Australian Aboriginal *bowl holds a carved and decorated emu egg*, which is presented at the contemporary feasts celebrating the initiation of young boys into manhood.



Fact A

This bowl-shaped bronze object is part of a Romanesque *candle stick holder* used in religious processions. A wooden shaft would have been inserted into the tubular opening at the bottom, while the candle would have been placed in the opening at the top. The simple design of the piece clearly indicates that the bronze piece was cast around AD 1100.

Fact B

This bell-shaped bronze object with hollow projecting ends, is the *lower section from the leg of an ancient Romano-Egyptian couch*, dating from about the 1st century BC. The top part would have fit into the frame of the couch and the lower part would have fit into the foot.

