

TANGIBLE THINGS

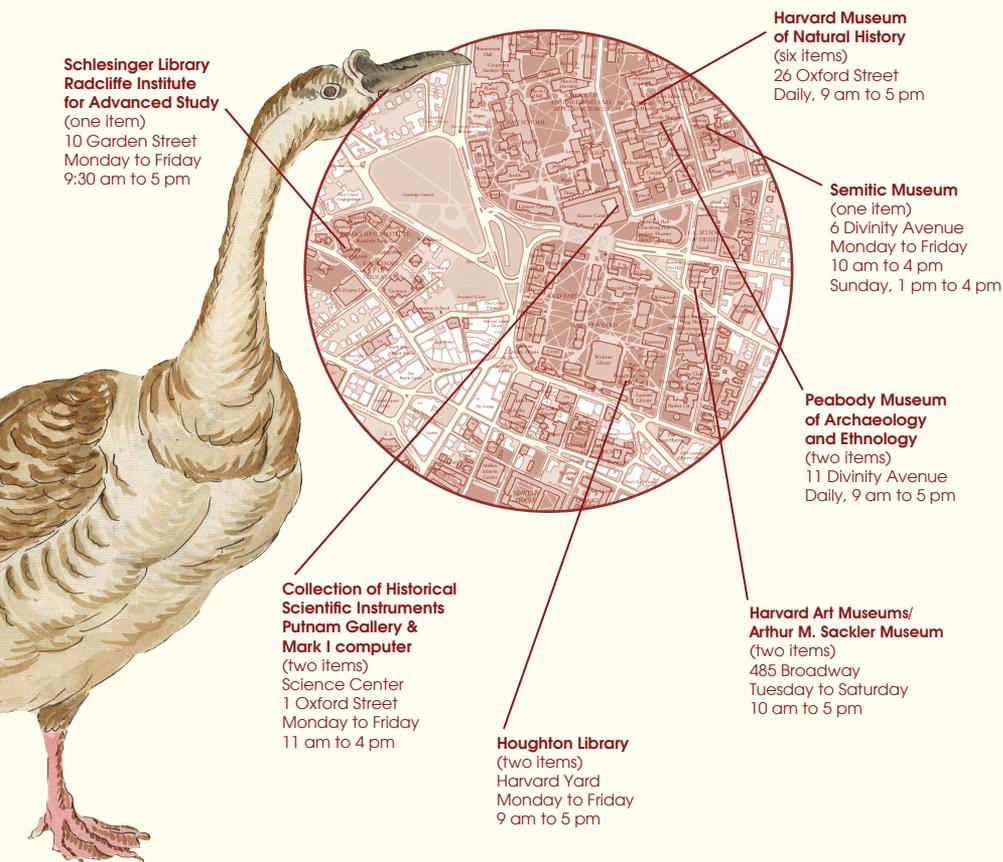
January 24 to May 29, 2011

**Tigers, teapots, typewriters. Thoreau's turtle.
And a hundred-year-old tortilla.**

Over the centuries Harvard has amassed millions of objects. A few are on display. Most are locked away in storage, accessible only to researchers or to the lucky student who stumbles upon them. This exhibit brings together 200 objects from the back rooms and Z-closets of Harvard's museums and libraries.

Where did all this stuff come from? Why does it matter? And what happens when scientific specimens, artworks, historical relics, and ethnographic artifacts sit down together?

Visit the core exhibition in the Special Exhibition Gallery of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard Science Center 251. Then look for guest objects tucked among regular displays at the Sackler Museum, Peabody Museum, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Semitic Museum, Houghton Library, and Schlesinger Library.



FIND THEM!

Hidden among the regular exhibits in seven Harvard collections are guest objects that normally reside elsewhere. Each has a label with the Tangible Things logo and a telephone number to hear more about it.



CLUES

Students, to you 'tis giv'n to scan the heights
Above, to traverse the ethereal space,
And mark the systems of revolving worlds.

Phillis Wheatley
"To the University of Cambridge, in New England"
1773

The robin and the bluebird, piping loud.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
"Birds of Killingworth," 1863

My Heart once by thy Plow-share broke.

Cotton Mather, "Singing at the Plow," 1727

But how can I communicate with the gods,
who am a pencil-maker on earth, and
not be insane?

Henry David Thoreau
*A Week on the Concord
and Merrimac Rivers*, 1867

Was there a
spice of feminine
coquetry in her
famous speech to
John Alden?

Harriet Spofford
*Three Heroines of
Romance*, 1894

It has occurred to the
present writer that in the
operation of lithotomy,
when the calculus is,
as is sometimes the
case, comminuted into
sabulous particles, more
or less fine, a swab or
mop, dipped in honey,
would more expeditiously
and safely, and with
less pain, effect their
entire extraction, than can
possibly be done
with a scoop.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal
1834-1835

To strange, bright crowds of flowers.

Emily Dickinson, "Transplanted," c. 1860

Uncle Hiram puffed thoughtfully at his
corn-cob pipe.

Radcliffe Magazine, June 1907

Build a better mousetrap and the world will
beat a path to your door.

Author unknown
(incorrectly attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson)

If any man wishes to be humbled and
mortified, let him become President of
Harvard College.

Edward Holyoke, 1769

And Samson said unto them, "I will now put
forth a riddle."

Judges 14:12, King James Translation

WoHeLo.

Charlotte Gulick, 1910

There are, of course, many other things I
haven't mentioned about "The Lion King"
that are important. Such as the scene where
a hornbill . . . starts singing "It's a Small World."

Harvard Crimson, July 1, 1994

Paw prints on the sands of time.

Apologies to Professor Longfellow
"A Psalm of Life," 1838

Koluskap called them Wabanaki, people of
the dawn.

Charles Leland
The Algonquin Legends of New England, 1884

Color is an inborn gift.

John Singer Sargent (1856-1925)

