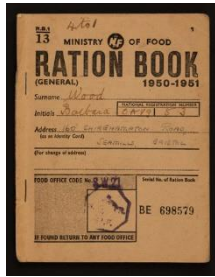


Mysterious Objects

Have a look at each of these objects. What do you find interesting about them? **Choose one you could write about.** How could you use it as inspiration for a story?

 <p>MERL 2011/8/3</p>	<p>Horse brass - a decoration to be hung on a horse's harness.</p> <p>What do you make of the symbol? Why decorate a horse with a brass? Who might be interested in this object?</p>
 <p>MERL 54/92</p>	<p>Sheep bell - a bell to be hung around the neck of sheep so that you'd always be able to hear where they were.</p> <p>Think about the music these would have made- the effect of lots of sheep with different sounding bells. Think about who might want to ring it? What would ringing it do? Could there be a special combination of bells? What might the effect of that be?</p>
 <p>MERL 2009/83</p>	<p>Woodcraft Folk badge - The Woodcraft Folk was a children's group who camped, learned outdoor skills, played games, and had fun. This badge celebrates a particularly fun camping weekend.</p> <p>What might have happened on the weekend? What fun did the children have? What adventures did they have?</p>
 <p>MERL 60/770</p>	<p>Poultry basket - basket used for feeding chickens, ducks, and geese, and collecting their eggs. Became a surprisingly popular fashion item.</p> <p>What's in the basket? Who owns it? Are they using it for fashion, or for work? Where are the animals? What are the animals?</p>
 <p>MERL 2019/50</p>	<p>Sutton's Seeds door sign - a big Reading industry, this sign was on their door in India, showing links between the two countries.</p> <p>What might be behind the door? Why is the sign gold? What are the seeds being sold? What might it be like to travel to India?</p>



MERL 2019/55

Ration book - during World War 2 and for a few years afterwards, food was 'rationed'. You were only allowed to buy small amounts of some foods (such as sweets, chocolate, butter, cheese) and when you'd bought it your amount was ticked off in this book.

What would it have been like to only be allowed a small amount of some foods? Would it have made you like sweets more? Do you think some foods should be rationed now? Would you ration other things too, perhaps?



MERL 2019/85

Tiny model of a pub - look at the tiny people, grass, and flowers.

What's inside the house? Could the people come to life? What sort of person would own this and why? Who made it?



MERL 60/638/1-3

Giant teapot - could have contained 200 cups of tea. Would have needed more than one person to pour it and was too heavy to go on a table.

What sort of event would need that much tea? Who might want to own a teapot like this? A giant, or just somebody who really likes tea?



MERL 51/2

Model of a threshing machine - threshing machines removed the important parts of crops from the stalks. This is a much smaller model used to demonstrate how they work.

Look at the clockwork, and the cogs. What might be inside this? How else could you use this? Who would want a small model of a giant machine?



MERL 52/73

Corn Dollies - objects made out of straw. These were used for decoration, toys, and a range of other purposes. This one is a crown.

Who might have made the corn dolly? Why? Who did they make it for?