

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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## THROUGH THE LENS OF AUTHENTICITY

New exhibition helps answer the age old question, is it real?

CHICAGO (May 24, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum is exploring the fascinating quest for authenticity in its new exhibition, *Is It Real?* Opening to the public on June 30, the exhibition allows visitors the opportunity to be history detectives using clues and evidence to determine if an artifact is indeed the real thing. *Is It Real?* is scheduled to run through January 6, 2008.

The Museum's collection of over 22 million documents and objects lends itself to some fantastic and outrageous stories. The exhibition looks at both authentic articles as well as ones in question, giving the visitor the clues and background needed to determine if the artifact is real. Some of the artifacts that visitors will examine include a pair of eyeglasses supposedly worn by Abraham Lincoln; the so-called "skin of the snake that tempted the first woman;" John Dillinger's fake gun possibly used to escape from the Crown Point, Indiana jail in 1934; a bloody sheet on which Lincoln might have died in 1865; and the mysterious Waubensee Stone among many others.

"There are so many artifacts in our collection that have unique and storied pasts," said Gary T. Johnson, museum president. "We want visitors to be able to connect to the history of these artifacts authentic or counterfeit."

This exhibition encourages visitors of all ages to work together to solve the history mysteries. Visitors explore the fascinating stories behind an array of artifacts and documents on view and discover who collected them, and how they came to the Chicago History Museum. Using interactive stations, visitors (posing as historians) grapple with the question museum professionals often ponder, *Is it Real?*

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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 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is a suggested donation of \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org). The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.