

*Analysis of Artifacts*

**Item # 82**

*Wrought Iron ruler or framing square*

**WHO FOUND** Triton Alliance

**WHEN FOUND** 1970

**WHERE FOUND** Beside one of the buried logs numbered with Roman numerals in Smith's Cove

**FIRSTHAND/  
SECONDHAND**

**REFERENCES** Triton's 1988, "Summary of Operations ....". pg. 3:05 including photograph  
K. Ellerd's letter of Nov. 19. 1973  
O'Connor Pg. 168

**LOCATION TODAY**

**ODDITY FACTOR**

**ASSESSMENT OF  
AUTHENTICITY**

**COMMENTS**

division, and he said the scissors were of a type that was being made 300 years ago or earlier in Mexico. Other artifacts found beneath the beach included an ancient set square, which metallurgists dated to sometime before 1783, and a heart-shaped stone. Peterson, who examined the stone, concluded that it had been chiseled with some sort of tool at an early though undeterminable date.

Those discoveries, along with the startling drill results, convinced the searchers that there was no question that someone had visited this island hundreds of years earlier and had dug a maze of tunnels deep in its interior. But Tobias knew that it would require far more money than even he had to get to the bottom of the mystery. So through his business connections, some twenty new shareholders were brought into the search in April 1969 with the formation of Triton Alliance Ltd. (Considering the island's flood traps, the name Triton—the Greek demigod who was half man and half fish—was well chosen.)

Those early Triton partners, who initially invested about \$500,000 in the project, are, significantly, not the sort of men to be taken in by get-rich-quick schemes. They include heads of large Canadian and U.S. companies, lawyers, and scientists: men like George Jennison, a past president of the Toronto Stock Exchange; Charles Brown III, a wealthy Boston real-estate investor; Donald Webster, a Toronto financier; Bill Sobey, honorary chairman of one of Canada's biggest supermarket chains; and Gordon Coles, Nova Scotia's former deputy attorney-general. Mel Chappell, the island's former owner, was also a major shareholder and member of Triton's board of directors until his death in 1980.

Many of the original participants are still active in the company, contributing additional capital over the years despite the fact that none has yet received a dime of return on his investment. In most cases their allegiance has as much to do with their faith in Tobias and Blankenship as it does with their curiosity about Oak Island.

Bill Sobey, currently a Triton director with a 10 percent equity interest, has spent his entire life in Nova Scotia. As he told me in July 1987, "I remember as a bug-eyed kid fifty

When the widening of Borehole 10X was completed, an underwater television camera was lowered into the cavity below the bedrock. Photographs of the television screen showed a number of anomalies which continue to baffle experts in photographic analysis.<sup>6</sup> Several attempts at diving into this cavity were also inconclusive due to the extreme chalkiness of the bedrock which turned the water completely opaque as soon as it was disturbed.

Despite these disappointments, Borehole 10X continues to be an area of great interest and work there is continuing.

In addition to the money pit and Borehole 10X, another important exploration site is Smith's Cove where 19th century searchers discovered the entrance to a flood tunnel leading to the money pit some 500 ft. away. In 1970, Triton built a coffer dam at the cove and excavated below the exposed seabed. The results of this preliminary exploration were quite interesting.

Close to the inner edge of the new coffer dam, well beyond any area reached by previous searchers, three 30-foot notched logs were found buried about four feet below the ocean floor. These logs were lying in a loose U-shaped configuration with the open end toward the shore. All three logs were identically notched to accept both horizontal and upward-slanting squared timbers. In some instances remains of both the horizontal and upright timbers were still attached by oak dowels. At one place, heavy planks were nailed across the uprights with hand-forged wrought iron spikes. According to metallurgists at STELCO, these spikes were definitely manufactured prior to 1790.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Ref: Appendix A-1

<sup>7</sup> Ref: Appendix B-6



Aerial photo of Smith's Cove during excavation work in 1970 showing the previous searchers' coffer dam (1), the location where coconut fibre was found (2), the U-shaped log structures (3) and Triton's 1970 coffer dam.