



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 17, 2006

Contact:

Josie Patterson
(617) 253-4422
josiep@mit.edu

Lunchtime Talk – Object Lessons

With Deborah Douglas

Curator of Science and Technology

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Noon – 1:00 pm

MIT Museum

265 Massachusetts Ave, Bldg. N52
Cambridge, MA 02139

Galton's Whistle and Other Amazing Physics Instruments

Want to see a scientific instrument that is so rare that only a handful are known to exist? Last summer a researcher found a French-made version of Galton's whistle (a small whistle designed to produce tones at the highest frequencies audible to humans and animals) in a bucket of parts in the backrooms of MIT. Looking around some more, he discovered several rare scientific instruments used by MIT physics students to study acoustics during the 19th century.

Now these instruments have been transferred to the MIT Museum, but you can see them first hand. Markos Hankin and the MIT Physics Demonstration Group will join Deborah Douglas, curator of science and technology to show you the Galton's whistle, tuning forks, organ pipes and other interesting pieces of equipment.

Object Lessons takes unusual artifacts from the MIT Museum's collections out of the back storeroom to reveal their stories. Presented by the museum's curators--often in partnership with MIT faculty, students and researchers—*Object Lessons* takes place on the third Wednesday of the month at noon during the academic year.