The Secret (a treasure hunt)
A novel by Byron Preiss

Proposed solution for Image #9 and Verse # 7 by
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I. Expedition Unknown S04E04 The Secret

I watched the episode of “Expedition Unknown S04E04 The Secret” on the Discovery Channel that tells the story of an American author, Byron Preiss, who hid 12 items in major cities in North America then published a book giving clues in verses and paintings back in the 1980’s. Only two (2) of the items have been located publicly.

Ref: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7pyMi9TiX8

I was immediately hooked.

I found a copy of the book online and began my own analysis of the clues.

Ref: http://thesecret.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/69009390/The%20Secret_OCR.pdf

The two solved images and verses were:

Image 4 Verse 4 – Cleveland

Image 5 Verse 12 – Chicago
II. Site #9: St. Louis

I began reviewing others’ research into the remaining images and verses concentrating on the one in Montreal which was one of the few cities that I’ve actually visited.

1. Many current theories relate Image 9 as Montreal, Quebec, Canada due to the strong corresponding match between the image of the “Legeater Dog” and the lamp located in Montreal.

   Ref: [http://thesecret.pbworks.com/w/page/22148559/FrontPage](http://thesecret.pbworks.com/w/page/22148559/FrontPage) - Image 9

   The correlation is quite compelling.


2. Initial investigation of the “Dogeater” lamp shows it isn’t native to Montreal. Its origins are from Palermo, Italy. Having not seen another example in North America, the assumption continued.

   But all the remaining clues pointing to Montreal are rather weak and even forced.

   2. Occam’s Razor - is the problem-solving principle that the simplest solution tends to be the right one. When presented with competing hypotheses to solve a problem, one should select the solution with the fewest assumptions.

   Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occam%27s_razor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occam%27s_razor)

   The author of The Secret expected the treasures to be found a few months after the book was published which lead me to believe the clues should be rather easy for anyone familiar with any of the locations (in the 1980’s). Unfortunately, more than 35 years have passed since the book was published and many of the clues may no longer remain.
3. St. Louis, Missouri.

Using Occam’s Razor, a cursory review of the image shows clues pointing to St. Louis, Missouri.
i) The St. Louis Blues emblem.

The most obvious clue is the musical note which is a match for the St. Louis Blues hockey team’s emblem.

![Image of the St. Louis Blues emblem](image1)

![Image of the Checker Dome](image2)

ii) The St. Louis Blues Hockey team played in the St. Louis Arena called the “Checker Dome” due to the fact that the Purina pet food company which sponsored the Arena and owned the St. Louis Blues has a red and white checkered logo. This matched the checkered pattern found in the image including his checkered hat which also has a similar shape to the arena.

![Image of the Checker Dome](image3)

The checker dome was renamed in 1983, just two (2) years after the author had hidden his treasure. It was later demolished in 1999.
St. Louis Arena

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

St. Louis Arena (known as the Checkerdome from 1977 to 1983) was an indoor arena located in St. Louis, Missouri, that stood from 1929 to 1999. It was home to the St. Louis Blues and various other sports franchises. The Arena was located directly across I-44 from Forest Park's Aviation Field.

The Arena was the site of conventions, concerts, political rallies, horse shows, circuses, boxing matches, Roller Derby competitions, indoor soccer matches, the 1973 and 1979 NCAA men's basketball Final Four, the NCAA Men's Midwest Regional finals in 1982, 1984, and 1993, the 1992-94 Midwest Valley Conference men's basketball tournament, and the 1976 NCAA Frozen Four ice hockey finals.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Arena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Arena)
iii) The collar is quite a distinctive shape.

The white shirt collar could be the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers where the bottom shape is St. Louis. I’m still working on this one.

iv) The crossed lines of the tunic collar represent the conjoining of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. In fact, the flag of St. Louis has two wavy lines conjoining to one line which is a representation of the two rivers coming together.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_St._Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_St._Louis)
v) The Nose

A nose that size has to be a clue but the only image that comes to mind is the Fleur-de-lis in the center of the St. Louis flag.
Finger placement also appears to be a clue but the only image that comes to mind is the cross finger scepter that King Louis is often holding to represent the “hand of justice”.
vii) Byron Preiss did an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1982 promoting his book The Secret.

Of course the image and the verse in the article don’t correspond to St. Louis.
4. Forest Park

i) Forest Park seemed like an obvious choice to hide a treasure.

First, it’s the largest urban park in any city in America. Second, it’s the site of many historic events including the 1904 World’s Fair also known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and the 1904 Summer Olympics. It is known as the “Heart of St. Louis”.

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Park_(St._Louis)

ii) The “Checker Dome” was located directly across from Forest Park.
iii) The Jewel Box

This seems like a too obvious clue but then it’s specifically mentioned in different verses. And the stepped shape appears in the pattern of the tunic.
iv) The 12 petals on the flower corresponding to the old Korean War Memorial Floral Clock in Forest Park.
III. Verse #7: St. Louis

Verse #7
At stone wall's door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel's direction
Is an object
Of Twain's attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept.
Meaning:

1. At stone wall’s door, The air smells sweet
   Vendeventer Place Gate

2. Not far away, High posts are three
   The Highlands Golf & Tennis Center, most commonly occur are par 3 holes

3. Education and Justice, for all to see
   Golf “Course” and Tennis “Court”

4. Sounds from the sky, Near ace is high
   Ace is a hole in one in golf and an unreturned serve in tennis

5. Running north, but first across, In jewel’s direction
   Go west first towards The Jewel Box greenhouse

6. Is an object, Of Twain’s attention
   The old Korean War Memorial, a floral clock in disrepair

7. Giant pole, Giant step
   The old Korean War Memorial had a single flag pole. Take one giant step north.

8. To the place, The casque is kept.
   In the garden plot just north of the Korean War Memorial a giant step from the flag pole.
**Explaination:**

1. **Vendeventer Place Gate**

   The Vendeventer Place Gate was relocated to the Forest Park in 1947.

2. Golf and Tennis Center

The Highlands Golf and Tennis Center, formerly known as Triple A Golf and Tennis Club, opened in 1897 on the site of the current Forest Park Golf Course; in 1902, the course moved to a 70-acre (280,000 m²) facility near the southeast corner of Forest Park due to the construction of the 1904 World's Fair. [61] The new facility included a nine-hole golf course, tennis, handball and volleyball courts, a running track, and baseball and lacrosse fields. [61] The tennis courts at the Highlands were where player Jimmy Connors began his career, and the facility hosted Davis Cup qualifying matches in 1927, 1946, and 1961. [61] Judy Rankin began her golfing career at Triple A Golf and Tennis Club as a young girl. Between 2008 and 2010 the Highlands underwent a complete reconstruction, with a new nine-hole golf course, the installation of clay tennis courts, a new 30-stall lit driving range, and the construction of a full-service bar and restaurant known as Keagan's Pub and Patio

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Park_(St._Louis)#Highlands_Golf_and_Tennis_Center

3. Education and Justice, for all to see

Golf “Course” and Tennis “Court”

4. Sounds from the sky, Near ace is high

Ace is a hole in one in golf and an unreturned serve in tennis

5. Running north, but first across, In jewel’s direction

Go west first towards The Jewel Box greenhouse
6. Mark Twain

Mark Twain was born in Florida, Missouri not far from St. Louis.

Mark Twain seemed to have a fascination with timepieces, watches, and clocks.

In many of his essays and letters he would address them as having some sort of human traits or being alive only to vex him in some sort of way.

i) Letter to Henry H. Rogers, 24 September, 1894

I have damaged my intellect trying to imagine why a man should want to invent a repeating clock, and how another man could be found to lust after it and buy it. The man who can guess these riddles is far on the way to guess why the human race was invented -- which is another riddle which tires me.
- Letter to Henry H. Rogers, 24 September 1894

ii) MY WATCH -- AN INSTRUCTIVE LITTLE TALE, The Galaxy, December 1870

This specifically applies to the clue.

"My Watch: An Instructive Little Tale"

In Mark Twain's "My Watch: An Instructive Little Tale" I found the author's thesis to be that once things go awry, they'll never work right again. Mr. Twain explains this through a personal narrative in which he recollects numerous times he had tried to get a broken watch repaired, and after many attempts, the watch ceased to work properly. Mr. Twain also states that his uncle William told him "A good horse was a good horse until it had run away, and that a good watch was a good watch until the repairers got a change at it."

In 1981, the Korean War Memorial would have been a floral clock that had deteriorated resulting in mechanical problems.
This nonfunctioning floral clock represents Twain’s attention.

Ref: http://www.forestparkstatues.org/korean-war-memorial/

Article from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch dated August 28, 1987 showing the Korean War Memorial Clock in the picture in a state of disrepair. Byline says “Restoration Drive Begun for War Memorial”.
Giant pole, Giant step

The old Korean War Memorial had a single flag pole. Take one giant step north.

OK, this is funny...

X marks the spot... between the flag and the 7 shrubs.
To the place, The casque is kept.

In the garden plot just north of the Korean War Memorial a giant step from the flag pole.

Here’s lies the issue. In 1989, the floral clock which had deteriorated and damaged by vandals was replaced with the current 10-foot tall stainless steel working sundial. The surrounding garden and trees would likely have been removed and replanted after the installation which had most likely destroyed the casque or buried it.

A survey of the area would need to be performed to determine if any remains exist.

Further investigation at the time of construction may provide further possible areas to survey.

Ref: http://www.forestparkstatues.org/korean-war-memorial/