

## **Condition Report- The Torpedo Float**

Conditioned by Melissa Kennelly

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**Accession #:** 55.03.05 and C+ CA misc. 41

**Collection:** URI HTCC

### **Description:**

Two oblong rubber balloons covered in a brown natural material, either cotton or linen (according to a small sample burn test). The shape of the two balloons is similar to that of a torpedo, with a twill tape strap that is attached across the two balloons holding them about an inch apart from each other. The strap is about 10" long on the proper left side and finished with a pull-through metal buckle at the end. The opposite end of the strap is about 22" long with an unfinished edge. At the top of each balloon there is a metal nozzle surrounded by rubber where the user would blow air into the contraption to inflate it, then use the strap to attach it to their torso with the balloons on their back. A small piece of black twill tape rests in between the balloons about 3" below the original strap. This piece is attached using varied and imperfect stitches, suggesting it was added on after purchase by the user to secure the balloons in their position.

The proper right balloon contains the text "The Torpedo Float" along with a description of the product. Underneath the description (below the strap) there is a 5" by 3.5" illustration of a woman sitting on a dock wearing a swimsuit and swim cap, with the object attached to her back. Beneath this is a logo for the "New York Rubber Corp in Deacon NY U.S.A"

The proper left balloon contains more text on the top half of the balloon about the object, as well as the directions for use. Beneath the strap on the proper left balloon there is a 5" by 3.5" illustration of a man swimming in the ocean with his torpedo float attached to his back. Beneath this is a logo for the "New York Rubber Corp in Deacon NY U.S.A"

The backside of the float is a grey natural fabric with some extra twill tape securing the balloons about halfway up, seemingly attached with metal bits.

### **Condition Details:** Overall Good

Overall, there seems to be slight fading of the outer natural fabric on the front of the torpedo float from what once might have been an orange color- to now a muted brown.

The text printed on the fabric is all legible and the illustrations still intact.

Some slight staining- possibly oil- on the top proper right area of the proper left balloon by the text, about ½" wide and ½" tall. On the opposite side of the text, there is a similar colored stain measuring about 2" long and 1" high with some various splattering in between.

Proper left balloon also has a swooping white line stain in the middle of the illustration about 2" long and 1/8" wide.

Proper right balloon has some small splatter stains similar in color to the stains mentioned on the proper left balloon. These 3 circular stains measure about 1/8" in diameter, and are scattered almost evenly throughout the descriptive text located above the twill tape strap.

Rear/interior side of the proper left balloon has a rust colored stain toward the upper middle portion of the balloon. This stain is about 4" long and 1/4" wide.

Rear/interior side of the proper right balloon has a rust colored stain toward the lower middle portion of the balloon. This stain is about 5" long and 1/4" wide. There is also a small speck of the rust on the twill tape across this balloon.

A bit of fraying on all edges of the object.

### **Flat Measurements:**

Waist Strap: 47.5" total length

### **Suspected materials:**

- Linen or cotton woven outer layer
- rubber balloon interior layer
- cotton twill tape
- metal but

### **Photos:**



**Figure 1: Outer side/Top of The Torpedo Float**

Notable condition issues pictured include:

- Faded text and images

- Staining on proper left float



***Figure 2: Inner side/Bottom of The Torpedo Float***

Notable condition issues pictured include:

- Staining on proper left float
- Staining on proper right float