

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

November 2018

The month of November is a very hectic time for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Out here, on the Big Cypress Reservation, we are kicking off the month with our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) that is co-sponsored by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Promoting Native American culture, traditions, and practices, AIAC strives to not only show the world who the Seminole people are but also celebrates Indigenous cultures around the globe. With musical performances by Seminole Tribal Members such as, Aye Five featuring Carradine and DC, Cornwallis, and RC North, this year's AIAC will be another great tribute to Indigenous Peoples Awareness Month.



THPO 2012.2.7



TonyJoesCollectibles, 2018. <https://www.ebay.com/itm/112829020851>

In keeping with the musical theme, November's artifact is a Harmotone Harmonica, a musical piece created between the 1940s and 1960s by the Harmonic Reed Corporation. Found on the ground's surface of the Brighton Reservation, this plastic harmonica, while probably a child's toy would still have boasted a soft mellow tone. Harmonicas are small and can be easily carried which is often why they are found at historic camps or even in pastures as cowboys used them to help pass the time during breaks from cattle-driving. This harmonica helps to further the story of music that still inspires Seminole artists today who are striving to break into a secular industry while still maintaining culture. We here in THPO Collections urge you to come out to the Big Cypress Reservation on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to experience both Seminole and indigenous stories as they are told in multiple art-forms throughout the two days.

