

# ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Pocketknives, like this month's artifact, are extremely common among individuals' toolkits; some people even carry them daily or use them for self-defense. But just how common is it for a person to have a pocket knife? In 2023, the global market size for pocketknives was roughly 600.5 million and is expected to grow by another 6% from 2023 to 2030 (Gore, 2026).

The story of the pocket knife starts as early as 3000 B.C. in regions like Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. These knives were often one blade made up of bronze or copper and used for many tasks, including carving and cutting (Shokunin USA, 2025).

Today, there are many different types of pocketknives, this includes slip joint knives, tactical folding knives, and locking knives. Each type of knife has its own purpose. For example, the slip joint knife is the most popular pocket knife for light tasks, whereas a tactical knife was first developed for soldiers to have a single knife that could perform multiple tasks rather than having several knives.

Remington UMC was "One of America's leading manufacturers of knives during the post World War I and the pre-World War II period" (Remington Contributor, 2024). The company first produced pocketknives in the 1920s, and by 1926, the annual production was 2.5 million units. These units were then placed into catalogs and sold to consumers.

Pocket knife (THPO) 1994.9.64



We believe that this month's artifact is one of the Remington UMC pocketknives. Although the knife exhibits corrosion, the shield emblem is very similar to the Remington UMC pocket knife style. As seen to the left, a vintage pocket knife by Remington that was sold from 1970s to 1990s has the same emblem. The handle also looks to be made of antler or jigged bone, (cattle or camel bone that is dyed and textured) which is common amongst Remington UMC pocketknives.

Vintage Remington R3553 Three Blade Stockman Circle UMC Folding Knife USA | #4555737228. (2022).

To learn more about all the incredible artifacts within our collection, please visit the THPO website at [www.stofthpo.com](http://www.stofthpo.com).

## Works Cited

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