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**КПФВ УФУЯ
МДЯ НЕРЯФ!**

The Philadelphia Public Art database and the Smithsonian Inventory of American sculpture claim that this sculpture is Ernest Moore Visquesny's "Spirit of the American Doughboy." It is the most reproduced life-size sculpture in the United States. 139 of them are known to exist (there are probably more) and they're scattered all over the country, a prime target for geochachers. All of these sculptures have the same characteristics: an upwardly extended right arm with a grenade in the upraised hand, a left arm extended downward holding a bayoneted rifle pointed forward at about thigh height, a flat steel helmet, wrapped leggings below the knees. The sculpture also has two tree stumps by its feet and its leading left leg is straight.

However, the sculpture in Philadelphia is missing the grenade, the tree stumps, and its left leg is bent. Further investigation proves this sculpture to actually be John Paulding's "Over the Top." Both Paulding and Viquesney registered similar designs for copyright in 1920, but Paulding

did so about six months before Viquesny. In fact, in 1922, Viquesny was sued for copyright infringement by Paulding's foundry. Apparently the suit wasn't successful, for Visquesny's sculptures continued to proliferate, and advertisements for Visquesny's version urgently requested buyers to purchase the "authentic" doughboy, because there's "just one accurate authentic Doughboy Statue...Don't Be Fooled." Which sculptor was the thief? Was Philadelphia's sculptor a thief?

"THE NEW DIALECTICAL METHOD OF DOING HISTORY PRESENTS ITSELF AS THE ART OF EXPERIENCING THE PRESENT AS MAKING WORLD, A WORLD TO WHICH THAT DREAM WE NAME THE PAST REFERS IN TRUTH." -WALTER BENJAMIN



**GET YOUR
FACTS
STRAIGHT!**

This sculpture can be found behind the faculty club at Temple University in Philadelphia. The lengthy inscription along the side of this sculpture's pedestal reads:

Johnnie Ring was the youth whose example in life and heroism in death provided inspiration that led to the founding of Temple University. In the war between the states, he was personal orderly to captain Russell H. Conwell of the 46th Massachusetts infantry. The moving forces of his life at that time were his religious faith and his devotion to Captain Conwell. When a surprise Confederate attack routed Union troops, it was Johnnie Ring who raged across a flaming bridge and through enemy gunfire to retrieve from his commander's tent the ceremonial sword presented to the captain by the city of Springfield. He brought back the sword, but he died that night of his burns as Conwell knelt by his cot in prayer. The incident turned Conwell to the ministry as a life work and later to the founding of Temple University. He vowed to live a life for Johnnie Ring as well as for himself...eight hours of work a day for Johnnie, eight hours of work for his own. Except for Johnnie Ring Conwell would never have told America the story of the acres of diamonds, nor would he have built the University that enabled multitudes of young men and women to realize the promise of education.

Like Coleridge's ancient mariner, Conwell retold the story of Johnnie Ring compulsively. But apparently this story is a complete fabrication. Evidence shows that Ring actually died of measles, six weeks after the attack on the barracks. In addition, on the day of Ring's death, Conwell was under military arrest and in the middle of a court-martial for being completely absent from the barracks during the attack. He was charged with "shamefully abandoning his command in the face of the enemy."

Although he may have been a mediocre soldier, Conwell was a master rhetorician. His later speeches and sermons were so popular that tickets were necessary for admission. In his lecture "Acres of Diamonds" (written in 1915 and delivered more than 5000 times across the United States), Conwell declared "...ninety-eight out of one hundred of the rich men of American are honest. That is why they are rich. That is why they are trusted with money. That is why they carry on great enterprises and find plenty of people to work with them. It is because they are honest men."

**"WE ARE SURROUNDED BY RHETORICAL IMAGES WHICH CONSTITUTE A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF MIS-
INFORMATION: THE SYSTEM KNOWS AS PUBLICITY...
THE COMBOS DOES NOT LIE EVEN WHEN IT IS
USED TO QUOTE A LIE. AND SO, THIS MAKES THE LIE
APPEAR MORE TRUTHFUL."**

-JOHN BERBER