

## The lantern

Guy Fawkes is said to have been carrying this lantern when he was arrested in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament in 1605. It is made of sheet iron with a holder for a candle inside. It has a hinged door which was once fitted with a window made of horn through which the light would glow. The vent at the top would have let out the heat. This vent is attached to an inner cylinder which could be rotated in order to conceal the light, and therefore the user!

The lantern was originally given to the University of Oxford in 1641 by Robert Heywood of Brasenose College. He was son of the Justice of the Peace who arrested Guy Fawkes. It has been in the Museum since 1887 when a number of objects were transferred to the Ashmolean from the Bodleian Library's collection of curiosities.

After years of handling by curious visitors at the Bodleian the lantern shows significant wear and tear.





## Starting Questions

The following questions may be useful as a starting point for developing speaking and listening skills with your class.

- This lantern is not complete. What do you think is missing?
- What do you think it is made of? How many materials can you see?
- How would you use it?  
Clue: Can you see the circular holder inside? What could you put in it?
- Look at the different parts of the lantern. What shapes can you see?

Guy Fawkes was caught in the Houses of Parliament in 1605 with 36 barrels of gunpowder, this lantern and a burning match. He was apparently about to blow up the King and the government.

The lantern is made of iron and would originally have had a translucent window made of deer horn. It also had an inner cylinder which could be closed to hide the light. Lanterns like these were called 'dark lanterns'.