Verse 7

At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘At stone wall’s door’ is a reference to Alcatraz and to
the entry point to Alcatraz, which is Fisherman’s Wharf.
Fisherman’s Wharf is the starting point for solving the San Francisco puzzle.

Background
• ‘Stone’ is a synonym for rock, and ‘The Rock’ is another
  name for Alcatraz. In Verse 7, ‘stone wall’ is Alcatraz, and
  the ‘door’ is where you would go to get to Alcatraz.
• The most common method of transportation to Alcatraz is
  a ferry, which typically would be boarded from one of the
  piers at Fisherman’s Wharf (for example, Pier 43).
• Pier 43 in Fisherman’s Wharf was built in 1914 and was
  used for loading and unloading rail cars on and off ferries.
  Some also say it is where prisoners bound for Alcatraz were
  put on ferry. The Pier 43 Ferry Arch is shown below.

Miscellaneous
• In either elementary or middle school (Jr. High), I had one
  field trip to Alcatraz. Our class traveled to San Francisco
  where we boarded a Red & White Ferry from what I
  remember was a pier in Fisherman’s Wharf.
Verse 7

The air smells sweet

Summary
‘The air smells sweet’ is a reference to the smells of candy being made and emanating from Ghirardelli Square. Ghirardelli Square is where the air smells sweet.

Background
• Ghirardelli Square was originally the headquarters of the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company. They made ‘sweet’ candy!
• Ghirardelli Square is located in the western end of Fisherman’s Wharf, a few hundred yards from Pier 43.
• The backwards ‘Gh’ located below the neck line in Image 1 is a reference to the ‘Gh’ letters of the ‘Ghirardelli’ sign atop the square, and as seen from south of and behind Ghirardelli Square.

Miscellaneous
• I’ve been to Ghirardelli Square numerous times, but can’t ever recall smelling anything sweet emanating from there. The solution to ‘The air smells sweet’ is still valid since the smell of candy being made could be possible if you visited Ghirardelli Square at just the right time. It just seems like a plausible scenario.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet

Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘Not far away’ is describing the nearby and scenic Marina District of SF. This district includes all of Fort Mason, the Marina Green, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the Marina District residential neighborhoods.

Background
• From the corner of Bay St. & Larkin St. where we viewed the backwards ‘Gh,’ simply walk west on Bay St. for a few blocks, cross Van Ness Ave. and you have arrived in the Marina District at the upper part of Fort Mason.
• Head further west, and you’ll cross paths with the Marina Green and Palace of Fine Arts.
• Continue walking west, and you’ll venture into the adjacent Presidio and Crissy Field area of San Francisco.
• A casual stroll through the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field is easily doable in just several hours. I experienced this first-hand as I explored my ‘solve’ for the SF puzzle.
• Walking the entire route is important in order to see other landmarks that Preiss had intended for us to see and visit.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away

**High posts are three**
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘High posts are three’ is a reference to Sutro Tower, a 977 ft. three-pronged TV and radio antenna tower visible from much of San Francisco.

Background
- I don’t subscribe to the Japanese translation of the book that ‘High post are three’ is made from wood as some have speculated. I relied strictly on the original English version of the book as the basis of all my interpretations of the clues. IMO, the meaning of clues can be lost in translation when you rely on translations from English to other languages.

Miscellaneous
- Sutro Tower was the tallest structure in San Francisco from the time of its completion in 1973 until it was surpassed by the Salesforce Tower in 2017.
**Verse 7**
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three

**Education and Justice**
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

**Summary**
‘Education and Justice’ is a reference to the Exploratorium (Palace of Fine Arts) and Alcatraz Island, respectively.

**Background**
- The Exploratorium is a hands-on science museum and children’s educational center, an appropriate candidate for ‘Education’ in the verse. In the early 1980s when Preiss buried his casque, the Exploratorium was located at the Palace of Fine Arts. In April 2013, the Exploratorium moved to Piers 15 and 17 on San Francisco’s Embarcadero.

- ‘Justice’ is a reference to Alcatraz Island. Alcatraz served as lighthouse, a military fortification, a military prison, and a federal prison from 1934 to 1963. Alcatraz’s role as a prison fits solidly as a clue for ‘Justice.’ Again, the cell window at the top of Image 1 is a reference to Alcatraz.

- The unique dome of the Palace of Fine Arts is a prominent landmark visible from most of the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field. The dome is illustrated in Image 1.

**Miscellaneous**
- I fondly recall another field trip while I was in either elementary or Jr. High school to the Exploratorium when it was located at the Palace of Fine Arts. It was super fun and so cool, and was one of the most memorable educational experiences I can remember from when I was a child!
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice

For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘For all to see’ means that from a particular location, everyone can see what is intended to be seen. In this case, the three landmarks in lines 4 and 5 of Verse 7 are visible from a particular location.

Background
• The following four lines of Verse 7 should be read together:
  ‘Not far away
  High posts are three
  Education and Justice
  For all to see’
• Since ‘High posts are three’ is referring to Sutro Tower; ‘Education’ is referring to Exploratorium (Palace of Fine Arts); and ‘Justice’ is referring to Alcatraz; and ‘Not far away’ is referring to the Marina District; then the three landmarks should all be visible from the Marina District.
• The four lines of the verse can be translated as:
  ‘From the Marina District (Not far away),
  Sutro Tower, (High posts are three),
  Exploratorium, and Alcatraz (Education & Justice)
  are visible to everyone (For all to see)’
• From much of the Marina District, (and also through much of the Presidio and Crissy Field), especially the closer you are to SF Bay, you can stand in one spot and see all three of the landmarks above. I have walked many parts of the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field and have witnessed this first-hand.
• From most other parts of San Francisco, due to site lines blocked from various hills or other obstructions, the three landmarks are not visible at the same time. For example, you can see both Sutro Tower and Alcatraz from Fisherman’s Wharf, but not the Exploratorium/PoFA because of the hill at Fort Mason.

Miscellaneous
• There are actually a few additional spots in San Francisco where you can possibly see all three landmarks from one spot, but the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field are ideally suited and most appropriate for this part of the puzzle.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see

Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘Sounds from the sky’ is a reference to the fog horns on Golden Gate Bridge as their low frequency bellows guide vessels as they pass under the GG Bridge in the fog.

Background
• On a foggy day, the fog horns on GG Bridge sound-off at various intervals to alert and guide vessels as they travel under the bridge. The sounds of the fog horns can be heard throughout the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field, and also throughout much of Fisherman’s Wharf and other parts of San Francisco.
• I witnessed this first-hand on a foggy Saturday when the thick fog was present well into the afternoon hours before it finally lifted.

Miscellaneous
• Here’s more info about the GG Bridge fog horns: http://goldengatebridge.org/research/factsGGBFogHorn.php.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky

**Near ace is high**
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

**Summary**
‘Near ace is high’ is a reference to State Highway 1, particularly the stretch of the highway as you travel north from Golden Gate Park, and as you approach the GG Bridge.

**Background**
• In a deck of cards ‘ace’ has a value of either 1 or 11. For this puzzle, ‘ace’ means ‘1,’ while ‘high’ is short for ‘highway.’ The translation for ‘Near ace is high’ is ‘Near Highway 1.’
• Throughout various parts of California, Highway 1 is shared with State Highway 101. This is true for the GG Bridge and parts immediately north and south of the bridge. Here’s a Wikipedia link describing State Highway 1 (a.k.a ‘State Route 1’ or ‘SR 1’): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Route_1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Route_1).
• At the time Preiss buried the casque, the historic south access road to Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was known as Doyle Drive. Doyle Drive was replaced by the Presidio Parkway in July of 2015. The Presidio Parkway is both Highways 1 and 101 as it runs through the Presidio.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high

Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘Running north, but first across’ means to visualize
Highway 1 as it runs north through the Presidio towards
GG Bridge, but right before you cross the bridge, go across
in a different direction.

Background
• I actually don’t think Preiss wanted us to literally walk
on Highway 1, but instead visualize Highway 1 as it
appears on a map near GG bridge, or visualize the highway
from below as you are standing somewhere in the Marina
District, Presidio, or Crissy Field.
• See next clue for ‘In jewel’s direction.’
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across

In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘In jewel’s direction’ means to head east just right before you cross the GG Bridge as you are heading north on Highway 1.

Background
• At the point on Highway 1 right before crossing the GG Bridge, Preiss wanted us to head in a different direction, ‘In jewel’s direction.’
• Since heading north at this point will take us into Marin, we’ll avoid going north since we have assumed the jewel is located in San Francisco and not Marin.
• We’ll avoid going south, since we just came from that direction.
• If we head west, we’ll basically head directly into the Pacific Ocean and drown.

• The logical direction to head before crossing the GG Bridge is east. ‘In jewel’s direction’ means to head east from the GG Bridge.
• Heading east from the GG Bridge, immediately takes us to the historic Fort Point located below the GG Bridge near its southern anchorage.
• A little bit past Fort Point, and still heading east takes us past the Warming Hut Bookstore & Cafe, and then to the sandy and rocky beaches of Crissy Field.
• See next clue for ‘Is an object.’
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction

Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘Is an object’ means that as you continue heading east from the GG Bridge ‘In jewel’s direction,’ there is an object that is relevant to Mark Twain.

Background
See next clue for ‘Of Twain’s attention.’ We will return to ‘Is an object’ after we have solved ‘Of Twain’s attention.’
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object

Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘Of Twain’s attention’ is a reference to the SF fog and cold that frequents San Francisco during the middle of summer.

Background
• One of the most famous quotes about San Francisco is “The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco.” The quote is widely attributed as coming from Mark Twain, but in actuality, there is no evidence he wrote or said it. I’m going with the theory that Preiss believed that the quote was from Twain.
• Back to the quote... What causes it to be cold in San Francisco in the middle of summer? It is the SF fog as it rolls past the GG Bridge and into the SF Bay, dropping the temperature (and also visibility) significantly (once again, I have experienced this first-hand). The SF fog is the meaning for ‘Of Twain’s attention.’
• See next clue for ‘Giant Pole.’
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention

Giant pole
Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
A ‘Giant pole’ is a reference to the Marina District Lighthouse located just a little past the eastern end of Crissy Field in the St. Francis Yacht Club parking lot. The lighthouse is literally a giant light ‘pole’ and is the object of Twain’s attention.

Background
- A ‘Giant pole’ can describe many things including a flag pole, a telephone pole, a totem pole, a large Polish person, or even a light pole. In this puzzle, a somewhat historic lighthouse functions as giant light pole.
- The Marina District Lighthouse was built in 1931, and is made of cobblestone salvaged from city streets. It was intended as a light beacon to mark the entrance to the St. Francis Yacht Club harbor.

Miscellaneous
Here are links to articles about the lighthouse:
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole

Giant step
To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
Continue east (‘In jewel’s direction) from the Marina
District Lighthouse for a short distance and you will come
upon the large staircase that joins the lower Fort Mason
to the Upper Fort Mason at Great Meadow Park. The Fort
Mason staircase is the ‘Giant step’ of Verse 7.

Background
The Fort Mason staircase is an easy walk east of the Marina
District Lighthouse. To walk there from the lighthouse,
head back to the Marina Green, go towards the Safeway, go
through the lower Fort Mason parking area, and then to the
bottom of the staircase.
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step

To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘To the place’ means to ascend the Fort Mason staircase to get to where ‘The casque is kept.’

Background
See the next clue for ‘The casque is kept.’
Verse 7
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place

The casque is kept

Summary
Drum roll please… ‘The casque is kept’ means the casque is buried at the base of the Madonna statue by Benny Bufano in the Great Meadow Park at Fort Mason.

Background
- As you ascend the Fort Mason Staircase, the first thing that comes into view as you reach the top of the stairs is the tall granite Madonna statue.

- The Madonna statue is approximately 150 ft. from the top of the staircase.
- Benny Bufano started work on the Madonna statue in 1962 and probably completed it soon after. The approximately 4 meter granite statue features the face and torso of the Madonna sculpted at the top, while the base of the statue features a colorful mosaic of four children’s faces blended together.
- PLEASE DO NOT DIG AT THE BASE OF THE MADONNA STATUE. STAY TUNED ;-)
- The many clues in Image 1 confirm that the woman in the image is in fact the Madonna statue. The visual comparison of Image 1 and the Madonna statue, as well as descriptions of other visual clues are provided in the next several pages.
The Woman is the Madonna Statue

The striking similarities between the woman in Image 1 and the Madonna statue can only lead us to conclude that they are one and the same. BTW, the entire illustration is inspired by Leonardo daVinci’s ‘Virgin of the Rocks.’

1. The blue glow around the woman is actually depicting the veil of the Madonna.
2. The high arched eyebrows of the woman match the eyebrows of the Madonna.
3. The long and narrow nose of the woman match the nose of the Madonna.
4. The woman’s pearl and its blue glow is depicting the blue jewel of the children’s zipper at the base of the statue.
5. The fingers and hands in the image match those on the statue, with one big difference... the fingers in the statue are pointing to where the casque is buried—at the base of the statue.
6. The blue squares on the woman’s sleeve are actually depicting the mosaic tiles of the children’s faces at the base of the statue. The fingers are pointing at square mosaic tiles.
7. The blue eyes, long pointy nose, and curly hair indicate that the woman isn’t necessarily Asian. It is a hint that the woman is actually the Madonna, who is often depicted with blue eyes, a pointy nose, and curly hair.
8. The proportions of the woman don’t seem quite right. The torso is too long, the waist is too narrow, she has no hips, and everything below her waist seem like a narrow base. Her proportions are like that of the statue.
9. Zoom in on the red rose in the illustration and you will see two hands with grotesque long fingers cupping a single eyeball. This is depicting the fingers and eyeballs in the statue.
The Rectangle is a Map
The large rectangular border of the woman’s robe, and the symbols that ring the border are actually a rough map depicting a walking loop trail that leads you to various landmarks in the Marina District, Presidio, and Crissy Field. I’m not convinced that I have any of this right, but here are my best guesses as to interpreting what’s on the map.

And finally, walk back a few hundred yards to Ghirardelli Square (backwards 'H') to complete the loop trail

(Longitude numbers)

(Start here)
The trail is a loop trail that starts at Bay St. & Larkin Ave. (backwards 'G')

(Longitude numbers)

Walk down Bay St. until you reach the Palace of Fine Arts (Yin and Yang symbol is the circular dome of the palace)

(Venture into the Presidio and look at the 1906 Earthquake Cottages (upside down 'VI' for '1906')

(I don’t have a clue to what this might be!!!)

While in the Presidio go see the Ordonez Gun and other military artifacts on the Main Post Lawn (the symbol that looks like a cannon battery)

Visit Ft. Point directly below the Golden Gate Bridge (triangular/diamond symbols that resemble Ft. Point from above)

Also visit the San Francisco National Cemetery (weird symbol that looks like the cemetery from above)

Cross under the old Doyle Drive (DD symbol) to the Golden Gate Bridge

Take the walking trail in Upper Fort Mason back to Aquatic Park ('A' symbol, short for 'Aquatic')

Walk past the Marina Green and go to 'X' marks the spot at the base of the Madonna statue ('X' symbol)

Walk down Crissy Field and admire the Marina District Lighthouse (unknown symbol)
Dragon Head is Fort Mason

The dragon’s head in Image 1 identifies Fort Mason as the location for where the casque is buried. To see this, you will need to overlay the dragon’s head over a map of Fort Mason:

- Enlarge the dragon’s head so that the dragon’s mouth is the same size and matches up with the ‘V’ shaped neighborhood in the map bounded by Fort Mason 11 St., MacArthur Ave, Shafter Ct., and Bay St.
- Once the dragon’s mouth is enlarged to cover the entire ‘V’ shaped neighborhood, the blue eyeball of the dragon will roughly encircle the location of the Madonna statue and where the casque is buried.
- Also notice that the spikey mane on the back of the dragon’s neck lines up with the piers of Fort Mason. The spikey parts of the neck are depicting the piers at Fort Mason.
Madonna Statue Relocated in 1991

In doing my research to confirm that the Madonna Statue was the correct location for the buried casque, and to my dismay, I discovered that the Madonna Statue was relocated in 1991 to it’s current location in Great Meadow Park in the Upper Fort Mason. The current location could not have hosted the buried casque since the casque was buried in the early 1980s.

Before this discovery, I was absolutely certain I had identified the correct location of the casque and had already drafted most of my theory. I still believed the casque was buried at the base of the Madonna Statue, but this time the statue was located in the nearby Lower Fort Mason in the early 1980s, a few hundred feet from the statue’s current location. My whole theory remains intact, but with only slight modifications to the solutions for the last three lines of Verse 7. I’ve provided three ‘Revised’ pages of the last three lines below, and have highlighted the edits using strikethrough text to show deleted text, and red text to show new text.
**Verse 7 (Revised)**

At stone wall’s door  
The air smells sweet  
Not far away  
High posts are three  
Education and Justice  
For all to see  
Sounds from the sky  
Near ace is high  
Running north, but first across  
In jewel’s direction  
Is an object  
Of Twain’s attention  
Giant pole  

**Giant step**  
To the place  
The casque is kept

**Summary**  
Continue east (‘In jewel’s direction) from the Marina District Lighthouse for a short distance and you will come upon the large staircase that joins the lower Fort Mason to the Upper Fort Mason at Great Meadow Park. The Fort Mason staircase is the ‘Giant step’ of Verse 7.

**Background**  
The Fort Mason staircase is an easy walk east of the Marina District Lighthouse. To walk there from the lighthouse, head back to the Marina Green, go towards the Safeway, go through the lower Fort Mason parking area Great Meadow Park, and then proceed to the bottom top of the staircase.
Verse 7 (Revised)
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step

To the place
The casque is kept

Summary
‘To the place’ means to ascend descend the Fort Mason staircase to get to where ‘The casque is kept.’

Background
See the next clue for ‘The casque is kept.’
Verse 7 (Revised)
At stone wall’s door
The air smells sweet
Not far away
High posts are three
Education and Justice
For all to see
Sounds from the sky
Near ace is high
Running north, but first across
In jewel’s direction
Is an object
Of Twain’s attention
Giant pole
Giant step
To the place

The casque is kept

Summary
Drum roll please… ‘The casque is kept’ means the casque is buried at the base of the Madonna statue by Benny Bufano in the Great Meadow Park at Lower Fort Mason.

Background
• As you ascend descend the Fort Mason Staircase, the first thing that comes into view as you reach the top bottom of the stairs is the tall granite Madonna statue.

• The Madonna statue is approximately 150 ft. from the top bottom of the staircase.
• Benny Bufano started work on the Madonna statue in 1962 and probably completed it soon after. The approximately 4 meter granite statue features the face and torso of the Madonna sculpted at the top, while the base of the statue features a colorful mosaic of four children’s faces blended together.
• PLEASE DO NOT DIG AT THE BASE OF THE MADONNA STATUE. STAY TUNED ;-)• The many clues in Image 1 confirm that the woman in the image is in fact the Madonna statue. The visual comparison of Image 1 and the Madonna statue, as well as descriptions of other visual clues are provided in the remaining pages pages before the Revised pages. They are still valid!
Final Words
I strongly believe the casque was buried at the base of the Madonna Statue in the Lower Fort Mason in the early 1980s; however, since the statue was relocated in 1991, the casque most likely will never be retrieved. My theory now is that the casque was either unknowingly unearthed and destroyed at the time of the statue’s relocation in 1991, or that the casque is still buried near the original location in the Lower Fort Mason. Although it may be possible to come up with a possible dig location in the Lower Fort Mason, my quest to unearth it ends here.

This brief journey was fun and entertaining. I first learned of ‘The Secret’ in November 2019, formulated my theory in less than 24 hours of seeing Image 1 and Verse 7, physically verified the details of my theory within 48 hours, and spent a few weeks trying to devise a plan to retrieve the casque. I had already written most of my theory when I discovered the Madonna statue was relocated in 1991, and that the casque was probably lost forever.

At least one of you knows my true identity. I’m sure I will reveal it sometime in the future. But for now, in the spirit of Byron Preiss, let’s keep it a secret.