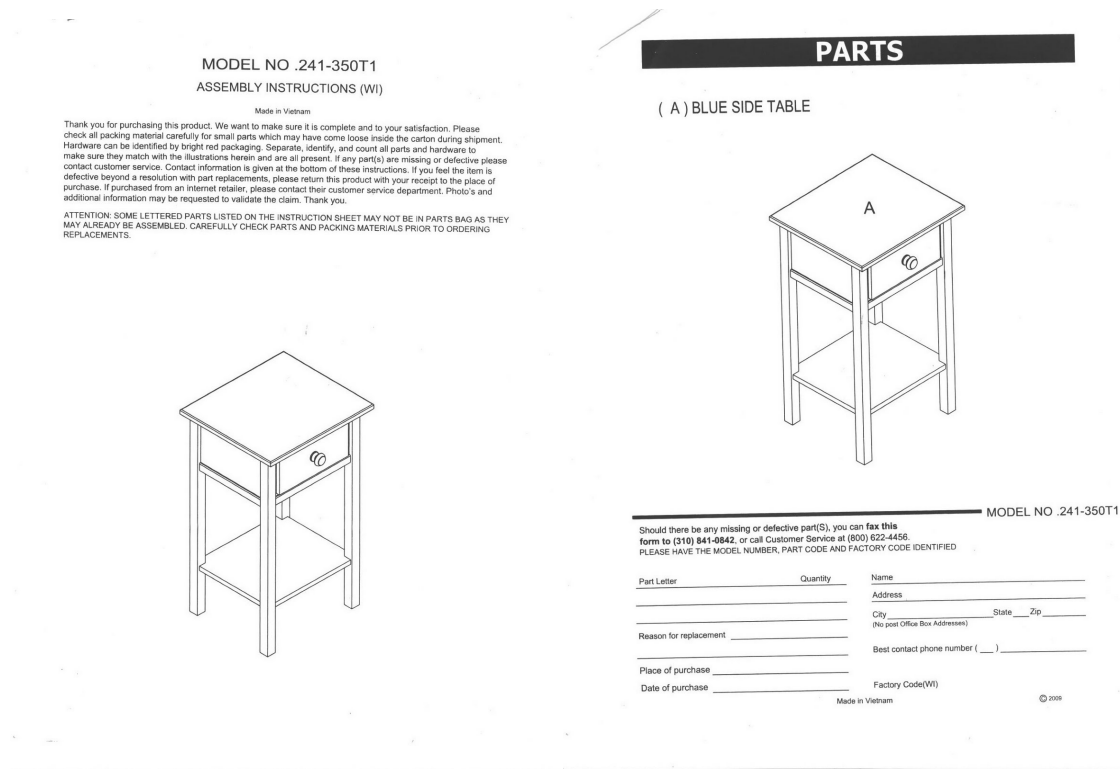


# Wunderkammer I

A few of my “articles” on *The Quodlibetarian* were more in the style of microblogging. When I actually took up microblogging with *Recursive Muffin*, I tended towards writing longer pieces. What can I say? What follows is a grab-bag of microposts from TQ, in the 2008-2010 range.

## Assembly of the Whole – TQ, March 7, 2010

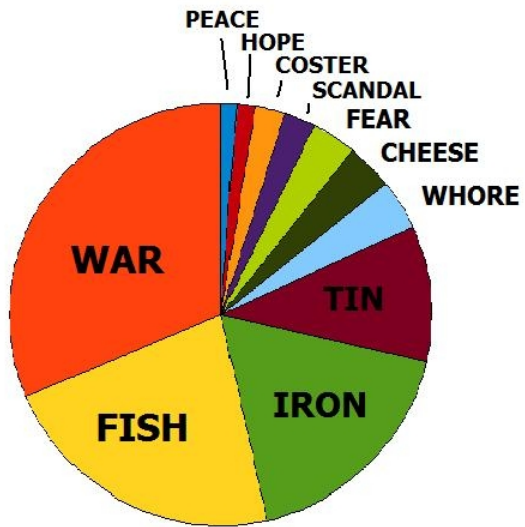


I bought a blue end-table at Target. It came with two pages of assembly instructions, though, you will note, there's only one piece: Part A, the whole table. I suspect a deeper level of wisdom here than I can fathom.

The Adept: *Master, I am confused. If part A was missing, it could be replaced. But if it Part A was missing, there would be nothing there to begin with.*

The Sage: *But you see, my child, that is just what happened. Before Part A was, it was missing, and so it was replaced at no charge. And thus it now exists. Now go make some soup.*

**Caption Me – TQ, April 16, 2009**



**Accidental Rosette, TQ, January 7, 2009**



**Pulling Your Weight (x6), TQ, July 27, 2008**



Each burr hanging by only one hook.

NB: I Believe Frenchy later made an eleven-burr chain.

**Snow, Stem, Strength, TQ,  
December 23, 2008**





## When Ice Gets Cold, TQ, March 24, 2008

There's a very strange phenomenon outside; it's been visible for about two weeks. We've gotten nearly record snowfall this winter, but it keeps melting down and getting rained on, so by mid-March we had quite a solid sheet of ice covering the snow all across the valley. Perfect sledding conditions, you just can't walk back up the hill very easily.



Anyway, this skin of ice has cracked (presumably from further thermal contraction). The cracks run all the way across the valley—some of them must be two thousand feet long, zigging and zagging a bit but basically quite straight. The cells formed by the cracks are between 20 and perhaps 200 feet across, and the cracks meet in nodes of 3 or sometimes 4. I've never seen anything like it, but I've heard of a similar process: “ice wedges,” a periglacial formation in the arctic.

The photo below shows the cells formed by ice wedging around a pingo in the arctic—it was taken by Emma Pike. Actually, what we're really looking at are “pseudomorphs,” the raised lines of sediment that fall into the cracks each winter, and then are deposited on the surface of the ground when the wedge thaws. What's going on in our valley right now is the very first stage of that process, though I doubt if it has much geological future at this latitude...

