

## Bean Count (Hard) [Solution]

by Rishi Gupta

Each item asks for a number which, with occasional cleverness, can be estimated to within a factor of two:

- World population in 1900 (people) –  $1.7 \times 10^9$
- Footprint of Coolidge Corner Trader Joe's (feet squared) –  $1.8 \times 10^4$
- Length of path traced out during "The Great Work Begins" (feet) –  $5.8 \times 10^3$
- Food consumed by average American (pounds per day) – 4.7 – 5.5
- Growth rate of human scalp hair (millimeters per year) –  $1.5 \times 10^2$
- Distance between the two rails of the Green Line (micrometers) –  $1.4 \times 10^6$
- Power output an average laborer can sustain over an eight hour day (watts) –  $7.5 \times 10^1$
- Average time a current US senator has been in office (years) –  $1.4 \times 10^1$
- Density of the most common type of concrete (pounds per pint) – 2.5
- New books published in the United States (titles/year) –  $2.9 \times 10^5$

Reading the corresponding letters off the spiral gives the answer, **SNACK MONEY**.