

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FERDINAND MEYER V

FMG Design, Inc.
101 Crawford Street
Studio 1A
Houston, Texas 77002
713.222.7979 x115
fmeyer@fohbc.org

Elizabeth, my granddaughter Isabella, Coco our Weimaraner and I just returned from the mega FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo and are finally catching our breath after almost two years of planning. We welcome that it is over and at the same time, we are sad to have to rely on our memories. We had such a grand time!

We will be putting full coverage of the event in the November/December issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS. Obviously, it would have been better in this issue but the art would have been due to the printer by 15 August and that is late. With dated advertisements and slow postal service, we just could not delay the magazine or rush a series of Sacramento National articles. We have 5,000 or so photographs to review, too! These pictures were taken by our official show photographer, Angelina Pellegrini. She did a fantastic job and we thank her so much. Gina volunteered her time and provided excellent coverage. Much of her work can be viewed on an extensive series of posts at FOHBC.org. Hopefully, this will hold y'all over to the November issue.

The numbers are not in yet and that will take a number of weeks to put together, but early indications point to success at many levels and many junctures. Our early admission and general admission numbers broke records for recent FOHBC national shows, dealer sales were strong, people purchased for their collections, the weather was great, the McClellan Conference Center and Lions Gate Hotel venue was superb and events such as the American Bottle Auctions Open House, the Generals House Reception, FOHBC Banquet and the Membership Breakfast far exceeded attendance projections. The displays were complimented by just about all who viewed, as many said they were the best they had ever seen. Wow. Congratulations here to the displayers and Russell Umbraco for spearheading this task. The seminars were packed and received glowing reviews. Thank you, Michael Seeliger, Tom Jacobs, Steve Ketcham, John O'Neill, Chris Hartz and John Shroyer. Way to go, Eric McGuire, for heading up the seminars. Much more coverage will come later.

Betty Zumwalt, our banquet speaker, had a packed room on the edge of their seats as she talked about FOHBC achievements over the decades. Jeff Wichmann received two standing ovations for his Hall of Fame award and gave a great talk when receiving the award. Many clubs received awards for their club articles, newsletters, websites and club flyers. Golden miner shovel awards were given to Richard and Bev Siri (show chairs), Warren Friedrich and Eric McGuire for their immense work in coordinating and running the convention and expo. John Joiner received the President's Award for his outstanding work for the FOHBC 2015 Chattanooga National Antique Bottle Show. The food at the banquet was even good, too!

Fred Holabird and his Holabird Western American Collections team

should be congratulated for the outstanding 49er Bottle Jamboree Auction. With a record number of primarily western lots, the room was captivated as many lots reached record prices. With Internet, telephone and a live floor, it was a thrill to watch. We even had one Internet bidder on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific! The Escobedo family, who consigned the Gold Dust Whiskey, was crying when their bottle sold for \$31,000 without the auction house premium! Thanks to all who consigned, bid and attended the auction. This is one we will not forget for a long time.

The Sacramento Shootout was as exciting as can be. Richard Siri did an outstanding job emceeding the event as super-star bottles were presented for each of the three categories (U.S.A Hospital Dept. quarts, Hostetter's Bitters and Jesse Moore Sole Agent fifths. Congratulations to the winners. You will be featured in the next issue along with many color images.

I would also like to thank the new board members that took position after the convention. Congratulations are in order for Alicia Booth, Brad Seigler and Bob Strickhart. We look forward to working with you and your contributions. Alicia started early and tended to many tasks for this convention. We are really fortunate to have her as our new Public Relations Director

What also made me so proud were all the volunteers that helped at the front FOHBC tables and elsewhere. Thank you, Isabella Alucema, Val Berry, Alicia Booth, Helen Forbes, Deanna Jordt, Lisa McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer, Laurel Ritz, Linda Sheppard, and Bev & Delores Siri. Thank you, Jim Bender and Jim Berry, for setting up for the FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo. They were selling tables right and left and had a big plan for folks to pick out their table spots. Onward to Springfield!

We also have the biggest and nicest Souvenir Program yet at 140 pages with covers. The program is sure to become a collector's item. I have already received a dozen or so requests for copies from folks that could not attend the show. Thank you to all of the content providers and advertisers that made the program a success.

I would also like to thank Steve Abbott and Eric McGuire for their fine western-themed articles in BOTTLES and EXTRAS and on our web site. These articles certainly set the stage for Sacramento and even continue in this issue. Thank you to Richard Siri, Eric McGuire and Warren Friedrich for the great effort in compiling the Best of West - Top 70 article and images. It was so fine of an effort that we are also putting it in this issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS. That way, our entire membership can read and it can be archived forever on our web site member's portal.

Also a very special thanks from the bottom of my heart to my best friends Jerry & Helen Forbes who chose to keep their plans and attend the convention even though they had recently lost their home in the Big Sur Soberanes fire. Rebuild, my friends. You have your lives and memories and are surrounded by a bottle collecting community that loves you both.

A special shout-out is also required for Jeff Wichmann for supporting the FOHBC in many ways such as the Generals House Reception along with Peachridge Glass.

One last thanks to our outstanding board members who make my job easy and to you, our membership, an audience that I serve. You make it a real honor for me to continue as your president for the next two years.

I am sure I forgot some to thank but I need to get this off to our Editor, Martin Van Zant, and Bill Baab to proof.