

Columbus Ohio Bottle Show and Sale

by Alan DeMaison

Nice weather greeted bottle enthusiasts on Friday night for the hospitality room and Saturday for the Columbus Bottle Show and Sale. The Columbus Bottle Show has a reputation for a great hospitality room going back to when Adam Koch was chairman. Former FOHBC Directors Joe Hardin and Jamie Houdeshell have continued the tradition. About 50 to 60 bottle collectors enjoyed great conversation while renewing friendships at the Baymont on Friday night. Pizza was on the menu along with plenty of munchies. Conversation centered on everyone's latest purchases, upcoming shows and the particularly nice February weather.

The Baymont accommodated the bottle people by opening for breakfast earlier than normal. They served a nice variety breakfast. Offerings included waffles, French toast, and lots of coffee. Many ate early to gain that valuable advantage of being at the show when it officially opened for business.

At 7 AM the action was intense with the dealers from the 135 tables of bottle and 50 early admissions either setting up or searching for that special collectable. A good crowd greeted me as I unloaded my boxes and it appeared that they were all eager buyers. It is so exciting, unpacking the boxes as quickly as possible and anticipating my searching the show for that special item. I did see a nice violin bottle that I should have purchased, but I hesitated and it was sold. I ran through the show seeing a nice variety of bottles with something for everyone. Milk bottles filled the east end of the hall.

The hallway was filled with collectors gathered for the 9 am regular admission. That second rush filled the hall with potential buyers. A nice crowd of 300 spent the next few hours hunting the tables for great buys. I can't remember the last show that



Co-chairmen Joe Hardin and Jamie Houdeshell



Terry Crislip and FOHBC Director Dick Watson

had so many collectors with such full bags as they walked around the show.

Columbus has always been on the same weekend as the Scott's Antique Show, a relationship that has benefited all the collectors. The dealers bring their bottles and go-withs expecting a good number of bottle collectors.

After the show, we are compelled to take an out of the way side trip to German Village in Columbus for a great dinner at Schmidt's Sausage Haus and Restaurant. There is always an hour wait for a table, but worth the wait. Their German Autobahn Buffet is my choice for a great taste treat. Save room for the desserts.

As always, for me, it is never about buying (but I do like to buy) or selling (and I do like to sell), but it is more about friendships. Networking with other bottle collectors is well worth the effort. They can be your eyes and ears to adding to your collection. It was at Norm Hecklers this fall that I gained information about a full bottle of Meadville Rye Whiskey located in Corry, PA. Spend the time to plan a trip to your local bottle show and find a local restaurant with food to die for, you will not be disappointed.



Elaine and Alan DeMaison from Painesville, Ohio



John Wolf and Adam Koch



John Fifer from Brunswick, Ohio



**Ohio Bottle Club members
Bob Smith, Dennis Peine, Jim Tyson**



**Dan Ling, Shelocta, Pa and Jim Frustier
Weatherly, Pa**