

# The Bryan Grapentine Sale of Antique Bottles

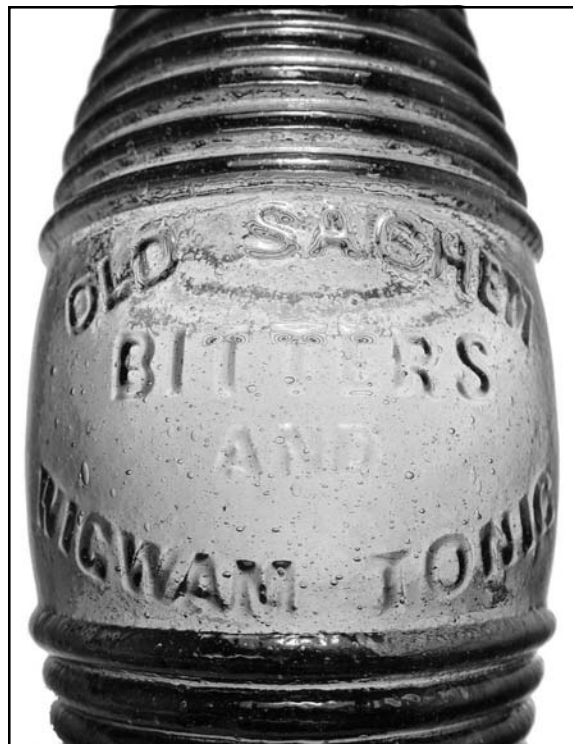
*From Jeff Wichmann, American Bottle Auctions*

One million five hundred fifty nine thousand dollars, that's \$1,559,000 for the sale of 900 antique bottles over a nine month period in three different auctions, that was the total for the sale of the Bryan Grapentine collection. We believe that this is the most ever paid for one collection of antique bottles.

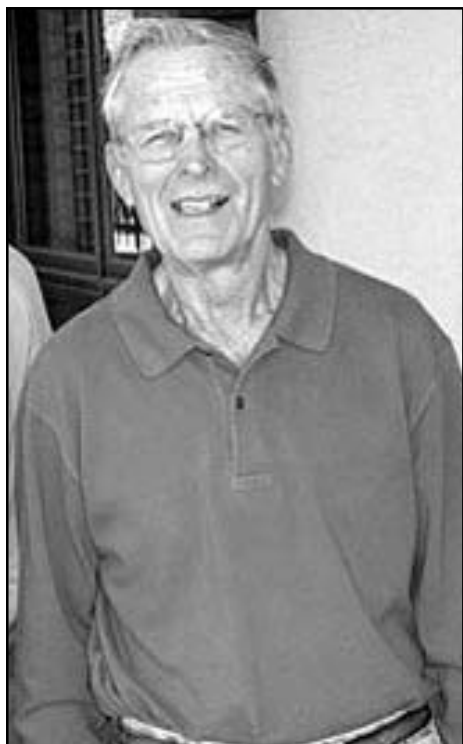
We at American Bottle Auctions are ecstatic over the results of our three-part auction of Bryan Grapentine's collection of bottles. They included items from every area of collecting including sodas, inks, poisons, medicines, whiskies and bitters bottles. Bryan had been collecting for almost 30 years and decided the time had come to sell his collection.

The highlight of the sale was bitters. With 225 of the 900 bottles being in that category, many sold in the \$10,000-\$20,000 dollar range with a number exceeding even that. It was considered the finest collection of bitters bottles brought to the auction block ever.

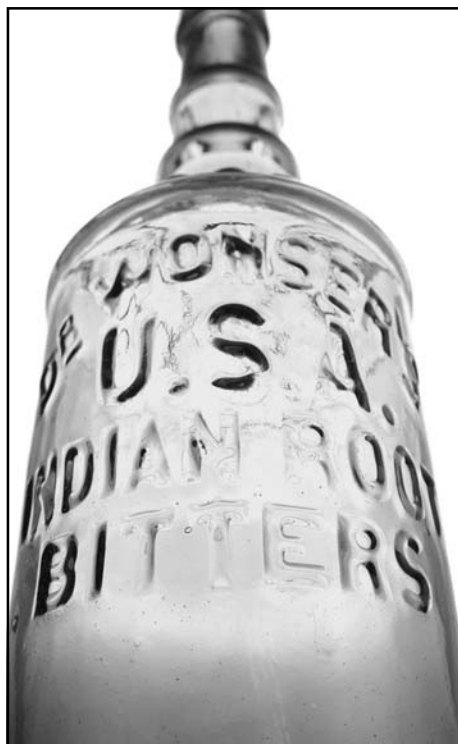
The Charles Gardner collection, which sold in 1975 for over a million dollars, was the top sale up to this point but there were over 3,000 bottles in that auction. With bitters being one of the hottest categories in bottle collecting today, the 30-year effort Grapentine put into his collection paid dividends. Among the top selling bitters was a Dr. Wonser's Indian Root Bitters that went for \$25,760 including 12% buyers' premium. An Old Sachem Bitters in an off-green color sold for \$20,720 with premium and another off color Baker's Orange Grove Bitters sold for a staggering \$17,920 while another yellow-green variant realized \$10,080. All of these prices set new records respectively. A gallon sized Columbian Ink in blue came in at \$29,120. The top lot was a green Kelley's Log Cabin Bitters that sold for a staggering \$51,520, quite a nice profit for a bottle Bryan had purchased a couple years earlier for what now seems a modest \$28,000. A green Cassin's Grape Root Bitters hit \$40,320 when the dust settled.



Old Sachem Bitters in an off-green color sold for \$20,720



Bryan Grapentine has about 1,559,000 reasons to smile. But, after 30 years with them, will he miss his bottles?



Dr. Wonser's Indian Root Bitters that went for \$25,760.

This final third sale ended up continuing a series of records for bitters that were rare and highly sought after. An H.P. Herb Bitters in an oddball yellow-green met \$10,080 while a Chalmer's Catawba Wine Bitters reached \$26,400, a new record for that bottle. An aqua Indian Queen reached \$29,120 while an aqua National Bitters hit \$16,240, the most ever paid for each of these rare aqua bitters. A Pineapple Bitters in teal green reached \$10,080, the most paid to our knowledge. A very rare Jone's Indian Specific Bitters sold for \$12,320, the most we've ever heard of.

The records for individual bottles as well as the entire sale was a surprise to most that followed the three sales. A precursor of things to come? There's no way of knowing I just know that I wish I had a collection of bitters right now, they've never been hotter.

Prices include a 12% buyer's premium. For more information go to [www.americanbottle.com](http://www.americanbottle.com). For more pictures please contact us personally at (800) 806-7722. Our address is 2523 J Street, Suite 203 Sacramento, CA 95816. All bottles are also available on our website.

Enjoy the photos!

*Jeff*

A gallon sized **Columbian Ink** in blue came in at **\$29,120**.



This **Chalmer's Catawba Wine Bitters** brought **\$26,400**.



This green **Cassin's Grape Root Bitters** hit **\$40,320**.



An aqua **National Bitters** hit **\$16,240**.



The **Kelley's Log Cabin Bitters** that sold for **\$51,520**.



A very rare **Jone's Indian Specific Bitters** sold for **\$12,320**, the most we've ever heard of.



A **Pineapple Bitters** in teal green reached **\$10,080**, the most paid to our knowledge.



An aqua **Indian Queen** reached **\$29,120**.

**H.P. Herb Bitters** in an oddball yellow-green met **\$10,080**.