

# The USA Expo 2008

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Editor of ABC UK



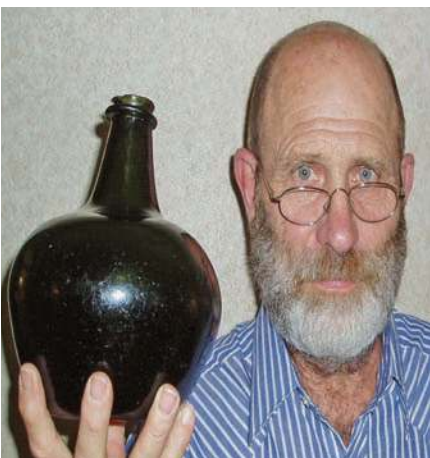
The idea of attending one of the US Expos had always been nothing but a remote possibility for me but that all changed when Wayne "Jar Doctor" Lowry invited me to the 2008 Expo to give a seminar on Codd's and other internal stoppered bottles

Unlike Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, the USA is not exactly a Codd collector's paradise but it's a poor Coddie who can't get interested in other related specialisations so a 30-year ambition was finally realised. Luckily, the 2008 Expo was held in York (Pa) which I was told was the closest to the East Coast that the Expo had ever been held and, equally luckily for a West Country hayseed, there was a daily Continental Airways flight from Bristol to Newark (NJ), a day's drive from York.



**Busy People!**  
**Wayne Lowry**  
(Convention Director, Show Chairman and in charge of Contracts & Table Reservations) with his wife June (Auction Catalogue, Souvenir Program Advertising, Flyer

Artwork and Show T-Shirts). Also, they somehow found the time to look after their "Jar Doctor" stall. (See ABC Issue 28 page 24 for a review of some of their cleaning equipment).



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The city itself has a fascinating history and has a very reasonable claim to being the first capital of the USA. With the British forces hard on their heels, Congress had vacated first Philadelphia and then Lancaster, finally setting up their meetings in York from September 1777 to June 1778. It was during this period that the Articles of Confederation were approved and it was agreed that the title of the confederation of provinces was to be "The United States of America".

The Expo was organised by a Show Committee drawn from members of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC), chaired by Wayne Lowry and was held in the Toyota Arena at York Fairground. Some idea of the size of this hall can be seen from the photograph below: there were 400 stalls and a large area containing just under 30 displays. It is quite impossible to convey the atmosphere and buzz of this show in a few pages but I hope you enjoy the few features presented here.



Toyota Arena Main Hall of the York Fairgrounds, containing approximately 400 stalls and 30 displays.

Please believe me when I tell you that Horst Klusmeier was very pleased with his purchase of this bottle. He described it to me as a shaft and globe, ca1680, magnum size, 19cm tall, 17cm wide on the shoulder and was absolutely mint. The unusual and interesting point is that the glassmaker worked the string ring to a point where it could collect the drops. It was not a give-away but considering the condition and size it was very reasonably priced compared to the UK.



Another happy chappie was USA Poison collector Dwight Fryer, who had just snapped up a rarely seen aqua poison which cost him neither an arm nor a leg.



Left to right: your assistant editor, Aussie auctioneer Graham Lancaster, Kiwi auctioneer Warren Roberts and two Antipodian mates, Kiwi Neil Davis and Aussie Peter Heaphy. This rather suspicious looking crew had just got back after a trip to Adamstown, which is only an hour's drive from York and which claims to be the "Antiques Capital of the USA". It sports 24 antiques halls, each containing dealers in their hundreds, on a stretch of Route 272 just 7 miles long. Having spent two days at the Expo we decided to take a break and spend the Sunday morning prowling these 24 halls! No chance, as we were totally exhausted after just two. Anyone intending to follow in our footsteps would be well advised to allow at least a week.

Personally, I had not expected to find stall after stall groaning with the weight of Codd's and internal stoppered bottles (and indeed I didn't) but was delighted to bring home the two very recently dug "rattlers" shown here. The bottle on the right is embossed on the front "J. L. JACOBS / CAIRO N.Y." and right around it near the base "PATENTED FEB 20 1883 JUNE 23 85

& AUG 4 85". It uses the Codd principle and is closed by a brown, very buoyant spherical stopper. The bottle on the left is embossed on the front "J. H. HADKINS / TOTTENVILLE / S.I.", and on the back with a logo comprising the initials JHH but the really exciting part is on the base: outer circle "GRAVITATING STOPPER / MADE BY", inner circle "JOHN MATTHEWS / NEW YORK" and in the centre "PATD / OCT 11TH / 1864". The stopper is embossed "PATENTED / 1864". I can't remember when \$100 left my pocket quite as quickly!



## THE DISPLAYS

These were very impressive indeed and I found it very difficult to decide which to include. I attempted (and probably failed) to cover a wide range of interests and provide something for everybody.



**19th Century Ceramic Quack Cure Pot Lids.** This impressive display was provided by very keen ABC subscriber Rex (my parents really wanted a dog) Barber and his wife Joanna from Capel, Western Australia and was the only non-USA display at the show. Rex was one of the few displayers who spent long periods on duty, explaining his enthusiasm for the hobby to the many visitors who showed interest.





**Asthma Medicines & Go-Withs.** Jeff & Mary Waterhouse from Whitehall, Pennsylvania displayed this very wide range of asthma cures/remedies.



### A Picture of Central Pennsylvania Past.

Things you can find in an outhouse (That's "dunny" to you Aussies). I must have toured the show at least 20 times and not once did I find Robert E Lee III absent from his display. He was forever explaining to all within earshot his enthusiasm for examining old disused outhouses for whatever had been dumped in them (note the hand emerging from the depths in his mock-up). His display table provided ample evidence of success over the years.

### Early Threadless Insulators.

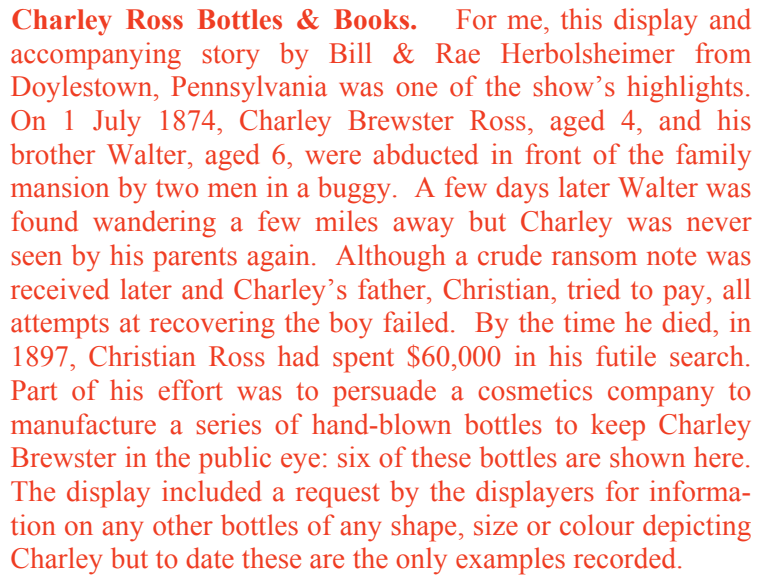
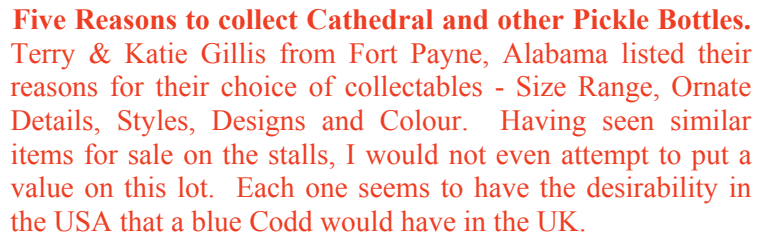
Large numbers of collectors in Australia and the USA collect early threaded and threadless insulators which come in a huge variety of sizes and colours. This display by Allen Klaspaska from Spring Grove, Pennsylvania goes a long way to explain their attraction.



**Great American Preserve Jars.** This display from Phil Alvarez of Blairstown, New Jersey was just one of several which featured preserve and fruit jars. Also, I was surprised at the very large numbers of such jars for sale on the stalls. No doubt this goes back to the recent past when the West was opening up and settlers were forced to make the most of summer abundance in order to survive when food was scarce. There were many makes and patents on view, each one claim-

ing to be more fool-proof than their competitors. A very sobering thought: if the seal failed, mate, then you would go hungry and may not even survive a bad winter!





**Teakettle Inks.** Strikingly impressive display of teakettle inks by Lynn Mitchell & Don Carroll from Brandon, Florida.

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