

# Great Bottles Coming Out Of The Woodwork At Hecklers



*Above: Washington-Taylor Flask, rare in yellow realized \$14,040*

*Right: A still from the video of the unearthing of Lot 136, the entire video may be viewed at [www.hecklerauction.com/auctions/99/](http://www.hecklerauction.com/auctions/99/)*

Fresh finds that uncover important bottles in our hobby have become quite rare, however, the recent Heckler auction that ended on May 30 contained several lots that give us all hope of finding that next "bottle in the rough". We all love to hear the stories behind the glass which, undoubtedly, added to the excitement and the final hammer price!

Five interesting and rare bottles, fresh to the market, were offered to antique bottle enthusiasts in this sale:

Lot 136, a GI-44 Washington - Taylor Portrait flask from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in an extremely rare brilliant light yellow and with particularly strong embossing had early interest. This example not only had a great color but also an unusual gradation of color from yellow to almost clear in the middle of the flask. Recently dug in Savannah, Georgia, one member of the digging team commented "Our flask was recovered from a privy in the Historic District in downtown Savannah. The privy dated to about 1820 and was in use until around 1900. The bottle was recovered from a 'cleanout' pit about 8 feet deep adjacent to the privy. The privy was cleaned out and rebuilt after 1865". This GI-44 had an estimate of \$5,000 - \$10,000 and realized a price of \$14,040 when all the dust settled.



Recent Auction Results

at

Norman C. Heckler & Company



The popular and rare "Snake of Corruption" Flask realized \$10,530

Lot 55 a very early Shaft And Globe Wine Bottle from England was also recently uncovered. This small, globular, half size bottle with a long neck, sheared mouth with string in a yellowish olive green is thought to be extremely rare in both size and form. Recently consigned by a businessman in Rhode Island -he stated that the bottle was found in Narragansett Bay by a customer who frequently went diving for lobster. "The customer noticed bottles in my place of business and said "heck I've seen these things in the bottom of Narragansett Bay and sure enough sometime later he walked into my store with this one." The bottle was estimated at \$2,500 - \$5,000 and realized \$5,850 on the auction block.

Lot 82 a "Dr. J.S. Woods / Elixir / Albany. / NY" Medicine Bottle probably from Albany, New York also piqued collectors' interests. This extremely rare Tombstone shaped bottle in emerald green crossed the auction block with spirited bidding, estimated at \$2,500 - \$5,000 this lot far exceeded expectations and sold for \$11,700. Consigned from a pawn shop in the Southeast - this bottle was originally found under a porch in New York state.

Lot 18, a GII-9 Eagle - Eagle With Snake In Beak Historical Flask - an early Pittsburgh district flask, in light apple green also was new to the market. This flask was a fine example, with an unusual color for this mold and also strongly embossed. The bottle, nicknamed the "Snake of Corruption", because of the obverse motif of a snake or serpent being held in the beak of an eagle, has always been one of the most popular of the historical flasks. A recent "fresh" find at an estate sale outside of Columbus, Ohio, it was rushed to Hecklers to make it available for the sale. The consignor stated that he had purchased bottles in the past at estate sales and held his hand up a little longer for this one because he sensed it was possibly better than the other items in the box lot offerings! The "Snake" had a pre -auction estimate of \$6,000 - \$12,000 and achieved a hammer price of \$10,530.



Above: Rare and early Shaft and Globe Bottle realized \$5,850 and Extremely rare Dr. J.S. Woods Medicine Bottle realized \$11,700

Below: Extremely rare sized P & U. S. Spring Co Mineral Water Bottle \$4,680



Lot 109 a "P & U. S. Spring Co / P / Saratoga / N. Y." - "Pavilion / Water" Mineral Water Bottle, in emerald green offered another great story. This mineral water was in fine condition and an extremely rare size and also was new to the market. Offered to the consignor in a box lot that contained other rare bottles, the consignor quickly made the decision to purchase. The consignor stated, when I asked where the bottles had come from, the seller stated that he was a construction worker who had been part of the excavation teams for the "Big Dig" (the rerouting of I-93 and airport traffic underground) in Boston. While the estimates to complete the "Big Dig" made big news for being way off their initial estimates, the auction estimate for this bottle at \$2,500 - \$5,000 proved to be right on the money with a closing bid of \$4,680.