



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President's Message

Winter 2003

President :

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Happy New Year To All!

The start of this New Year marks the start of a new publication for our members. Our new Editor, Kathy Hopson, has spent countless hours preparing this initial quarterly issue for your enjoyment. David Cheadle has provided support and advice based upon his two years experience as our former Editor. Past Editors, including Scott Grandstaff and David Hinson have been gracious enough to lend input or will be adding such in upcoming issues.

We have been gratified to receive an outpouring of offers to write for the Quarterly Bottles and Extras. Many of the authors you see on these pages will be writing consistent quarterly columns. Whether the contributions are with promises of ongoing involvement or a one-time article, I cannot begin to adequately thank all of our contributors for their expertise and assistance!!! It is our authors who make the magazine possible and who help the Federation Board fulfill what I consider our most important premise for existence — education.

Among the areas we wish to emphasize are columns pertaining to the individual states, perspectives such as the included article by Bill Lockhart on the relationship between archaeologists and bottle diggers and columns about each of the major areas of collecting. Your willingness to help us in these areas — and particularly in the areas that you do not see represented this issue — is critical to the long-term success of this publication and to the vitality of the Federation as a whole! We encourage each and every member to become involved as an author. Writing assistance is available— don't let your concerns about writing ability prevent you

from sharing your knowledge with other members of this fine hobby.

An important addition in this issue is the "New Finds" column. This is a subject which really depends upon reader involvement and we hope that you will consider contributing to it. We will be happy to attempt to obtain information about the item(s) which you contribute to this feature if we have members or authors who have expertise in that particular item/category.

Our thrust in this issue and in future issues will be to provide you a "seminar-quality" article on how to collect in a given category with a corresponding article on the author's collection or another advanced collection that emphasizes the points in the seminar article. This issue's focus is on Western flasks and we have tentative promise for articles on Saratoga collecting and Peppermint bottles in the upcoming issues. As this is what we hope to feature for our members, we hope that many of you will step forward and help to educate in your area of collecting.

Owing to a longer lead time required to publish using offset printing, this issue will lack the Regional Reports many of you enjoy perusing. They will return in subsequent issues and will be found in the quarterly newsletters which will go out to members in mid-February, mid-May, mid-August and mid-November. If you have ideas for the newsletters, please contact me.

Plans are beginning to gel for the 2003 National Show in Louisville, June 28-29. I have contracts and flyers available for those interested in attending or selling. We desperately need nice displays and collectors who would be willing to provide a 30 - 60 minute seminar in their area of expertise. Additionally, if there is anyone

who would be willing to assist in any aspect of the show (promotion, set-up, displays, front-table, banquet, auction, etc.), you would have my eternal gratitude!

Please note the Federation advertisement from John Pastor regarding the need for quality consignments for the auction at the National Show. Consignments in the 2002 auction at Syracuse received vigorous bidding and market to market-plus value was received. In order for John to have the photography done and the catalogues ready ahead of time he will need items in hand prior to March 1st.

Thank you for your suggestions regarding individuals and clubs the Federation should honor. Please keep those coming in for this years and subsequent years awards. As I mentioned in my last "Message", we want to provide recognition to deserving parties. Along those lines, I extend my thanks to Alan DeMaison, the Federation's new Treasurer.

We hope that you will enjoy the new Quarterly Bottles and Extras and find it to be a solid benefit of being a member of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors!

Ralph Jay Van Brocklin

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