

# FOHBC NEWS



### FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS

### **Dick Watson & Histories Corner**

Ferdinand - First of all, let me compliment you in the fine job and great direction you have given to the Federation. I cherish each issue of *Bottles and Extras* when it arrives and like everyone else I was saddened to know Dick Watson is no longer with us. I would like to believe he is reunited with the heavyweights of the hobby.

I am very pleased to see the Histories Corner memory of the 1976 Expo, which is where I first met Dick and virtually everyone that was anyone in the hobby at that time. It was totally overwhelming. Hal and Jerry received the fame and glory and my mother; Verna Wagner, was the person behind the scene. There were no computers, only the phone, post office and typewriters. She handled all correspondence as well as programs, souvenirs, contracts, etc., with a little help from her friends.

Hal was not idle by any means; not only did he promote it, he and I managed to find time to build three giant mahogany, back-lighted with sliding glass door, cabinets for Alex Kerr. I was in charge of set-up and security. Again, this was absolutely overwhelming.



Hal Wagner featured in the 1972 St. Louis Post-Dispatch article, "Glassy-Eyed Over Antique Bottles".

A lot of folks pulled together and let me say, hard work maybe was never so much fun. I am attaching copies of the local paper from 1972 featuring Hal, for your enjoyment. He, like so many from those years, had a tireless commitment to life and their hobby. Also, Verna was secretary for the Federation for a good number of years and I have boxes of paper I would like to see in a new secure location.

You maybe spoke too soon about no snow in Houston. Keep up

the good work.

Jim Wagner

### **Salves and Potions needed for Beowulf Production**

Hello Ferdinand,

My name is Kim Logan and I am the prop buyer for a British television production for ITV called Beowulf.

I am looking to find some old bottles for a healer character to hold salves and potions. Our production is medieval, but with some creative license! Is there a supplier you know if that I can purchase some unusual bottles from? Something similar to your mini glob display on your website?

Thank you for any help you can offer.

Kim Logan Production Buyer ITV BEOWULF LTD Consett, County Durham, DH8 6BP

FOHBC: We connected Ms. Logan with Federation member Alan Blakeman in the UK.

### **Anointing Bottle Update**

I received a letter from Adrianne Rubin PhD at Museum in NYC. She is one of leading art authorities in religious antique art in the world. She said the same thing that Dr. Ruggiero wrote from Corning Glass Museum and also from The Museum of Historical Bottles. "It is beautiful and it is old but we don't know what it is and we have never seen anything like it." The curators at MOBIA on Park Avenue suggested I send pictures to Christie's Antique Art Auction and ask their experts to look at the photos.



Here is the problem, Ferdinand. None of these world art experts are graphic art designers like you. (Chattanooga engine with bottles was a good one) Listen, if an explorer went into the deep interior of the Amazon River and put up a big sign with the McDonald's golden arches, the tribes would not know what it was and run away. However, when my little grandkids see the golden arches, they start clamoring for a happy meal and a toy. There is the problem. The monks chanted the Apostles Creed 5 times a day. The graphics on the bottle are in solid glass. The monks knew what it said. The three panels with their black glass dots and patch symbols depict the life of Christ taken right from the words of the Creed....the Sinless Lamb of God / the Propitiation / and the Crucifixion. Just like the Amazon tribe people, the art experts cannot see it in the graphics.

Anyway, I was going to stop at the top of the mountain flea market and find you a nice bottle but the I-24 passes over Monteagle were shut down from ice and truck wrecks. We had to spend the night at Kimball with about a thousand other people and trucks. The pass opened up next morning but the market was closed. Instead, there still is a bunch of junk consignment stores in Columbia and I will go down there this week and poke around and find something good to send you to sell for the club. I looked up bitters bottles on the Internet so maybe I can find one. It is OK you postponed the monk bottle article. No one in the Historical Society has ever seen one of these coded bottles either. And when you describe secret codes, you will be met with disbelief. All the members have heard of a message in a bottle, but never heard of a secret code on a bottle. I guess the monk and bottle will just have to speak for themselves. I can't prove anything. But thank you Ferdinand, so much, for being such a good guy. I hope to get to meet you at the Chattanooga National Show.

Sincerely, Don

FOHBC: Read, "This Anointing Bottle Fascinates Me" by Dr. Don Alkema in this issue.

### **Antique Bottle Collection in Houston?**

Mr. Meyer, I am writing you in regards to an antique glass bottle-collection that I have. I was hoping you would be able to advise me of their value and some options. Since I am not antique bottle collector, I not sure what is valuable and what is not. My wife inherited it from one of her family members some thirty years ago. After my wife passed away four years ago, I had forgot about it. The collection has been in my attic after down sizing following her death. I have been in the process of finally going through and eliminating a lot of her things. I was hoping you could give me some guidance.

I have attached the original newspaper article that was written in the Houston Chronicle in 1970 about wife's relative, Mrs. Bruce Gollan and her collection. I also have some of Mrs. Gollans hand written itemized notes of the bottles. Please let me know if you have any interest or if you know of someone else that might. Regards,

Monte

### Where is my Bottle Angel?

Hello Sir;

My name Jao Francisco Caldas. I am Brazilian origin, born on August 21, 1958 on an island called "Rio Acari". Indeed, the purpose of my letter is that I found on the island, in 2001, a bottle named JT Gayen / ALTONA, dating from ancient times at the bottom of the Amazon River. It was my birthday and when I slept, a woman came to me and ordered me to go to this place to find my birthday present. When I hurried on my way there, there was some spirit that made me set foot next to the object. So, I put my foot down and I felt there something and I picked up the bottle, which is gorgeous and reflects an object that has value.



JT GAYEN ALTONA figural cannon bottle found at the bottom of the Amazon River.

Also, I kept this art to check and get more information on the scope of this bottle so splendid. In addition, I visited on the Internet and saw other bottles of the same size and shape equal to mine. After when I learned that there are people who collect these bottles to sell to people interested in this ancient work that give them the beauty of art in their homes or office just for decorative souvenirs and beautification. It is in this movement that I am writing to share with you this bottle so grand that could serve as helpful to you and vice versa. If you are interested here is my contact information, which you may contact me.

#### Floriano Peixoto

Hoping that my condition will hold your attention, I am at your disposal to send you this bottle if you want to buy. Thank you for your understanding.

Best Regards.
Jao Francisco Caldas.

NOTA: I am a friend of Francisco Caldas. Je Jao Jao said that cannot speak English. He only speaks Portuguese.

[Ferdinand] Good grief, why doesn't some bottle angel, in one of my dreams, lead me to a General Scott's Artillery Bitters hidden in the banks of the Buffalo Bayou. Yes, I realize this could be a scam.

### **A Canning Jar Question**

Hello Ferdinand,

I was looking at your website and didn't know who was the right person to contact about my jar. If it's not you, would you mind passing this on to someone in your group who could shed some light on this mystery?

In most of the research I've done on canning jars, I've read about pint jars, quart and 2-quart capacities but I have a jar that I filled almost all the way to the top with 6 cups (or 1 1/2 quarts) of water. Is this rare? The jar has been described to me as "slope-shouldered", is blue or green (at this point, it's a little hard for me to tell), it is 9" tall and is 2 1/2" across at the mouth. The top is threaded to accept the zinc lid it has on it now. The word Ball is written in script on the front and MASON is under it in block letters.

If photos will help, I'd be glad to send them. Please respond, and I'll thank you in advance.

Roger Racine Hudson, NC

[Jerry McCann] Odd size Ball fruit jars were often sold to be used as packer jars (a company would put their product in these jars and apply a paper label identifying their product and their name). The marketing advantage for the commercial packer was that their jars were easily identifiably reusable for home canning. The odd sizes met the needs of the commercial canner who often used them for dry products (baking powder, tobacco products, etc.) that were sold in the usual dry units of that product (weight instead of volume).

In addition, fruit jars are generally identified as pint, quart, etc. but the volume does not affect the amount of seasoning ingredients, etc. since the food is mostly processed in a large kettle and then packed into the jars. In Canada, jars were traditionally sold as small, medium and large (pint, quart and half gallon) to avoid confusion over American and Imperial measures (25% larger... quarts 40 ounces instead of 32). The only consideration is that the home canner needed to leave larger jars in the boiling water longer). Thus American fruit jars did not have their size embossed on the jars...close was good enough.

Finally, the Ball company had a limited license to use the Owens patented glass blowing machines for fruit jars, not packer jars (a separate license). To get around this limitation Ball sold packer jars embossed as fruit jars, even though they were to be used as packer jars. Cute dodge!

Jerry

P.S. Odd size Ball jars are scarcer than "regular" size jars but not rare. They have some collector value over regular Ball jar which have no collector value (hundreds of millions were produced, many have survived).

### A Call from Ken Hamilton

Hi Elizabeth, I wanted to share this with you. Every week I get a few calls from FOHBC members or people who want to be members. I normally tell them how they can sign up easiest online. Once in a while someone comes along who does not like that idea or can't do it. Last night I got a call from Ken Hamilton in Harrison, Arkansas. Ken wants to be a member and wanted to send me a check which I normally have people send the checks and application directly to you. I talked with Ken for about half an hour and this is what I learned. Ken is 64 years old, a veteran, a cancer survivor and is on dialysis. He has never collected bottles but wants to start and hopes to find a bottle with George Washington on it. I liked this guy right off. He is so up lifting in his drive and will to go on. He chose our hobby because he heard we have great people. I sent Ken this morning the newest magazine as a gift and told him he would still get 6 more issues. I will cover postage which I normally do when I send out issues to people. Watch for Ken to send you a check. He wanted to use his credit card so maybe he will call you once he gets his application. I hope his does - it will make your day.

Take care

Jim (Bender, FOHBC Historian)

## Former Bottles and Extras Editor Kathy Hopson Sathe passes away



Kathy Hopson Sathe, former Bottles and Extras Editor

[A Communication to the FOHBC Facebook Page] I am not sure if anyone remembers my sister-in-law Kathy Hopson. She was the Bottles and Extras editor from 2004 thru 2008 though that might not be exactly right. Kathy and my brother both have been collecting bottles for years so I am writing this for my brother. He wanted to know if you could possibly post something about my sister-in-law as so many knew her in the bottle club! It is with a heavy heart that I say that she passed away on Saturday of a heart attack. She had been sick for some time. My brother wanted to let everyone know if you could please let me know one way or the other I would really appreciate it very much. Thank you, Sherry Richard

[FOHBC] Bill Baab and June Lowry picked up the ball and a recognition piece is posted on the FOHBC web site.



Hartwig Kantorwicz Posen bottle in milk glass.

### A rare bitters I bought at auction last week in Australia

G'day Ferdinand, thought you might like to see a couple photos of a rare bitters I bought at auction last week in Australia. Apparently it was dug at a bottle depot site near the docks in Melbourne here and would date from the late 1880s to early 1890s. It's a strange looking thing and stands very tall!! I think they also come in green but I've never seen another white one before.

Cheers =) Simon Cronk Australia

### **Empress of Ireland Beer Bottle**



Hello Ferdinand, I received a bottle of beer as a gift. This bottle was a part of the débris left from the wreck of The Empress of Ireland. This boat sank in the St. Lawrence River in 1912 and had 1,012 victims. I took some pictures of the bottle and the inscription on the bottom of the bottle. I was wondering if you could help me to find the origin of this bottle and the name of the brewery? There are some photos: The inscription seems to be F & S, LTP and S T H, Have a great day.

Francine Saint-Laurent Montréal (Québec) Canada H2X 1G6

## The 1st white woman to cross over into Indian Territory

Dear Ms. Meyer,

I am sending my renewal check for \$45.00 changing to first class for my magazine. For the most part they have been arriving in pretty good shape, however my January and February issue was mangled badly. I was wondering if I could possibly get another copy of the Jan-Feb for 2015? I can't even read the date. I want to keep them nice so I hope the upgrade mailer will help in the mailing process.

Thank you.

Ida May Nicholl

P.S. Two of my great grandfathers fought in the Civil War and my great-great grandmother, Sarah Richardson Fuller, came across the Des Moines River in a covered wagon. There is a book written about her. She was the 1st white woman to cross over into Indian Territory (1843). At that time she made friends with the Indians and fed them. She taught them how to raise crops for food and made bread for them. There was not a town there at the time. She was born in 1822. A great story is told.

### **FOHBC Virtual Museum**

Dear Elizabeth Meyer:

A couple months ago, at our monthly meeting, it was brought up that the FOHBC Virtual Museum had put out a fundraising effort. Our members decided to hold an auction to help support the museum. The auction we held on February 26, 2015 was successful and I am enclosing \$328. Best Regards.

Tom Tyshko, Treasurer Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club

#### The best Outhouse cake I have ever seen

Hi Martin,

I wanted to send this in for some time. A local cake-maker friend of our daughters, Michelle Smith, does cakes on the side and made me the best Outhouse cake I have ever seen. Not that there are many outhouse cakes. This cake has amazing detail. Even toilet paper! And the whole thing was edible. And delicious! Actually the digging tools, and mini milk bottles were not to be eaten. Really appreciate other people's talents to do things I know I never could.

Maybe you want to show this in the FOHBC magazine.

Thanks, James (Campiglia) Bozeman, Montana [FOHBC] To see color pictures of this wonderful cake visit the FOHBC web site home page at FOHBC.org and look at "Editors Picks".



A smiling James Campiglia with his "Outhouse" birthday cake

### More Hotel Rooms added in Chattanooga!

Hi John (Joiner),

We were able to add rooms to the block for Thursday through Saturday. If anyone else has problems booking please let me know.

Thank you,

Natalie Welesko Sales Manager Chattanooga Marriott Downtown

### **Reproduction Stoddard Utilitity Bottles**

Mr Meyer:

Like the title here suggests, I would like to bring the reproduction of Stoddard utilitity bottles to your attention.

I am a moderator on Antique-bottles.net and these bottles have been in question for a number of years. I think that if you mentioned these on the Peachridge Glass site it may help. The site I am involved with is community supported and often the titles and threads are poorly worded. There have been quite a few reproductions in the last ten years but are difficult to search for. Here is a link to the latest post with and example. The thread obviously starts earlier.

http://www.antique-bottles.net/forum/Reproduction-Alert-m673141-p2.aspx#673911

I will search for others but these have been on sale for some time (at least 10 years) and one sold recently for over \$350. I could be wrong but the evidence strongly suggests, at minimum, not near Stoddard age.

Thank you for you time, Eric Kloss

#### Samuel S. Morris Block Insulator

My name is Easton Powell and I am in the possession of a very rare old block insulator. My family and I are collectors and I am looking for more information on this particular insulator. With my searches, I have been told it is dated around 1848. It has been said that it is a Samuel S. Morris insulator. It is light blue in color as you will see in the attached files.



I am wanting to verify the year and value of the insulator or perhaps a refural of someone who can help. Thank you for your time.

### **Cool Walkers Tonic Bitters Advertisement**

Hello Ferd; Please find attached an earlier [1867] and somewhat different newspaper advertisement for Walkers Tonic Bitters. Best Regards; Corey Stock



