

## Getting Ready for the

# 2018 Cleveland National

By Elizabeth Lacy

In August 2018, there will be a collaboration of epic proportions.

On the shores of Lake Erie, men and women will gather to admire, contemplate, and reminisce about days gone by and the lasting legacy of glass, bottles and collectors. Mutually they will bring together the past and present, and dream about the future of bottle collecting. We are honored and excited to host this momentous event in the way of the FOHBC's 2018 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland is not a young city by any means. Though surveyed and settled before 1800 by European settlers, the Ohio River valley and shores of Lake Erie were occupied by native Erie and Iroquois long before. Shortly after the completion of the Erie Canal and with the aid of railroad progression into the West, the little port town of "Cleaveland", Ohio boomed through the 1800 and 1900s with industry and agricultural commerce. This rich history is demonstrated by and through the artifacts and culture found around the city and beyond.

This history and the abundance of quality antique glass and stoneware originated, discovered and unearthed within the region, has made Ohio a mecca for collectors of all specialties. When choosing a location to host the FOHBC 2018 National Expo in the Midwest, many locations were considered with Ohio offering many options. The centralized location and easy travel access from all corners of the United States drew our attention. It is said that 60% of the population of the United States lives within 500 miles of this energetic, picturesque city. In addition to the hospitality and generosity of the Midwest, the support of the Ohio Bottle Club, in conjunction with other clubs in the region, confirmed that we could make this annual event live up to the precedent of the past FOHBC national show reputations. We have had many Midwest region clubs reach out in support of the show and offer a helping hand. We are excited to continue our partnerships with all clubs that want to get involved with making this an event to remember.

There are many exciting events coming up to supplement the bottle show on Expo weekend! There is a loaded seminar line-up with experts sharing their knowledge with us in many various collecting categories from glass blowing to privy digging to specialties such as bitters bottles or Hemingway Jars. After expanding your knowledge in a seminar or two, make sure to peruse the vast number displays already committed within our showroom floor. There is sure to be a fantastic presentation of historical glass with our regional Midwest collectors revealing the best of the best!

The two events we are most excited to present Expo weekend are the Welcoming Reception and the FOHBC Banquet. The FOHBC invites paid early admit participants and dealers to join us for appetizers at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Thursday afternoon. The location is a short walk from the host hotel, and our reception will be held on the plaza of the Hall of Fame over-

looking Lake Erie. In addition to the amazing atmosphere offered for catching up with fellow collectors and friends, admittance to the museum is included! It is guaranteed to be an entertaining and relaxing afternoon!

The FOHBC Banquet held on Friday evening is the second event we are thrilled to invite you to join. Following the Rock and Roll theme, we hope to roll out a red carpet welcome to our guests and Keynote Speaker Terry Kovel. Mrs. Kovel, along with her late husband Ralph, rose to be authorities in the antiquity and collecting field and are known nationally for their pricing guides which they began producing in 1974. Being a local resident of suburban Cleveland, Mrs. Kovel volunteers much of her time to the Western Reserve Historical Society, and is eager to share with us her knowledge and experiences within the collecting world at the banquet.

Now for the reason we bottle collectors come to the FOHBC National Expo: The Bottle Show. Our showroom floor is huge and modern, being just built in 2013. Lighting fixtures and skylights are state of the art for an optimal lighting environment. Security before, during and after show hours is provided to maintain the protection and professionalism we can trust. Concessions will be available for purchase during show hours. Our host hotel, the Marriott at Key Center, is immediately next door to the Huntington Center for easy transitions between events. And when you need a break to ponder that next bottle purchase, the view of Lake Erie from the Cleveland Mall greenspace is steps away.

As was just mentioned, Marriott at Key Center, our host hotel, is a crosswalk away from the Huntington Convention Center. Newly remodeled, it boasts modern décor and amenities for the finest comfort. There are two restaurants onsite, as well as many local or familiar dining options within walking distance. That is the absolute best part of the location of the 2018 FOHBC National Expo: you will be able to park your car for the weekend! Food, entertainment, local attractions, and all Expo events are less than a mile away! Within a 360 degree pivot turn on the Marriott's front green space you can see art deco skyscrapers, Lake Erie shorelines, Corinthian columned monuments, beautiful parks and street art. The revitalized city exudes hearty Midwest charm with a trendy but laid-back atmosphere.

Contracts are coming in daily, so be sure to send yours in soon to reserve your table at the FOHBC 2018 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo! Contracts can be found on the Federation's website ([FOHBC.org](http://FOHBC.org)), the Ohio Bottle Club's website ([ohiobottleclub.org](http://ohiobottleclub.org)) or within this issue of *Bottles and Extras*. After mailing in your contract, be sure to contact the Marriott for a room reservation at 216.696.9200 and mention the FOHBC Bottle Convention for the room discount. Displays are welcome, and if you are interested in sharing your knowledge from your collection for the weekend, please contact Alan DeMaison. And as always, Matt Lacy ([info@antiquebottlesale.com](mailto:info@antiquebottlesale.com)) or Louis Fifer ([fiferlouis@yahoo.com](mailto:fiferlouis@yahoo.com)) are available to answer questions or provide further information.

August may seem to be a long way off, but time has a way of passing quickly and before we know it, we will be seeing you at the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National!