VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS

By Richard Siri

Mission Statement

The FOHBC Virtual Museum has been established to display, inform, educate, and enhance the enjoyment of historical bottle and glass collecting by providing an online virtual museum experience for significant historical bottles and other items related to early glass.

Virtual Museum News is a recently added section within each issue of *Bottles and Extras* authored by museum founder, Richard Siri, to give our membership an update on progress for this landmark project.

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Recently, Alan DeMaison and co-worker Terry Crislip traveled to Michigan and shot Ralph Finch's target ball collection which was at John Pastor's American Glass Gallery awaiting auction. Oh, they shot them with Alan's photography set up, not shotguns.

The timing was right-on before this collection goes many ways after the sale. This shoot was more difficult than others because target balls being round have to be stable while the platform turns 10 degrees after each image is shot. This was accomplished using a plumber black rubber O-ring. The black O-ring did not reflect the light that a previous glass holder did. Alan uses lots of light but the type that doesn't generate heat. This outing had the cost per glass item down to less than $3 each which is a great savings from earlier estimates.

The traveling duo are making plans to go to Medina, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Chicago, Illinois. Canning jars and pattern molded glass are on the to-do next list. Alan will be at the upcoming Cleveland National and will be doing images every half hour. If you have a historically significant example and want it considered, contact Alan at *a.demaison@sbcglobal.net*.

Also at the Cleveland National banquet, we will have a progress showing of the first gallery featuring bitters bottles. This will I'm sure, impress everyone in attendance and hopefully will encourage collectors to donate to this project. On this note, a well-known Western auction house offered to match donations up to five thousand dollars for the Virtual Museum so think about donating now. This should fill the flask.

Also being discussed is training an apprentice to carry on Alan's work in the future. The museum will be like any brick and mortar museums and have a backlog of images so it can rotate the bottles and categories and keep it fresh. I can envision hours of viewing images in the future.

Regarding access to the museum, members of the FOHBC in good standing would have free access along with the bi-monthly *Bottles and Extras* magazine, and all of the other amenities that come with membership. Others could access the museum by a day past which will be $5. This should increase the FOHBC membership because once a collector views the museum they will want to come back to see what's new. It will be cheaper to join the FOHBC plus they will get the magazine. The nuts and bolts of this are being developed and will be ready when the museum opens.

Ferdinand is busy on the museum and gallery building and will be including a retail shop for FOHBC memorabilia.

Above: Test using a round smooth target ball dug by Matt Lacy' mother showing stand beneath ball.

Left: Boers & Co. Delft-Fless-Chenfabriek, Netherlands target ball in medium green. The black O-ring with used for this image.

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We are excited to announce that we received an email from Hall of Famer **Jeff Wichmann** (American Bottle Auctions) regarding Virtual Museum donations.

Ferd - Hey, I'm thinking that the bottle needs to be full, the one for the Virtual Museum. Looks like you need somewhere around $10k? I'll make you an offer. If you can find someone to fill half of it, I'll do the other half. I haven't been doing enough for the Federation lately. - Jeff

Please, if you read this out there, maybe you, or a group of you can help us complete the task!

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Attention 2018 Cleveland National show-goers: Alan DeMaison will be set up at the upcoming Cleveland National for 3D bottle imaging. He will be available during show hours and bottle owners can schedule a time in advance by contacting Alan at *a.demaison@sbcglobal.net*. He will schedule a spin every 1/2 hour. We are looking for historically significant examples. You should be available to be contacted about the bottle history and story if you have it.