



VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS

By Richard Siri

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.



This period has been somewhat hectic with all the planning for Reno 2020. As most of you may know, Bev and I are show chairs working with Team Reno (Max Bell, Warren Frederick, Eric McGuire and Ferdinand Meyer V). Our dealer contracts are out and dealer table sales are brisk. Souvenir program sales have started and we are taking rooms at the Grand Sierra. This will be a big one! Visit FOHBC.org for event information. We will be filming for the Virtual Museum on the showroom floor. Unfortunately we had to cancel this component in Augusta due to last minute family issues with Alan DeMaison.



Ferdinand mentioned the other day that someone asked him why we used a green aqua glass profile of George Washington for our Virtual Museum logo. Of course, we explained that ole' George's portrait was embossed on many historical flasks, which you will see in the Virtual Museum. We even developed a more 'print ready' version of the logo for newspapers and special conditions.

We are thinking about getting a run of commemorative \$5 gambling chips made for the Reno 2020 convention. Maybe we can get some Virtual Museum ones too!

Jerry McCann sent in these nice descriptions of some of his extraordinarily rare fruit jars for the Virtual Museum.

Helmes Railroad: This is a great example of a fruit jar form being modified to be used as a commercial product container, in this case, the product was tobacco. Although common to use fruit jar forms for this purpose this is a unique example of a Safety fruit jar form produced in the mid-1880s. What is surprising is that a special mold was used, rather than the off the shelf fruit jar form. Both the body of the jar and the lid are slightly larger than the Safety jar. The Safety is a rare jar made at the Cumberland Glass Works in Bridgeton, N.J. The amber product jar is the only reported example of this jar.

A. Stone & Co: Stone jars were produced in a wide variety of sizes, forms and colors at multiple glass houses for a Philadelphia Company from the late 1850s through the Civil War period and beyond. This example is in a deep yellow green and has almost every feature important to a jar collector. Besides color it is embossed with its maker (Cunningham & Co. Pittsburgh), has a pontil scar (iron), is boldly embossed and is in spectacular as made condition (mint).

Helmes Railroad Mills



A. Stone & Co. Philadelphia



Newman's Patent



Pacific Glass-works



Newman's Patent: A rare jar in a great color (deep aqua) with bold embossing and original press down cap. The patent calls for a rubber band to circle the bottom of the cap to seal the jar. The purpose of this gasket is to make it easy to open...a totally dumb, ineffective closure which would easily allow spoilage...in effect making the jar self opening since in a few weeks it is likely the contents would be bubbling out of the jar.

Pacific Glass Works: This California made jar is an example of a successful form migrating from the East...the original mold was likely shipped west and independently reverse embossed, promoting the Pacific Glass Works of San Francisco where it was blown. The eastern versions of this jar a pale aqua typical of the South Jersey region; these western examples are usually made in a bold aqua consistent with other glass containers made at this glass works.

Please support the FOHBC Virtual Museum!

