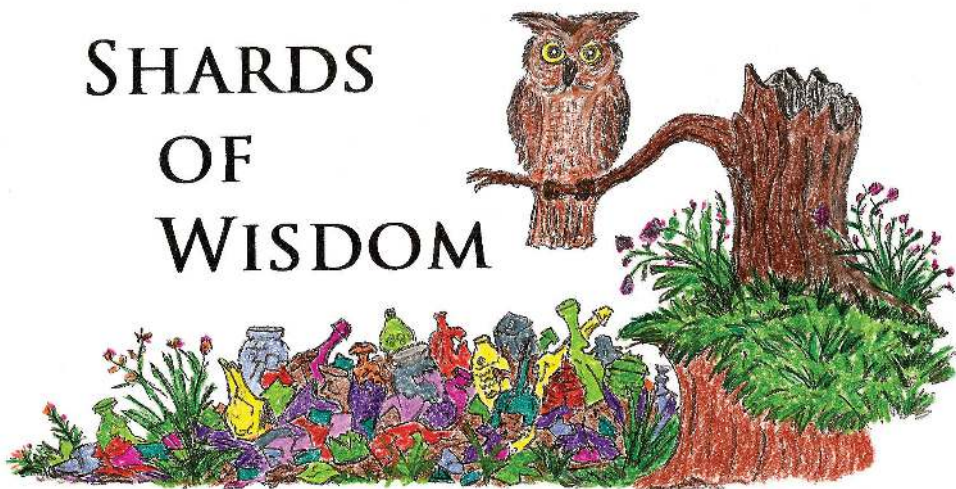


# SHARDS OF WISDOM



## What Will Happen to Your Collection When You Are Gone?

By David Tingen

As an older collector, I often think of the future of my collection when I am gone. My family knows about my collecting but few details or value. The effort here is to share thoughts on the subject. Some things to consider include how to dispose of the collection, true value and who you would charge with the task. I am confident that I am not the only collector who has given this subject some thought.



A Collection of Ales

Those of you who have close friends or fellow club members will likely have someone in mind to receive a certain item or group of items. This would probably be your choice of who might be first in line. This would be something to handle early on as final wishes and directives often do not meet legal requirement. An inclusion in your will may be an alternate route to take.

If donation is an option you wish to pursue, a need to establish value is imperative. Also, consider the fact that many donated collections never get seen outside the museum warehouse. I have seen this happen on several occasions with those close to the collector in wonder as to the outcome of the items donated. It is

very difficult to determine who controls the donated items.

If a traditional auction is your preference, there is planning to be done here as well. The items must be catalogued, prepared for transport and given some level of insurance. The scheduling of the auction and competition may determine final value. This is something that can't be controlled by the collector or the person agreeing to the auction terms. Net proceeds are also in consideration due to fees and cost of transport to the auction company or buyer. This can offer a large audience but may not fit your long-term plans.

If an on-line auction such as eBay is the preferred route, this may be the most complex and time-consuming route of all. In addition, there are sales tax and security issues with this type auction. Those of you who use eBay are familiar with the routine. Each part of the transaction may require a fee of some sort.

Bottle shows may be the best fit for your treasures as the cost is relatively low and transport is up to you or your representative. This option also allows for direct interface with a potential buyer or buyers. Arrangements can also be made for presell and delivery. The show route also allows the potential buyer to examine items being offered.

Now, for the part that may require the most work. Some level of documentation for the collection is a must. A spread sheet or list will be needed for anyone to do a good job of disposing of your collection. As a minimum, the list must contain a complete description, value and any references such as auction results and reference books. This serves two purposes: identification and provenance for future owners. This information can also be used for insurance as most home owner policies limit claims for artwork and collectibles.

This is a brief look into the subject and hopefully will serve as food for thought as to the best way to prepare. Of the options show above my preference has been club members, bottle shows, traditional auctions and lastly on-line auctions.

Questions and comments are welcome via email: [tingen1@mindspring.com](mailto:tingen1@mindspring.com)



## You can't grow bottles by planting a bottle tree

By Bill Baab

When you plant a tree, you look forward to enjoying the fruits of your labors. Plant a pecan tree and you'll get a crop of pecan. Plant a pine tree and you'll get pine cones and pine straw. Lots of pine straw. Cherry trees, wild and otherwise, yield cherries. But if you plant a bottle tree, you won't be able to harvest a crop of bottles. Mrs. Geneva Greene, of Langley, S.C., can attest to that.

The Horse Creek Antique Bottle and Pottery Club President planted her bottle tree several months ago and nothing in the way of a "crop" has happened. Darn. And I was hoping to raise a few River Swamp Chill & Fever Cures, or maybe some John Ryan sodas, or . . .

Bottle trees have become novel ways to display antique or new bottles outside one's home. Sparkling in the sunlight, bottles are attractions for sure. But birds and squirrels hate them because their flashing multi-colors spook the winged and four-footed critters.

Where did bottle trees originate? Bea, my wife of 53 years, enjoys reading the history of foods. One of her acquisitions is a book about North Carolina's "Old Salem Cookery," and while reading it she came to a chapter called "Bottle Trees." It reads: "Here and there outside the back door of a farm house, you will occasionally see a bottle tree. A bottle tree does not grow bottles (darn again), it is used to dry them. "The trunk of tree with several low branches is cut down to a height of about six or seven feet. The branches are cut off to a length of about a foot or so. These branches make spikes for holding bottles and jars to dry. "The old folks liked the idea of drying their bottles and jars in the fresh air and sun."

And then there's Bottle Tree Antiques in Donald, South Carolina, owned and operated by collector John Bray. But that's another story.

## HISTORY'S CORNER

In Memory of Dick Watson  
longtime FOHBC Historian

### A Snapshot of History

It could be said that Historical Flasks are the most desirable of all the bottles, just ask any flask collector.

However, new or old flasks clearly capture snapshots of history better than any other bottles. Many flasks produced over the years have famous people on them.



The flask pictured here was made in 1959 in honor of John C. Tibbitts, founder and first president of the Antique Bottle Collectors Association (ABCA) the predecessor of the FOHBC. The back of the bottle is marked "Bottle Collectors Are Nice People."

Watch each issue for a new installment of History's Corner.

## FOHBC Augusta Banquet Awards Sweep



The International Perfume Bottle Association (IPBA) visited the stage five times at the recent FOHBC Banquet in Augusta. Frank and Elizabeth Creech, representing the IPBA, accepted awards for 1st Place, Best Club Newsletter, *Perfume Bottle Quarterly*, 1st Place, Susan Arthur, author, Best Research/Information article, "Who or What is HETRA?" published in the *Perfume Bottle Quarterly*, 2nd Place, Felix and Marina Segal, authors Best Research/Information article "From Russia with Love" published in the *Perfume Bottle Quarterly*, 1st Place, Laurie Stern, author Best True Story, "Message in a Bottle: How Antiques Guided a Natural Perfumer's Life & Aesthetic" published in the *Perfume Bottle Quarterly* and 2nd Place, Gayle Syers, Frank and Elizabeth Creech, authors Best True Story "Precious Vessels fit for a Queen" published in *Perfume Bottle Quarterly*. In honor of this accomplishment, we have received permission to rerun their articles. The first, *From Russia with Love*, appears in this issue.