



## 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.

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I hope my last posting spurred those who haven't yet checked out the Virtual Museum to do so. The museum is being added to almost on a daily basis so check back frequently. After you view the museum, tell your friends that don't collect to check it out. Tell them it's free, an ongoing visual history lesson with great pictures. How can you beat that? With the Coronavirus lockdown still in place in most of the country, the Virtual Museum will continue to provide entertainment and enjoyment to FOHBC members as well anyone else who wants to visit. Who knows, maybe they will become collectors after visiting the museum.

Alan, besides being in charge of imaging, is also the Virtual Museum's treasurer so he needs to track expenses and report them to the FOHBC treasurer, Jim Berry and the FOHBC board. He does an excellent job; down to the last cent.

We are looking to expand the Medicine Gallery soon with imaging medicines that are historically important and have a story to tell. Colored examples are easier to image but Alan has zeroed in on imaging aqua bottles as many of canning jars in our Jar Gallery have been in shades of aqua. When you have imaged 337 specimens and edited over 12,000 pictures as Alan has done, as of the end of June, you get pretty good at it. He hopes to have editing done on about 40 new jars by the end of August.

Alan is also working with Gina Pellegrini to get her started with imaging on the West Coast. She has the equipment and certainly the talent. You may remember Gina as she was our official show photographer for the FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention.

Ferdinand is doing a fantastic job researching the target balls and jars along with spirits and anything else that will be in the Virtual Museum. He's come up with more information about spirit bottles than you can imagine. I've been collecting western whiskeys for 50+ years and Ferdinand has really brought them to life with his research. I've learned a lot that I didn't know about

some of them. With all he does, I wonder when he has time to run his business.

Miguel is the high tech member of the team and for the most part I don't understand some of the things he and Ferdinand do to get all the features that are used to put the Virtual Museum online. Coming up on my 80th birthday, I think it's best for me to sit back and watch that component.

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### Specimens in Open Galleries:

Bitters Gallery: 67 (+5)  
 Historical Flasks Gallery: 70  
 Spirits Gallery: 60 (+4)  
 Jar Gallery: 55 (+5)  
 Target Ball Gallery: 60 (+37)  
 Inks Gallery: 3  
 Foods & Sauces Gallery: 1  
 Spring & Mineral Water Gallery: 12  
 Medicines Gallery: 2  
 Fire Extinguishers Gallery: 1  
 Tableware: 1 (New Gallery)

As of 20 June 2020, we have 332 specimens on shelves meaning we have added 52 pieces since our last report in the May-June issue of *Bottles and Extras*. All with 3-dimensional imaging, superb support imagery and facts and information provided by top specialists in the collecting area. We are currently working on bottles previously imaged by Alan that are in queue for research. Also, menu navigation vs. floorplan navigation is in the works. We also have our first book for the Research Library.

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Miguel Ruiz, our web specialist for the museum, working from Almaty, Kazakhstan, has had a busy past month with technical challenges with the museum website. The site has been down twice. I'm not sure if others are hearing this, but service is really problematic during this pandemic. We suspect operations have been disrupted and personnel cut back. What used to take hours or a half-day to fix with our web host, now can take days.

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We asked FOHBC member Michael George to assist us in a 'target' list for the Medicines Gallery. He sent us thirty (30) of his suggestions that include Masury's Sarsaparilla, J & T Hawks, Rochester, NY, Wyncoop's Sarsaparilla For The Blood, 1/2 gallon, New York, Dr. Maseker's Balm of Gilead, N. York, Dr. Wilcox Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla, Dr. Phelps's Genuine Arcanum, Houghs Vegetable Life Preserver, J. B. Holman, Prop, Holman's Nature Grand Restorative, Boston, Mass, Lewis Cough Syrup, Rochester, NY, Rushton & Aspinwall, Chloride Toothwash Compound, New York, Scott & Steward, United States Syrup, New York, G.W. Stone's Liquid Cathartic & Family Physic, Lowell, MA, G.W. Stone's Vegetable Liquid Cathartic, Lowell, MA, Dr. Woods Sarsaparilla Albany, Dr. J.S. Woods Elixir, Albany, NY, Woods Panacea NY, Wynkoops Balsamic Sarsaparilla, New York, M.A. Micklejohn N.O., Washington Internal Remedy for Rheumatism Pile Remedy, Patented May 1863 By William Carr Bath, ME, The Indian Doctor's Blood Purifier, John Anderson, Nashville Tenn, Dr. TJ Monroe's Hair Renovator Warranted Bald Heads, Morrison's Sarsaparilla, 188 Greenwich St, New York, John Bull Extract Of Sarsaparilla, Louisville, KY, Dr. Roger's Liverwort & Tar, Cowan's Lithonriptic, I Newton's Panacea Purifier Of The Blood, Norwich, VT, and J.L. Hamilton's Remedy A Positive Cure. Now we need to track examples down!

