

FOHBC NEWS



FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS

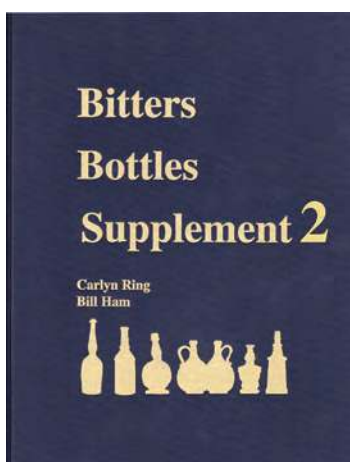
2019 Augusta National Financial News



Good news to report as Team Augusta returned \$8,580.09 to the FOHBC Treasurer, Jim Berry, as profit from the recent 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention. Thanks to Team Augusta and an outstanding job by Mike Newman, who was our Augusta Show Treasurer.

Team Augusta was also able to return all seed money to the FOHBC, and financially cover the costs for the Raffle Certificates, Newman Open House, Museum VIP Reception, Shuttle costs and many other items due to sponsors and in-kind donations. A much more detailed Profit+Loss statement was provided to the FOHBC Board which was approved. Thanks again to Team Augusta, all the volunteers and our big sponsors. Let's do it again in Reno!

Bitters Bottles Supplement 2 Update



In from Ferdinand Meyer V: *Bitters Bottles Supplement 2* (BBs2) is progressing daily with an author book signing event and sale scheduled for the Reno 2020 Antique Bottle Convention. Since my accident in March, I have been putting on average, 5 hours a day into the book.

The Index is totally being re-done. Every documented bitters ever produced, and their makers is being indexed. This is a great tool! Regarding content, I'm working through the alphabet and am on letter 'P' as of this

note to *Bottles and Extras*. This constitutes a massive amount of work that has to be verified and cross-referenced with Bill Ham's database and my database for Peachridge Glass. For instance, I have 38,000 images or so and hundreds of files on obscure bitters. Lots of new rare bottles and information since 2004 when *Bitters Bottle Supplement* was published. There will be color plate sections on extremely rare bitters, bitters facsimile currency and bitters almanacs. The great archives of Dan Cowman, Joe Gourd and Ben Swanson, among others, is being referenced. Thanks to Bill Ham, Joe Gourd, Ira Burney, Ben Swanson and Jeff Burkhardt for their contributions. Thanks to Bill Ham for allowing me to work on this monumental book. Every bottle has a story!

Jackson's Aromatic Bitters

Hi, Ferd. The M.A. Micklejohn bottles in the current Glass Works Auction piqued my interest vis-à-vis our recent exchanges about



Jackson's Aromatic Life Bitters. The reasons: 1. My research seems to indicate a St. Louis-based (or, more generally, a Mississippi-based) origin for the bottle and/or contents. 2. The M.A. Micklejohn bottles seem to indicate a New Orleans-based (or, more generally, a Mississippi-based) origin for the bottle and/or contents. 3. Both bottles have a very similar (at least, in my opinion) overall appearance, very similar serif embossing, and near-identical coloring (see the two side-by-side screenshots below). Could these two bottles have been manufactured by the same glassworks? I'd be very interested in hearing your opinion! Regards,

Chris Bubash
Dayton, Ohio

The Curious Career of T.W. Dyott, M.D. - The Kensington Glass Works and Manual Labor Bank

We hear that Federation member Q. David Bower's is working on another book to follow his *Drake's Plantation Bitters* book we reported on last month. Looking at the draft, we pulled the following Introduction.

Among my numismatic interests, paper money is in the front rank. Over a long period of years I have studied different banks, their officers, and methods of distribution. I have also collected various series, especially obsolete notes. As the years have slipped by, I have deaccessioned most of the notes, but have kept all of my research information and have added to it.

In 2006, I completed the manuscript for *Obsolete Paper Money Issued by Banks in the United States 1782 to 1866*, which was issued by Whitman Publishing and had become a best seller and standard reference. In it is a section devoted to Dr. Thomas W. Dyott and his Manual Labor Bank, from research I had started years earlier. Located in the Kensington district of Philadelphia it and its founder have in parallel two of the most fascinating - sometimes almost unbelievable histories.

In the meantime I have researched and collecting glass bottles, flasks, and related items from the 19th century. As an example, in 1984 *Antique Bottle News* published my study of bottles used by Drake's Plantation Bitters.

In the present study I share what I have learned about Dr. Thomas W.

Dyott and his long career in glass manufacturing and his short career in banking.

Much has been written about Dyott in past, most notably and masterfully by Helen McKearin in *Bottles, Flasks and Dr. Dyott*, 1970, which emphasized glass and was my main source for flask varieties. McKearin included a sketch of the Manual Labor Bank but was not aware of why it was formed and felt that contemporary as well as later historians' negative comments about Dyott had no real foundation, probably based on her studies of the glass business and not of the Manual Labor Bank. Today in the Internet era with vast sources available to search, I have had access to much information of which she was not aware.

There are many stories and essays about Dyott and his glassworks in the Kensington district of Philadelphia, but nearly all have incorrect information about his factory, which was newly constructed in the second decade of the 19th century and was not set up in an earlier and now defunct factory called the Kensington Glass Works.

In the past, the bills of the Manual Labor Bank have been studied by various scholars as well, the most important being two pages devoted to varieties by Richard T. Hooper in *Pennsylvania Obsolete Notes and Scrip*, 1985. Again, these and other studies were mostly conducted before the Internet era of access to newspapers, books, and other publications. Research in modern times has greatly added to what I compiled years ago, resulting in the present text including much information not hitherto available in any single printed source. My only regret is that I never met Helen McKearin (1898-1988), the leading scholar on Dyott's life.

Although there are some elusive varieties, both the Dyott flasks and the bills of the Mutual Labor Bank are easily collected today, with most of the currency being moderately priced. Many enthusiasts belong to the Society of Paper Money Collectors or the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, but not many have joined both.

Just dug up this pint size flask

Hey, Jack here in Missouri. Just dug up this pint size flask (along with half a dozen of his friends) this past weekend.

After digging seven of them I figured they would be common but it doesn't appear in any of my books.

Only info I can get is the company of H K & F B Thurber as major jobbers.

According to the article

I found, the company reorganized in 1874

as Thurber, Whyland

& Co. These flasks are

all tooled with two air

vents on the label side

shoulders and would

be surprised if dated

earlier than late 1880s.

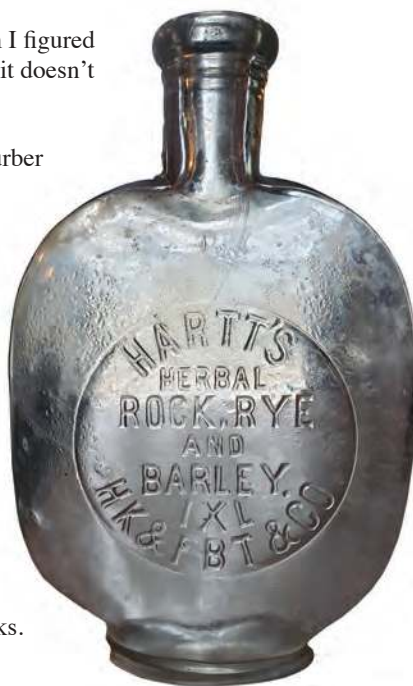
Dug in late 70s to 1

ate 90s context. So far,

nobody in my small circle

has heard of one. Curious if

anyone out there has? Thanks.



Jack Klotz
Louisiana, Missouri



Since you are a Bitters Guy

Since you are a bitters guy, I thought you'd get a kick out of this picture illustrating how many undamaged Doyles Hop Bitters I pulled out of this hole! Too bad he wasn't fond of Indian Queens or Kelly's Old Cabin Bitters!

Jack Klotz
Louisiana, Missouri

Reno 2020 Bowling Teams

The Northwest Bottle Club will have a team for bowling.

Richard Siri
Santa Rosa, California



Ok all you antique bottle people. It's time to team up for the FOHBC Reno 2020 Bowling Event! Five per team whether it be bottle clubs, regions, collecting groups or just friends. Family welcome. \$25 per person for lane cost. Reserve your team now. Prizes and fun! See advertisement this issue or visit FOHBC.org for more info.

Garden Shard

Hello, I am trying to find the bottle this glass shard came from? My mother found this in her garden and I can't find anything that resembles it. I think its an old medicine bottle but am not sure. There's not any pictures of amber glass with such vivid white lettering anywhere on the web. Any help would be great. Thank you!

William

FOHBC: At first, it looked like a milk bottle shard though they rarely came in amber. Maybe a very late medicine. As it turns out, it is actually from a Tower Root Beer amber quart bottle, 1963, Charlestown, Mass. Of course!



[continued next page]

A funny thing happened to me!

Dear Martin Van Zant
November 7, 2019

A funny thing happened to me on
October 8, 2019.

I had a day off, from my part time employment. I decided to go across town, to my favorite antique/consignment shop.

I went there, looking for antique bottles, fruit jars, and ceramics. What I found and bought, turned out to be USA National Treasure!

In the, store front window, was an unframed, 18 by 24 inch canvas, oil portrait painting: of an artist, holding a paint brush and a brass metal paint pallet. Also the man, in the portrait, was wearing a single glass eye monocle.

Written in pencil, on the back of this painting, were two key words : "Young Whistler."

As in, the world famous painting: "Whistlers Mother" Fame (but the portrait is of a man, 38 to 48 years of age)

Possibly this painting was in one family for 3 generations on



Cape Cod! As such, it never made it into the history books! It would then be called a certain heretofore unknown portrait of James Whistler!

On October 17, 2019 New York Art Dealer/Gallery Owner Mr. Robert Simon told me: "my painting is a genuine portrait of James Whistler painted by another artist!"

It is not a self self portrait! I can read the signature, on the painting as :

V I C O . . / . . . ->

My research shows :
Andrea De Vico - Male Artist
Italian Fine Art, 1818 - 1887

James Whistler
1834 - 1903

This portrait is quite stunning! This purchase is the very best thing that ever happened to me!

I hope to sell it someday at my price!
Sincerely, Michael Shea

A Special Thanks!

Matt and the Board of the FOHBC,

I would like to thank all members of the Board for the Lifetime Achievement Award that was presented to me in Augusta. It was a total surprise and unexpected.

I have been a collector since I was discharged from the USAF in 1966. A long time but I have loved every day when talking about bottles. I visited a farmer when I came home and saw two bottles in his barn and he gave them to me, which started a lifelong quest for old bottles.

I have been to every Expo and National show that has been held starting with 1976. I have enjoyed all shows. The reason I got hooked was I found one book about bottle collecting and read that if you found a box of bitters you could retire with them, I did, I started with a Hostettters Bitters and a Burdock Blood Bitters for \$5.00 each and was hooked. Now years later they both are still a \$5.00 bottles and I started on a learning curve on Bitters.

The FOHBC has been a love of mine since the 1976 Expo in St. Louis and have been involved in some way since.

I consider more important than the bottles are the friends I have made in and out of the Federation.

Thank you for thinking of me and I will treasure the award forever.

Sheldon Baugh

DeLand M-T Bottle Club no longer in existence



DELAND, Fla. – One of the stalwarts of the antique bottle collecting hobby in Central Florida has been forced to shut down for various reasons.

“It is with great sadness in my heart that I have to inform all of you that the DeLand M-T Bottle Club has closed because of numerous losses of club members and lack of support in putting on the

show every year,” said Dwight Pettit, the club president. The club observed its 50th anniversary earlier this year.

“I have been associated with the show for more than 40 years and it’s now time for me to retire. I have been through too much personally to continue. I wish you all the best in traveling and going to other bottle shows. I will try to make them when I can see you all.

“Another reason is my job is taking everything out of me physically and mentally, I am over 60 years old and still working 70 hours a week and traveling to my job 1,200 miles every week. I must continue to work to support my family. Well all know how that is. Family first above all.

“During the last two weeks, I have lost my older brother, Anthony, my Mom, Marianne, and my younger brother, Dana, a few years ago. My lovely wife’s health is failing, too.

“So I am over-stressed and in mourning and I shall be so for a while. I wish each and everyone of you the very best in life and your future endeavors. I hope you all were pleased with the shows I was able to put on for you.

“Please give my family and I time to get through our mourning period. We would appreciate it very much, So if I do not respond to your e-mails or phone calls right away, please understand.”

CSS Alabama Mystery



Hello Mr. Meyer, I discovered you on Peachridgeglass.com. I have been trying to identify the manufacturer and possibly pickle bottlers for a relatively plain pickle bottle.

We recovered several pickle bottles from the wreck of the Confederate commerce raider *CSS Alabama* sunk off the Normandy coast in 1864. The bottles recovered from *CSS Alabama* are plain sided, with flutes from the shoulder to the base of the neck below three reinforcing or decorative rings. The mouth was reinforced by a flat lip.

Research on the Internet identified only one virtually identical example. That bottle, advertised on Ebay (image attached), was recovered from a site in Ware, Massachusetts indicating that the *CSS Alabama* bottles were quite likely from one of the New England prize vessels. Could you point us in the direction of one or more authorities on pickle bottles that might be willing to help us find information. Thank you in advance for any information and or contacts that might be of assistance. Very much enjoyed the Peachridgeglass site.

Gordon P. Watts, Jr., Ph.D, RPA
Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc.
Washington, North Carolina

Michael George] Good morning Ferd, I don’t know the answer to the question, but one of the largest packaging company for such bottles was the William Underwood Company. The time frame is consistent to the dates, as is the square semi-cathedral form. They actually produced well over a dozen bottle forms for packaging, and was located in Boston. I don’t know if they had these bottles made or not, but it is a good place to start.

Lyndeborough NH made similar style bottles, but they were not in business in 1864, so maybe this was a New London or Willington CT product?

Here is a Wells Miller Provost bottle, Civil War era, that is different, but in a similar style. Also, you see those neck rings on the pepper sauce bottles made for this company as well. So, a strong possibility...

[Rick Ciralli] I can tell you it’s scarce to rare. Studied Zumwalt’s book for years. Could be an Eastern works like W.K. Lewis or one of the Boston merchants. This mold is not often seen. Many pepper-sauce type bottles had neck rings but not too many on the pickles plus flutes. Probably held gherkins.

Your Thoughts on This P. H. Drake Log Cabin Bottle



Dear Mr. Meyer, I am most impressed with your extensive knowledge (and your website) on the subject matter at hand. I was hoping I could take advantage of your expertise with regard to the following Drake amber-colored, four-logged version bitters’ bottle complete with its most rare and original front and back labels. Please see images below. If you look at the back label, it reads as follows: “P. H. Drake & Co., Depot, 144 Duane Street, New York.” FYI: The NYC address (144 Duane Street) was originally built as a department store in 1862 and was recently sold for \$50 million!

After reading the accompanying Drake timeline also on your website, I do not see any mention of this particular address

for his company. As an advanced Civil War artifact collector, I am fully aware of how popular this “medicinal” elixir was to Civil War officers and soldiers, alike, and relic hunters can still find distinctive bottles or fragments in about every Union campsite!

That said, I was wondering if based on the images and the all-important labeling: In your expert opinion is the bottle of Civil War era (1862 to 1865) or postwar? I know finding one in such amazing condition complete with its front and rear labels is quite a rare find in and of itself.

Thanks so much for taking the time to weigh in on this bottle. I am most grateful to you, sir and look forward to hearing from you! Best regards,

Dan Forte

[FM5] Dan, this is a fairly late bottle for a Drake’s based on the address. It’s clean, looks good and would fit in any number of collections based on the desire of owning Civil War era artifacts.

