

## 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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In the current state of the nation and world with the coronavirus mandating that everyone shelter in place, the Virtual Museum team and FOHBC board decided to open the doors to the museum to everyone without first paying a fee. This action was widely announced and I hope everyone out there has taken a look.

With bottle shows being canceled and bottle club meetings postponed, this action gives collectors a chance to view the great work that has made the Virtual Museum. Alan, Ferdinand and Miguel have been working on a daily basis putting new images into galleries and I must say that they are exceptional. It's hard not to like antique bottles and jars when you visit the museum. I'm sure that the virtual museum will bring new people into the hobby of antique bottle and related glass objects.

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We are still in the construction mode and are expanding rapidly. If you remember, we opened the Bitters and Historical Flask Galleries only on January 1st. We now have 'Sneak Peak' access to our Jar, Spirits, Target Ball, Inks and Food & Sauces Galleries. Here is an overview of our public inventory. While we are building the galleries, we recommend that you use the black navigation menu to navigate as we are working on interactive corridors and floorplans.

### Inventory in Open Galleries:

Bitters Gallery - 54  
 Historical Flasks Gallery - 70  
 Spirits Gallery - 34  
 Jar Gallery - 35  
 Target Ball Gallery - 16  
 Inks Gallery - 3  
 Foods & Sauces Gallery - 1

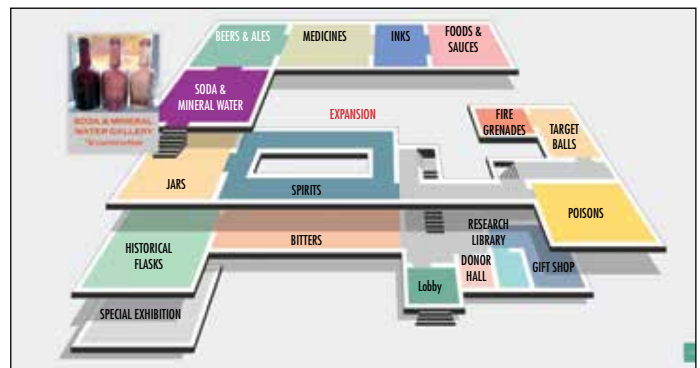
As of 05 April, 2020, we have 213 specimens on shelves. All with 3-dimensional imaging, superb support imagery and facts and information provided by top specialists in the collecting area. We are currently working on many other bottles that were previously imaged.

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Alan DeMaison has new imaging trips planned for the the new year and post world after the Covid-19 Pandemic. He first needs to complete many specimens that have already been imaged. Just yesterday we saw some fantastic images for our planned Mineral Water Gallery. This includes a very common Congress Water, Congress & Empire Springs, Saratoga NY pint, a Crystal Springs Water pint C. R Brown Saratoga Springs NY and a Washington Springs pint Ballston Spa, NY with contents. Also saw a Gem Butter jar!



The Virtual Museum is **Open** 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. See and read about bottles all from the comfort of your workspace and computer, even your phone. We are expanding our front of the third floor for additional galleries. Traverse our floors, corridors and galleries and get lost in glass.



## FREE ENTRY!

With **COVID-19** cancelling many events, bottle shows and public gatherings and closing the museums that many of us visit, the FOHBC has decided to open our museum doors to all without membership or fees until the end of April, when we will re-access. Hopefully this will help pass the time. Remember, we are Under Construction, so wear a hard hat, enjoy, but don't touch the bottles, and wash your hands!

ENTER THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM

“Just took a test drive, logical layout, drop down menus function, scroll on the right to read. Looking really good in my humble opinion. I see a ton of work completed just getting it to this point. I am an IT guy by trade so I spend alot of time reading online and researching.” - James Forward

“Great progress on the virtual museum!” - Jim Sears

“This is really neat, well done!” - Rick Hall

“What a fabulous forum for seeing some amazing bottles Where's the MOFFAT's bitters? hehe well done to all involved.” - Rick Ciralli

“My wife, 2 year old son and I all sat around the computer and visited the museum the other day. There are some nice bottles there! It was a good time” - Zack Baer

“Site really looks great. Thanks for all your hard work!” - Mark Vuono (RIP)

