



Willy Van den Bossche

FOHBC 2020 Hall of Fame Recipient

Is his name familiar to those reading this? It should be. In 2003, after being nominated to the Hall of Fame by FOHBC Hall of Famer Cecil Munsey, Willy Van den Bossche instead was placed on the Honor Roll, the second tier of FOHBC honors, but nonetheless a sign of respect from his bottle hobby peers.

Since that time, Willy has become internationally known for his world class research skills, his major collection of European antique bottles and a 3,200-volume library of books and literature related to antique glass and bottles. The library also contains his own works including *Antique Glass Bottles – Their History and Evolution (1500-1850)*, *A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide published in 2003*. A second major reference work published in 2012 in English, French, German and Dutch is the *Bibliography of Glass: From the Earliest Times to the Present*.

Willy was born in Belgium in 1943 and studied industrial engineering, graduating in 1967 and then specializing in glass technology. He worked as a chief plant engineer in his native country at an Antwerp bottle-making industry where fascination with antique bottles attracted him to the worldwide hobby.

Among his most valuable contributions was his willingness to share his vast knowledge with collectors everywhere which is among the many reasons the FOHBC Board of Directors agreed in 2020 with nominator Ferdinand Meyer V that Willy deserved to have his honors status upgraded to the FOHBC Hall of Fame. The full submittal can be viewed at FOHBC.org

