

FOHBC NEWS



Return to The Coca-Cola Trail

In January-Feb 2019 you had an article about my book *"The Coca-Cola Trail"*. Want to let you know the sequel *"Return to The Coca-Cola Trail"* has just been released. The first chapter is titled "Why the Bottle is Green". Over 200 pages about people and places in the history of Coca-Cola.

Larry Jorgensen
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To Paint the Letters or Not?

Hi Ferdinand,

Someone commented on the below photo and I was wondering if you had any insight for my response. They asked -

"Do you paint the words?"

Thanks, Ian



Response: Ferdinand Meyer V

Thanks: Painting the raised embossed copy on a bottle is a personal preference that seemed to be preferred in older collections, though it still happens. It is a device to make hard-to-read copy, easier to read. If you choose to do this, you should use paint that can be easily removed as potential future owners of the bottles may not like this practice.

Response: Martin Van Zant

My friends paint the letters of bottles on their top shelf, as they are hard to reach. I am not a fan and take it off whenever I purchase a bottle that has painted letters. I do know they sell water-based paint pens in white at Wal-mart in the craft section, which comes off with warm water. The oil-based paints take a little more effort and can leave residue in spots with case wear. Just my two cents

Nashville Show a Success

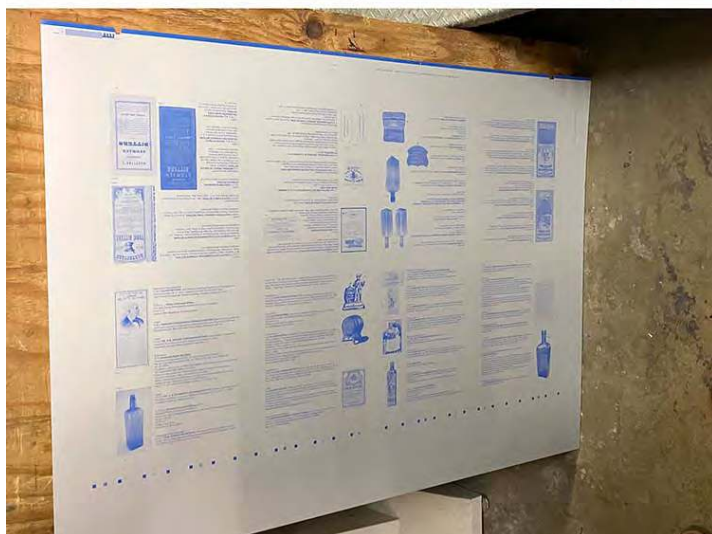
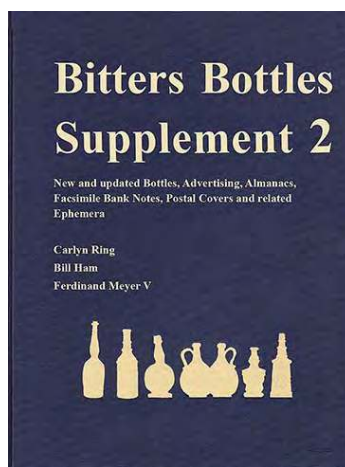
"My father and I along with Stanley Word brought back the Nashville TN area show this year and it was a huge hit, would love to have a chance to bid on the national when it comes back to the southeast."

Wyatt Eaton

Bitter Bottles Supplement 2 at the Press!

This past Tuesday, the black & white pages, on uncoated stock, ran thru the monster Komori Lithrone S 40P press. Last week the color plates did the same on coated stock. I press-checked both events. The pages will be cut from the forms and will be sent to San Antonio where the books will be bound and the covers made. Getting closer. As you know, Three (3) mock-ups and proofs occurred in late October and early November. Stay tuned! Picturing the book cover, Komori press, and example of b/w plate.

Ferdinand Meyer V



Potential Solution to the Mystery of S-T-1860-X, on the Drakes's Plantation Bitters

Hi, Ferd,

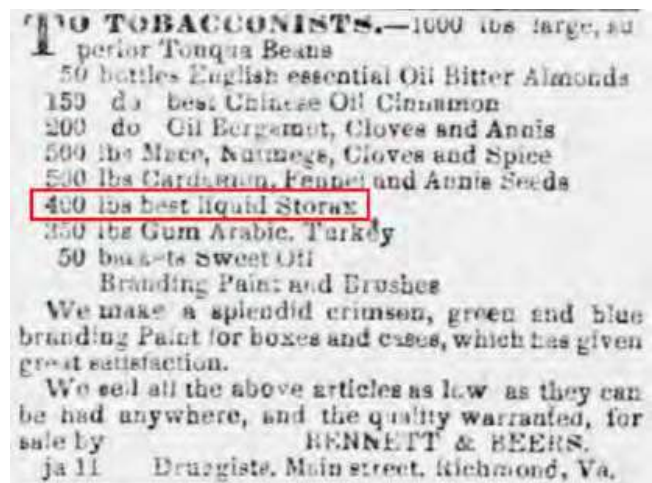
Good afternoon! I discovered a potential solution to the mystery of S-T-1860-X, and wanted to get your opinion: In an issue of the New York Times from June 1862, I ran across a somewhat lengthy article written by P.H. Drake & Co. The article listed each of the principal ingredients of Drake's Plantation Bitters, including St. Croix Rum, Calisaya (King's Bark), Cascarilla Bark, Dandelion, Chamomile Flowers, Wintergreen, Lavender Flowers, Anise and (drum roll) S-T-1860-X. A paragraph following each of the aforementioned ingredients listed the benefit(s) of that ingredient and the reason(s) for that ingredient's inclusion in Drake's Plantation Bitters. The description associated with S-T-1860-X:

"Another ingredient of remarkable and wonderful virtues, used in the preparation of these bitters, is a native of Brazil, and as yet unknown to the commerce of the world. A Spanish writer says 'Administered with St. Croix Rum, it never fails to relieve nervous tremor, wakefulness, disturbed sleep, &c.; and that it is used with great effect by the Brazilian, Spanish, and Peruvian ladies to heighten their color and beauty. It imparts cheerfulness to the disposition, and brilliancy to the complexion.' We withhold its name from the public for the present."

A bit of research revealed a possibility for the mystery ingredient: Storax. Replacing "ora" with "1860" would, of course, disguise the ingredient's name, and contribute an aura of mystery to the product (which it did!). From the Internet: "Storax is an oily resin (balsam) obtained from the tree trunks of Liquidambar Orientalis or Liquidambar Styraciflua. Storax is obtained by scoring the bark of the tree. The damage causes the wood and inner bark to produce storax. The inner bark is boiled in water and then pressed in cold water to obtain the storax. It is used as medicine. People take storax for cancer, coughs, colds, stomach pain, diarrhea, epilepsy, sore throats, bronchitis, and parasitic infections." What do you think? Possible solution, or comic relief?

Regards, Chris

P.S. If storax was indeed the secret ingredient, perhaps Patrick Drake obtained it from Bennett & Beers of Carter's Spanish Mixture fame (see below right)?



Response: Ferdinand Meyer V

Hmmm. Interesting, This is what we have in BBs2 which is on press now.

Some think S.T.-1860 X means "started in 1860 with 10 dollars" as this was reportedly seen in a magazine ad from the late 1800s. However, in a Drakes Almanac, there is a quote from Col. Patrick Henry Drake, formulator and promoter of Drake's Plantation Bitters, explained the inscription. In an edition of Morning, Noon and Night, S.T.-1860-X, like the initials on the old Roman banners, represents St. Croix - S.T. being the conventional equivalent of Saint, and 1-8-6-0 standing for the letters C-R-O-I, and so forming, with the concluding X, the word CROIX. Drake said, "Nothing can be more simple, or, it may be, more appropriate. St. Croix Rum is a stimulating basis of the Plantation Bitters, and it is, therefore in accordance with the fitness of things, that St. Croix should be the basis of their business shibboleth."

Looking for Dr. Joseph W. Robertson Ads

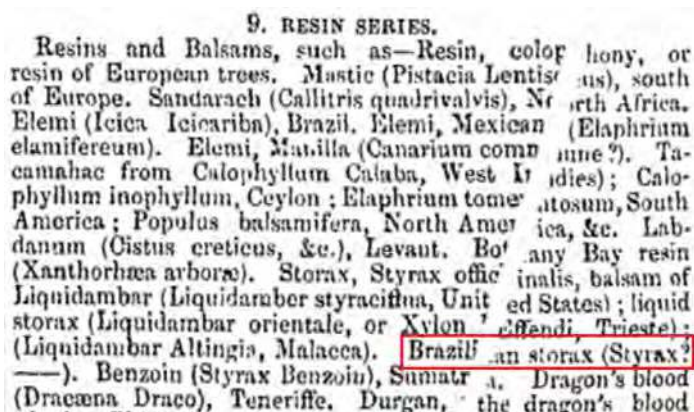
Hello Ferdinand,

I came across your website with extreme interest. I am the Education Specialist at The French Legation State Historic Site in Austin. We are currently working on an effort to Reopen the site February 3, 2021 (being closed for a couple of years after being acquired by the State). Long story getting longer.. As you are probably aware this site was the home to Dr. Joseph W. Robertson, in Austin TX. I am creating a program and educational programming around his medical practice and wanted to highlight his tonic bitters.

Unfortunately, I have only been able to find Ads for his tonic. I would love to be able to flesh out the larger story. I know that it would be almost impossible to find an actual bottle. It would be a dream just to find a picture of a bottle and or any more information.

If there are any avenues that you can think to point me down, I am all ears! I look forward to your feedback! Thank you

Celeste Farmand
Educator Program Specialist
French Legation State Historic Site
802 San Marcos Street, Austin, Texas 78702



Jeff Wichmann Joins the FOHBC Board of Directors



FOHBC President John O'Neill appointed Jeff Wichmann to fill a vacant position on the FOHBC board. The board approved on 05 November 2020.

Jeff Wichmann, FOHBC First Vice President, is a California native who has parlayed his vast knowledge of antique bottles and glass into a full time-related business called American Bottle Auctions. His was the first auction house to provide full-color glossy catalogs sent to interested collectors at no charge. He also launched what is believed to be the first online antique bottle auction.

In 2013, Jeff was inducted onto the FOHBC Honor Roll, but given his increase in antique bottle collecting-related activities, including financial support of the Federation, the board of directors voted to move him up to the organization's highest Hall of Fame honor level. Photography of old glass is one of his strong points. He also shares his knowledge on his website americanbottle.com. In 1999, he published *The Best of the West – Antique Western Bitters Bottles*, a book containing information of value to collectors of that genre.

Michael Seeliger Joins the FOHBC Board of Directors as the new FOHBC Second Vice President



Michael Seeliger grew up in Monona, Wisconsin, and still lives within 20 miles of his hometown. He married his wife Alice in

1969 and together they have collected bottles since the 1960s. They started by collecting ruby red Schlitz beer bottles but soon got hooked on older bottles, especially Warners when Mike came across a dump containing only Warner bottles in it.

Mike and Alice wrote the book *H. H. Warner His Company & His Bottles* in 1974 and work on a continuously updated e-book expanding the original publication. Mike is a professional chemist and chemical/hazardous materials consultant. Although semi-retired, they attend numerous shows traveling in their RV whenever possible. They were instrumental in the founding and development of the South Central Wisconsin Bottle Club in the 1970s and have been members of the Federation since then. They have two sons and five grandkids. Mike collects examples of historical bottles, medicines, figural bitters, Warner bottles, and works passionately with Mike and Kathie Craig in the development of their Warner & Dr. Craig collections.

Midwest Region
Steve Lang
slang14@yahoo.com



In reading Facebook posts and club newsletters from around the Midwest Region this past couple of months I have noticed a trend that is troubling a lot of clubs – finding a location to meet in person. A lot of clubs, including my local club have had to find new locations to replace the old ones that are either temporarily closed or not hosting any outside events due to the pandemic. My local club met at a High School for many years and had to relocate to my place of work's conference room. I hope all the clubs that are looking can find a substitute location that helps them get back to having face to face meetings.

Kalamazoo Antique Bottle Club – There was a nice article in their newsletter about the passing of long time member Chuck Parker and the club is hoping to meet in person at the Ostego area Historical Society Museum in Ostego, MI on Nov. 10th.

1st Chicago Bottle Club – Their October club meeting was held with a bottle auction and awards given out for best Dug and Acquisition items. The November 20th meeting will be for nominations for all 2021 Board positions.

Iowa Antique Bottlers – The club is working on their 2020 Club bottle and their next meeting will be in January providing they can find a location or possibly try a Zoom meeting. There is an interesting long term dig going on with club members at a local dump.

Wabash Valley Antique Bottle Club – The Terre Haute, IN club was within 2 weeks of putting on their fall show and circumstances beyond their control forced them to cancel....another victim of the pandemic.

North Star Historical Bottle Assoc – Announced in their club newsletter that there would be no dues for 2021 since there have been no meetings and associated costs. Their annual show is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2021. They also reported that the Milwaukee Bottle show in February 2021 has already been cancelled.

West Michigan Antique Bottle Club - They received their 100th member in its club Facebook page back in October and has some very interesting bottle finds listed on the page.

Circle City Antique Bottle Club – The club held its annual show in September and considering the circumstances had a fun and successful show at the 4-H fairgrounds. A strong early morning crowd and selling/trading between vendors made a lot of attendees very happy. They showed it is possible to have a show and stay safe and healthy. Their tracer sheets expired 30 days after the show with no health issues to report. Masks, social distancing and sanitizer were the main theme of the show.

I hope all FOHBC members have a safe and Happy Holiday season and that 2021 is a better year for everyone.



The 2021 Syracuse National Show is still on and hopefully the virus issues and gathering restrictions will ease and allow the show to take place. Jim & Val Berry are your point of contact. Email jhberry10@yahoo.com

The Albany (Capital Region) Club is planning on expanding on its successful outdoor show from this fall. The show date for next year is set for July 18th at the Mabee Farm Historic site in Rotterdam Junction NY. It's a great venue right on the Mohawk River. Plenty of vendor space, plenty of parking and hopefully we will be able to have a couple food vendors on site next year. Keep watching for advertising as the spring rolls around but save the date!

Lastly, but not least. Congratulations to Gary Moeller, director at the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa on his retirement. Gary has done a great job over the years. He has gone above and beyond to improve the museum experience and has always been a friend to the many individuals and clubs that frequent and use the museum facilities. Best of luck in the future Gary!

As always, if you are a Northeast Member or club and have news I can pass on or help out with, please contact me. My info is always available on the FOHBC site and in the front of this magazine. Be Well!!



Hope all is well with everyone. The fall season still finds us in the "No Shows" mode, so news is sparse. Even so, there are a few things to note:

Newsletters are still a primary tool for bottle club members to maintain communications. Yes, it may be considered 'old school' by many, especially where it is still delivered by mail, but it has a charm that is hard to beat. Some have elements that are original to the club. In the past I have noted how the 49'er bottle club has consistently run interesting quotes from California newspapers for a particular time period. They are currently up to May 1852. Each issue of the Oregon Bottle Collectors Assoc. newsletter produces a listing of Northeastern bottles recently sold on eBay. This is a fascinating piece of information, especially noting the hammer price. A quick observation, during this Covid World that we currently live in, it appears that eBay prices for local bottles are trending upward.



The Fayette Alabama Bottle Collectible and Antique Show and Sale was a sold-out show with 46 tables. Lots of buyers came through the show. The chairman, Jeff Pendley, is planning on a show in October of 2021.

The Pee Dee Bottle Club Show in Darlington, South Carolina was a huge success! This was the first year for this show. There were 27 tables. Buyers and sellers were pleased with how the show went and the facility in which it was held. The chairman, Marty Martin, is planning on a show in 2021.

The Raleigh Bottle Club Show went very well. All 40 tables were sold. Early admission had over 150 buyers. The chairman, David Tingen, is planning on a 2021 show.

There are 2 shows from which I did not hear from and those were the Nashville Area Antique Bottle, Advertising and Collectible Show in Lebanon, Tennessee, and the Antique Bottle Collectors of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Farm Toy Show in Moulton, Alabama run by Daniel Gray, promoted bottle shows for our region at their toy show.