

FOHBC NEWS



Ostrich Skin Bottle



Yesterday I found this unusual bottle. I think it may be from Ireland and has something to do with Guinness Brewing? It's nicely embossed and says the following, "Ross's Great Auks Head Trade Mark Brand." Have you ever seen this one? Thank you, Patrick

FOHBC: Well, how cool is that? We never thought we would see an ostrich skin bottle! Certainly a good go-with with ostrich skin boots!

Awed by the Photo of so Many Great Oyster Ketchups



I've been meaning to write ... except each day I am tasked to do one thing or another, and rarely get to it, despite being at the computer many hours a day. Anyway, regarding ketchup. Along with many things that I know a little bit about, ketchup falls into that category.

For 40 years I've collected ketchup. Our house is FILLED with ketchup-related stuff, and I have been mentioned in Andrew Smith's Pure Ketchup, have been featured in three U.S. documentaries (two serious, one for fun), plus another documentary created by a TV show in Moscow.

Despite that, I was awed by the photo of so many great Baltimore Shriver's Oyster Ketchup bottles in the FOHBC January-February 2021 issue of *Bottles and Extras*. In all the research I've done, all the shows I have attended, I have come across a handful (at most) of oyster ketchups. And despite that, I have spent money foolishly ... \$30,000 for a target ball. The maybe three Oyster Ketchup bottle examples came at a time when I couldn't pull the trigger and pay the amount asked, and the three were all about the same color. I never knew they came in so many colors! I think that grouping is truly stunning. An amazing accomplishment. Man, it sure makes my collecting of 50 different examples of

antique toilet paper, pretty pathetic, lol. Again, if I wore a hat, I would take it off in honor of that display. Best,

Ralph Finch
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Can you help with these four types of bitters bottles?

Hi, do you recognize these? They appear to be miniature bitters jugs...stoneware maybe? They aren't scratch ware, these are named with an applied slip which I think puts them late 1800s to no later than 1920. I don't know if the dashers are original. They are for four types of bitters bottles, Abbott's, Orange, Boonekamp, and Peychaud's. Have you seen these before? Thanks,

Patti Hauseman

FOHBC: Morning Patti, these are really neat. We agree with what you say but hard to confirm without seeing and handling them. They are probably backbar or countertop pieces. We have seen similar generic versions in glass. Thank you for sharing.



Wisconsin Show was Fantastic

The February Wisconsin antique bottle show was fantastic. It's always great to see fellow aficionados, as a family. We had twenty-some dealers and 110 attendees. With the lockdown and lack of travel making collectors feel cooped up, people were selling like crazy. Every dealer was beaming as they talked about great sales. Every show is a treasure hunting adventure. We do six, one hundred dollar shopping spree give-away drawings, an hour apart. With nothing else to do, people were waiting around for the next drawing, win or lose they were buying more.

The flask I picked up is one of two and super crude. The other has a big-money standing offer from a person who owns the house that was the distillery. I'm not selling it, but do love it when people drive prices up. All my best,

Steven R. Libbey
Delafield, Wisconsin

P.S. I should write another article for *Bottles and Extras*.

Indian Queen bottles

I came across an old carved chalk and a pottery bottle that look like the Indian Queen bottles. I don't know if these were made prior to the bottles or were later reproductions. The chalk has a date 1866 on it, which, from what I understand was prior to the patent of the Indian Queen bottle but it may be a bogus date

anyway. The pottery bottle says, OBCA or PBCA Show Award '75.

Please see the image. Do you have any information about these? Thank you!

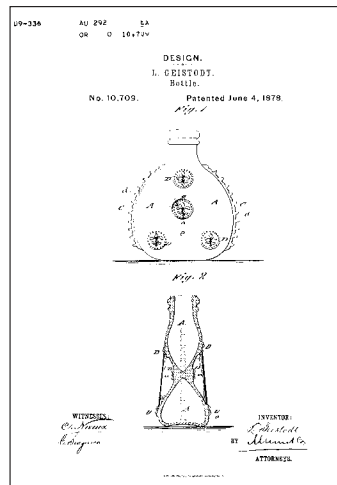
Mindy Nemon,
Centerville, OH

FOHBC: Mindy, Yes, later pieces to replicate the original but still really cool. The green piece was probably ordered by the Ohio and Pittsburgh bottle clubs in 1975.



Design Patents issued between 1843 and 1900

I've completed my review of Design Patents issued between 1843 and 1900, and have some good news and some bad news. The bad news: I was unable to locate any Design Patents for McKeever's Army Bitters or Cannon Bitters. The good news: I was able to locate 45-50 Design Patents, for bottles of significance and/or potential interest to the bottle collecting community. Some of them, of course, already appear on Peachridge Glass. My next avenue of investigation will be to review Utility Patents, however I'm not sure how practical a patent-by-patent review will be for that category: In any given year, Utility Patents = Design Patents x 20! I think I'll give my brain a rest before beginning – it's currently saturated with "design for carpet" patents...



Regards,

Chris Bubash, Chicago Illinois

P.S. I find it interesting that the attached patent from 1878 is still in use today for Louis XIII Cognac (www.louisxiii-cognac.com/en-us). Talk about standing the test of time!

Giving Back

Sometimes in this hobby you are able to find things that mean much more to people than money. This milk bottle had only one known example owned by the descendants of this dairy Readers. The owner accidentally broke it and I was given a request to try to find another example which we all know is a needle in a giant haystack. Well luck has it, I did recover one digging and we returned it to the family. I was offered a couple



hundred dollars for it but wished no money for it. Just a place in the hands of who really should own it.

Fred DeCarlo, Utica New York

Buffum bottles from Pittsburgh

The attached information is not a pretty sight, but is definitely an amazing amount of information for people collecting Buffum bottles from Pittsburgh. Apparently, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed a law in 1889 that was similar to a trade mark protection for bottlers. In 1890, J. C. Buffum published a complete inventory of all the bottles he was actively using at that time, which included a complete description of the embossing on the bottles. Of course, many of the bottles listed could be much older than the 1890 publishing date, and it doesn't give a date range, but the amount of information is amazing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT J. C. Buffum, trading as J. C. Buffum & Co., will file in the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth, for registration, under the acts of Assembly, approved May 8, 1889, the following description of bottles, owned and used by him; and of the names and marks impressed thereon:

First Class—Made of white glass, known as a "Seltzer Water Syphon," marked inside an oval shield; "Seltzer Water, J. C. Buffum & Co.," on one side; reverse side blank; upon the metal top of some of them is impressed J. C. Buffum & Co.

Second Class—Made of white glass, known as a "Seltzer Water Syphon" marked inside an oval shield; Plain Soda, J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., on one side; reverse side blank; J. C. Buffum & Co., impressed upon the metal top of some of them.

Third Class—Made of white glass known as a "Seltzer Water Syphon," marked inside an oval shield; J. C. Buffum & Co., "Mineral Spring Water," Pittsburgh, Pa., on one side; reverse side blank; Mathews on bottom of some of them

Fourth Class—Made of white glass, known as a seltzer water syphon with J. C. Buffum & Co. impressed upon the metal top; sides blank.

Fifth Class—Known as a half pint "Soda Water Bottle," marked J. C. Buffum & Co. City Bottling House Pittsburgh, Pa., enclosing (the words) "trade mark registered" and a representation of a pair of scales with a sword extending diagonally downward across the same in a scroll on one side. On the reverse side, "this bottle must be returned," also some with the small letters A. & D. H. C. & Co. and some with the letters C. & I. Monogram containing the letters of J. C. B. on the bottom; also some of same description with the letter B. on the bottom.

Sixth Class—Known as a half pint soda water bottle marked J. C. Buffum & Co. City Bottling House Pittsburgh, Pa., some with letters A. & D. H. C. & Co. and some with letters C. & I. (with this exception) reverse side blank; monogram containing the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

Seventh Class—Known as a Polinaire Bottle marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., enclosing trade mark representing a part of scales with sword extending diagonally downward across the same on one side. On the reverse side the letters C. & Co. llm; monogram on the bottom containing the letters J. C. B.

Eighth Class—Known as a Quart Soda Water Bottle or schooner marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., on one side; reverse side letters D. O. C.

Ninth Class—Known as a Beer Bottle, marked J. C. Buffum & Co., City Bottling House, Pittsburgh, Pa., on one side, reverse side blank; monogram containing the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

Tenth Class—Known as a Beer Bottle marked J. C. Buffum & Co., "Select" Pittsburgh, Pa., on one side; reverse side, blank; monogram containing the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

Eleventh Class—Known as a Beer Bottle, marked Star Beer Bottling Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., in an oval, enclosing a star in the centre, as a trade mark on one side; reverse side blank. Letters A. & D.H. C. on the bottom.

Twelfth Class—Known as a Beer Bottle, marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., inclosing in a shield a representation of a pair of scales with a sword extending downward diagonally across the same: "City Bottling House below" on one side, reverse side blank; Monogram containing the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

Thirteenth Class—Known as a Beer Bottle, marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., inclosing in a scroll "Pat. 85" on one side and "This Bottle is Never Sold" on the reverse side; C. & Co. Lim. on the bottom.

Fourteenth Class—Known as a half-pint Beer or Soda Water Bottle, marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., in an oval inclosing, Pat. 85, on one side, on reverse side, C. & Co. Lim.

Fifteenth Class—Known as a half-pint Beer or Soda Water Bottle, marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., in an oval, on one side; on reverse side, C & Co., Lim. Monogram containing the letters J. C. B. and Pat. 85 on the bottom.

Sixteenth Class—Known as a beer bottle; marked J. C. Buffum & Co. over a scroll, enclosing a trade mark, representing a pair of scales with a sword—extending diagonally downward across the same on one side; and Star Beer Bottling Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., enclosing a trade mark representing a star on the reverse side. Monogram consisting of the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

Seventeenth Class—Known as a beer bottle; marked J. C. Buffum & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., enclosing a trade mark in a scroll representing a pair of scales with a sword extending diagonally downward across the same on one side; reverse side blank. Monogram consisting of the letters J. C. B. on the bottom.

All persons are cautioned against filling, using, buying or selling said bottles or having the same in his, her or their possession for the purpose of dealing or trafficking therein, as doing so is a crime punishable by fine and imprisonment.
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As you may know I am always researching some sort of bottle, and they are usually from the Western Region. J. C. Buffum actually had a soda water business in San Francisco, California, in the early 1850's, but returned back to his native Pittsburg about 1852. In the process of researching this prolific bottler, I happened upon this wonderful piece of information that should be made available for bottles collectors nationwide.

Eric McGuire
Petaluma, California

Midwest Region
Steve Lang
slang14@yahoo.com



As we move forward in 2021, I feel optimism within the region that things are getting better. It is about 50/50 with clubs meeting in person/virtual meetings and not meeting at all. New officers are being elected and 2020 paid dues are being put towards 2021 dues because of the lack of meetings the past year.

The possibility of attending shows in the Midwest has definitely taken a turn for the better since the last issue of *Bottles & Extras* with shows in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio all still a go as of mid-March. The Kalamazoo show has been postponed until this fall.



Pictures from the St. Louis Show

Speaking of shows, March 21st was the 51st Annual St. Louis Antique Bottle and Jar show. I want to give a shout out to Pat Jett for putting on a great show with 113 tables sold – a sell out with the Covid-19 friendly layout. There were vendors from all over the country selling bottles, jars, stoneware, go-withs and soda/brewery advertising. A strong turnout of buyers packed the show floor with strong sales reported by all the vendors I spoke to. Phil Smith had a Kerr bell wood mold on his sales table with a couple of examples of the glass bell produced by the mold. Among the great assortment of jars and bottles for sale was a green color Putnam Lightning fruit jar. Overall, I would say the show was a big success. Thank you to Waylon Stephens, Bruce Wayne and my wife Dawn for the photos. I was so busy looking I forgot to take any myself.

Be safe out there and happy collecting.



Well, we are starting to hear whispers and talk of some clubs beginning to have their monthly meetings again. I hope this is the start of a return to regular meetings and shows. Many of the spring shows have been pushed off to summer or fall. In May the show presented by the Washington County Antique Bottle Club is still on as of this writing. It will be held on May 16th so look for the advertisement of the FOHBC website. On Sunday, June 7th, the 41st Annual Saratoga Bottle Show is on also.

This fall the Mid-Maine Antique Bottle Club will hold their 1st annual bottle show. It was cancelled last year so keep your eyes peeled for this one so we can show support. The National Show is in Syracuse but we need everyone to get those tables reserved!!!!

If anyone in club's in the Northeast need to renew memberships, update their contact information, or just want to send me a message on local happenings with their clubs please do so. I would love to hear from you.

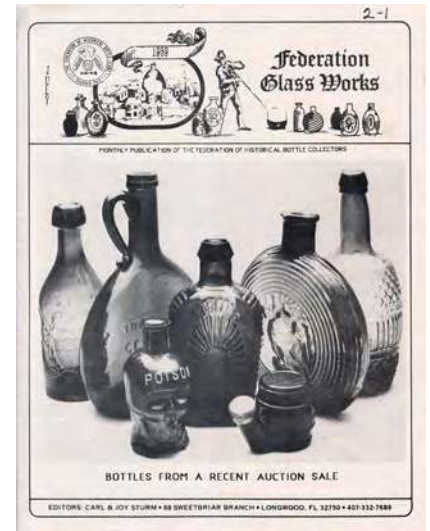


While we are still impaired by our current state of the health crisis, a feeling of relief is beginning to overtake us. Bottle shows are still on the back burner in the far West, I believe it is about to change. Some digging for the elusive desirable bottles is happen-

ing; however, I have not heard of anything to write home about.

More collectors are participating in virtual (i.e. Internet) activities which may become a regular routine in the future, despite greater freedom to communicate, and congregate, in traditional ways.

These times have given me a chance to reflect upon some historical methods of communication we relied upon in the past. This got me to dig out various newsletters from collecting clubs and even the FOHBC. I have attached a newsletter cover from a monthly publication circulated by the Federation in the 1980s and 90s. It was a 12 to 15 page 'newsy' document about current events and with occasional bottle related articles. Much of this same information is now available on the Internet and is far cheaper to disseminate. Regardless, the Federation Journal is still the Holy Grail and I know we all look forward to the next edition. Hopefully, the loosening of current social restrictions will allow me to report on many more exciting events in the Western Region.



Here in the south, we have no shows that have been reported. We have a lot of upcoming shows in April and May around all parts of the south.

I have heard that the Mobile Show that is in April has sold out all 125 tables they have as of March 23 and now has a waiting list. I have also seen and heard from collectors that they are getting out and about more, to hunt bottles. The warm wet weather is good enough that the finds have been often.

"George Straight Side Script Coca-Cola Bottles, The Complete 72 City Collection by Jeff Weinberg. of Athens, Georgia. It covers 72 cities in Georgia that used the straight side script bottles and their variations and is for sell now. I was able to get mine by contacting him through Facebook. There ia also a new Alabama Coca-Cola book that was written by Dennis Smith. The book is said to be available some time in April of this year. Dennis said he would have copies for sell at the Lincoln Bottle Show in June.