

FOHBC NEWS



FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS

To Editor: Dear FOHBC Members,

I'm pleased to say that I believe I can call myself a professional bottle tumbler according to the criteria of avoiding the undesirable characteristics of tumbled bottles in Burt Robbins' article(s) in the July-August 2021 edition of B&E ... despite primarily tumbling bottles that will remain in my personal collection. When I do tumble for others, my goal is to change the condition of their bottles (or bottles that I'm selling to them from my collection) from some degree of "sickness" to mint or near mint – "to restore bottle surfaces to a like new condition" as Burt states. If someone wants only some or part of the "sickness" removed so that the bottle still could be considered a dug bottle, I would decline to tumble for them as I don't know how to do that with the abrasives, polishes, equipment, and techniques that I use.

What troubles me about Burt's article is his statement that a tumbled bottle "is not a mint bottle." That absolute statement seems illogical to me. If a tumbled bottle that has been restored to "like new condition" (which is my goal and desire and "the potential outcome of tumbling") and exhibits none of the undesirable characteristics of a tumbled bottle, is it not reasonable to label it "mint?" As Burt states elsewhere, "if it is impossible to tell if a bottle has been tumbled, then why should it matter?" And if that bottle appears to be mint, "you've got a great bottle" and in my opinion should it not be called "mint."

I'm aware that the term "mint" can be misused, like when someone says a dug or sick bottle is "mint" simply because it has no known issues or flaws: cracks, scratches, bruises, gouges, holes, chips, fleabites, open bubbles filled with dirt/crud, or weak embossing (not caused by overly-aggressive tumbling). I've been sold bottles (sight unseen) that I was told were "mint" or "tumbled to mint" that were neither. My choices were to accept them or reject them but I rarely did either without telling the seller that his description was inaccurate and misleading and that his grading needed some improvement.

I will not be swayed by the article I'm referencing to list bottles that I'm selling with a notation that they are "tumbled" (or not), but will continue to provide a subjective description such as "mint" or "near mint". If the bottle I'm selling looks "mint", for example, from a typical viewing distance under good light and without a magnifying glass, but has a scratch on the base or a fleabite on the back of the lip or the slightest haze on the inside shoulder, I'll call out those issues. "Mint" doesn't mean, in my opinion, that the bottle has never contacted earth or appears as it may have looked (because do we really know?) when it was blown in, say 1890. To the person describing the bottle, "mint" may mean "unmarred", "unblemished", "as if new", "being complete of its kind and without defect or blemish", "first class", "untarnished", "appearing unused or newly made" and even "top shelf" and "excellent." As a subjective descriptor, "mint" is a

description chosen by and affected by the personal views, experience, or background of the describer.

I do not find it reasonable or accurate to state that a tumbled bottle cannot be a mint bottle.

Bob Jochums
Berkeley Lake, Georgia

Passing of Boyd A. Beccue

Boyd Alan Beccue, 73, of Monticello, Minn. passed away peacefully on September 11, 2021, with his family by his side and his wife holding his hand. He was preceded in death by parents Gale B. Beccue and Shirley (Anderson) Beccue of Blackduck, Minn, and his beloved cousin, David H. Wood. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jane; sister Karen (Richard) Fox; daughters Candace (John) Randle, Courtney (Todd) Bouman, and Hillary (Cullan) Luther; son Judson (Kayla) Beccue; and grandchildren Aivary and Aidan Bouman, Ryann and Jonathan Randle, Sawyer, Asher and Ryker Beccue, and Wyn Luther with another granddaughter on the way.



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Steve Ketcham
Edina, Minn.

Tippicanoe Bottle Found in a Box

Hi, I found this bottle in a box at an estate sale in Chicago. I understand that it might be something that should be in a good collection and not on my window sill. I listed it on Ebay not knowing a better way to find the best way into a good collection. Thanks for your time.

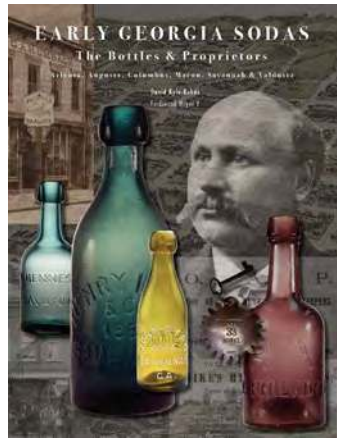
Regards, Jon Chamlin
Chicago, Illinois



Early Georgia Sodas Book Update

19th century Georgia soda book to become treasured by collectors by Bill Baab – If there was such a degree as a doctorate in research, David Kyle Rakes would hold it. And, if such a degree in design existed, Ferdinand Meyer V would own it. The degrees

may be mystical, but that pair has become a team and from that teamwork has evolved absolutely one of the best books sure to be treasured by collectors of Georgia's 19th-century soda bottles. "Early Georgia Sodas – the Bottles and Proprietors in Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Savannah, and Valdosta," will become every collector's "go-to" source of up-to-date historical information on John Ryan, Edward Sheehan, and many other bottlers of the soft drinks called sodas. Rakes, a resident of Belleview in Central Florida, is a master researcher who has traced the history of each bottler from birth to marriage to death. Those backgrounds generally have not been readily known to collectors. Meyer and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Houston, Texas, and are FOHBC Board Members. Complementing the book's text are enlarged color photos of each soda bottle, many taken by Mike Newman, of Martinez, Georgia, who has become an expert in the proper use of digital cameras. He also is a longtime collector of antique bottles. The book is at the printer now. Contact the David Kyle Rakes for purchase information, barakes123@gmail.com



Ferdinand Meyer V
Houston Texas

Marriage Requirement for Bininger Descendants

I found this requirement this afternoon on the marriage application for one of the Bininger descendants. Wonder how that would go over today? I'm sure many people would be disqualified from marriage! :-) I retyped it so it would fit on a normal page.

"That neither of said parties is an habitual drunkard, epileptic, imbecile or insane, and is not under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug. Said parties are not nearer of kin than second cousins and there is no legal impediment to their marriage. That neither said parties is infetted with supphilis in a form that is communicable, or likely to become communicable."

Regards, Chris BuBash
Dayton, Ohio

FOHBC Commemorative Bottles

Free to a Good Home. I am starting to downsize my collections and I'd like to know if any FOHBC members might be interested in my FOHBC commemorative bottles? I will donate the bottles, but the recipient(s) must pay shipping charges. Some are made by Clevenger, while others by different glassworks. Bottles are from the Iowa Antique Bottlelers (among the first clubs to join the FOHBC), the Denver club, the Phoenix, Ariz., club, the First Chicago Club, and others marking celebrations and anniversaries of various individuals (Charles Gardner, Grand Old Man of Bottle Collecting) and historical events with appropriate embossing.

Bill Baab
riverswamper@comcast.net

Interesting Digging Shards

Thought you might find these shards interesting...dug in a trash pit in Galveston this past Sunday. One from an Argyle Bitters out of New Orleans (thanks Courtney Frioux for the ID!) and the other I believe is part of a Senour's Calisaya Bitters. I noted your comment in your writeup on the Senour's back in 2016 "I suspect, someone will eventually dig a bottle in our port cities here in Texas". I'll keep trying to find a whole one! Best Regards,

Brandon DeWolfe
Spring, Texas



Fly Traps

I hope you are well, and your whole family safe as the world around us seems to crumble.

I was writing a story about some fly traps being offered by an auction house that should know better, and ...

I came across the story you had printed (with the usual great photos) ...



The traps the person had gathered were, actually, rather common. When I used to yearly go to England (and occasionally France) at big market I would find crates of those traps. I even have a few in my collection, along with really good fly traps, including wound-up wood mechanisms. Not just a crate or two, but many crates, usually from wineries that had placed them out amid the vines before they probably switched to chemicals.

My favorites are the "thumb prints" ...

Have you ever seen the wooden ones with clock mechanisms?

Ralph Finch
Farmington Hills, Mich.

Charleston, S.C. collector Vic Svendsen, 69, dead

James Victor "Vic" Svendsen, 69, of James Island, S.C., died Monday, August 23, 2021, after an extended illness. A native of Charleston, he had a successful career in the food sales industry. He enjoyed digging early Charleston privies for antique bottles. First-time visitors to his home would be given a tour of his vast bottle collection and perhaps an old bottle to keep as a souvenir. Survivors include two daughters, Andrea Hoelscher (Sean) of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Lindsey Bonham (Dave) of James Island, and a brother, Virgil Svendsen (Barbara) of James Island. Donations may be made in his memory to Ronald McDonald House Charities, 81 Gadsden St., Charleston, SC 29401.



Bininger Trivia

Hi, Ferd, Good news! I just added a Rushton & Aspinwall Compound Chlorine Toothwash to my collection! My hand is still shaking from writing the check. :-). Two more items while I have you on the line: 1. I'd like to submit a few suggested revisions to the Virtual Museum text for Newton's Panacea and Rushton & Aspinwall Compound Chlorine Toothwash (see below). 2. Today's Binger Trivia: During my research last night, I discovered that one of A.M. Bininger's descendants via his daughter Helen (Christopher Albright) went to Valhalla High School in El Cajon, CA with diving legend Greg Louganis! It's amazing what falls out of the Binger Tree when you start shaking it... :-)

Regards, Chris Bubash
Dayton, Ohio

FOHBC Club Contests are Back!

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, it's that time again! The FOHBC is sponsoring a contest in five (5) categories and as a member club, you are encouraged to participate. Submissions are due no later than June 1, 2022. Judging will then be conducted and all winners and awards will be announced and presented during the banquet at the FOHBC Reno 2022 Antique Bottle Convention in Reno, Nevada on Friday, July 29, 2022. See page 37 or more details

Richard Siri
Santa Rosa, California

FOHBC Bi-Annual Board Meeting

Since the 2021 Syracuse National was canceled, the FOHBC bi-annual board meeting did not occur. After three or so attempts

to have it in August and September, President O'Neill was finally able to schedule a 1-Hour Overview Call on 29 September. The second call will occur on 14 October 2021. Look for notes as Secretary Val Berry provides, which are uploaded to the fohbc.org website.

Elizabeth Meyer
FOHBC Business Manager
Houston, Texas

Teakettle Ink Price and Reference Guide

Hello FOHBC, I'm French and I'm trying to find a copy of the 'Teakettle Ink Price and Reference Guide' by Joe Mathews Jr... I seen your great article about it : <https://www.fohbc.org/2016/07/teakettle-ink-price-and-reference-guide/> So, I've tried to contact Joe by mail but no answer... Maybe you can help me to find me this guide or help me to contact Joe please? Thanks for any help you can give.

Tristan BERGERE

Baby Bottles

My father collected baby bottles for about 30 years before he passed away in 2004. I am trying to find a home for articles he collected about baby bottles. I have three large notebooks that have old copies of a newsletter from the baby bottle organization, but also correspondence between the Corning bottle company and him about baby bottles. There are copies of old magazine articles with pictures of early baby bottles. Would your organization be interested in these notebooks? I do not just want to throw them away. I have written to a few other people and I'm hoping someone will be able to do something with these notebooks. Thank you.

Donna Price

[Response] FOHBC - Please check with the American Collectors of Infant Feeders - acif.org

Word of Thanks

Bottles and Extras Team: This is to let you, and your associates in publishing *Bottles and Extras*, how pleased I was with the layout of the "Reno boxing" article. It is a good one and the design made it a gripping one. All the best to you and yours — and keep safe.

Jack Sullivan
Arlington, Virginia

Midwest Region
Steve Lang
slang14@yahoo.com



Midwest shows are all running as planned so far as summer turns to fall. Auctions are starting to be in person which is so much better than cold, generic online ones. Clubs are meeting in person and I see a lot of traffic in flea markets/antique malls. I feel things are moving back towards normal a little at a time.

Even with a positive move towards normalcy there are still the stories of club members passing due to Covid or complications from Covid. I am not going to mention specific people because I don't want to miss someone inadvertently. Any member that passes away or stays away from events due to the pandemic is a terrible loss to our hobby. I am a member of Facebook groups across our hobby plus Beer Can and Breweriana collecting groups and it is affecting groups / hobbies everywhere. Stay safe out there. Get the vaccination if you are so inclined, social distance and use good sanitary practices to keep yourself safe while out looking for that new piece for your collection. I wish everyone a safe fall and good luck searching.

Stay safe and happy collecting!



I can't wait for the day that the word "Covid" will only be common in history books. It is still taking its toll on everyday life in certain segments of our world. Having said that, as I write these words our local antique street fair was finally resurrected downtown. Cautious optimism abounds with large gatherings, even though attendance is still lower than usual, but we may have turned the corner to a more normal world. Lately, bottle shows in Aurora, Oregon and Downieville, California, both on the heels of the Los Angeles show, have signaled the beginnings of normality. Best of luck to the upcoming Sacramento Valley (Williams) and Auburn shows!

Jeff Wichman's recent bottle auction featured some interesting selections from several collections including a grouping of whiskey and 'whiskey type' bottles consigned by Richard Siri. The amber fifth whiskey bottle is a favorite item for the collector in the Western Region. Associated with the mythic hard-living western pioneers who often eased their pain with alcohol, these bottles have become icons of the rugged West. But the specimens in the auction were almost all from the Midwest and East – probably the largest representation of this type of bottle ever amassed and certainly ever auctioned. The sales results were interesting, although not too surprising overall. No one expected hammer prices to mirror the values placed on many of their Western counterparts, but a respectable number exceeded the \$1,000 mark. Such a sale of unusual bottles is an interesting insight into the health of the bottle collecting fraternity and overall, it appears we are doing well. I recommend a visit to the American Bottle Auctions Internet site to view the results.

It won't put a bottle on your shelf but I strongly recommend taking a peek at what is happening at the FOHBC Virtual Museum. A small group of highly dedicated volunteers are continuing to put together

what is already a world class virtual collection of amazing bottles, along with masterful photography and in-depth historical data about many bottles, some of which you may own. For me anyway, the history associated with each bottle gives them so much more meaning in the construct of life itself. Like most material objects, understanding how it fits in our world gives it so much more meaning.



The Northeast Region is beginning to start buzzing again with shows. A few have been cancelled, but this is to be expected as some venues are imposing attendance limits etc. I was able to make my way recently to the Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association show in Depew, N.Y. This show was well attended and I was happy to see so many smiling collectors out chatting and buying.

I was especially glad to be able to present some *Bottles and Extras* magazines featuring Dr. Claris from Buffalo while attending the show. The Merrimack Valley Antique Bottle Club show was also held the same day. I was told attendance was good and the show went great. Make sure to check our show listings section of the FOHBC website.

Coming up soon are some shows you do not want to miss. The Richmond Area Bottle Collectors Association on October 2nd. Also the Forks of the Delaware Bottle Collectors Association show on October 23rd. Then in November on the 7th is the Mid-Maine Bottle Club's first show. Get out there and stay active. If you are in the northeast, please give me a message of anything you would like to share.



North Texas Show in Plano, Texas. What I saw on Facebook was a great first-year show. I heard that they plan on having a second-year show in 2022. I personally went to the North Alabama Show in Graysville, Alabama. The first-year show went well and a 2022 show will be held. There were about 50 tables and vendors from all over the South. It was great to see so many other show chairmen supporting other shows. The Nashville show in Lebanon, Tenn., was a great show based on what I saw on Facebook. The organizers of the show in Youngville, N.C. didn't share any photos on Facebook, but I hope it was a great show. I hope all the shows later in the year were great shows.

