

By Richard T. Siri, Santa Rosa, California

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.

In case you haven't heard, Alan DeMaison and Terry Crislip recently returned home from a 1,467-mile museum imaging trip to the New England states. This was after being locked in for well over a year with the pandemic.

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Their first stop was to meet with Rick Ciralli in Connecticut to image great specimens from his collection including medicines, utilities, historical flasks, inks, blown three mold, and free-blown and pattern molded flasks and decanters. All pieces had been pre-coordinated and were prepared, staged, and ready when Alan and Terry arrived on the morning of 07 August 2021. After a slow start at Rick's due to a software issue as when Alan changed software with his new laptop, he didn't realize that the software was different. It took almost two hours to adjust, but when he did, the process sped up considerably. Alan surpassed his initial goal of imaging 24, pieces and was able to capture 38. Many of Rick's pieces have already been processed by Alan, Miguel, and Ferdinand and have been placed in the museum.



the shoulder of Alan DeMaison who was imaging this fine Dr. J. W. Poland medicine bottle. The piece has already been edited, formatted for the website, and historically researched. It was placed in the museum's Medicines Gallery on 27 September 2021.

Rick Ciralli looking over

Alan and Terry were off to New Hampshire next to visit with Michael George to focus primarily on very rare medicines and utility bottles like snuff, boot polish, and blacking bottles. Again with pre-visit coordination, Alan and Terry were able to stage the bottles for rapid imaging. The goal at Mike's was to image 35 and they were almost complete by lunchtime by capturing 27 by noon, an amazing 9 bottles per hour. They finished with 54 spins at Mike's with a total for the two days at 92 items. Alan sent out an email thanking all the wives, Vicki Ciralli, Janet George, Elaine DeMaison, and Linda Crislip for adjusting their schedules so this trip could happen. Alan is planning another trip east in the spring to visit with Jeff Noordsy, Eric Correa, and possibly Rick and Mike again. Chris Bubash will be visited this October, and Alan is planning a November visit to Chip Cable in Pittsburgh.

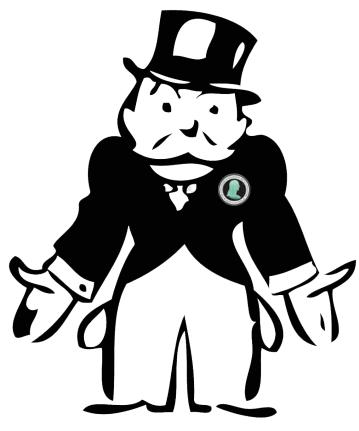
I'm very pleased to announce that Eric McGuire from Petaluma, California is going to be our next Virtual Museum imager. This will be our third station after Gina Pellegrini and Alan. Eric knows photography and Western bottles extremely well so he has a heads up on what to image in each category. He is also an excellent researcher so that will help speed up the process from getting the image to placing it in the museum.

The imaging equipment needed to set up this third imaging station was donated and funded by the FOHBC president, John O'Neill. John fully understands that this imaging process needs to move on quickly as there are lots of bottles out there, and time is a big factor. By the way, Eric is also the keynote speaker at the Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention banquet and he and Alan will be imaging at the show as well. Eric is also our West Coast Region Director. Way to go! We are fortunate to have Eric come aboard to help on the West Coast.



The museum is getting rave reviews from everybody that visits as it gets better and better daily with Ferdinand adding new pieces every day and with Miguel keeping the museum website up and running. There are lots of bottles out there that need to be put into the museum and that takes time and money. Miguel recently updated the museum floor plan to include a new Utilities Gallery and an expanded and relocated Early American Glass and Medicines Gallery. We also developed a shell gallery for Beverages such as colas and pop. That will be neat to have the rare deco and ACL sodas. This gallery is being spearheaded by FOHBC board member Steve Lang.

The museum could also use someone in the northeast and southern regions to image, and someone to help Ferdinand with his research. As much as we need to expand, we also need monies to fund it. The museum has only one paid worker and that is Miguel. Ferdinand, Alan, Gina, myself, and now Eric are all volunteers. Donations are what fund the museum as we don't use FOHBC monies to help it out. All donors are acknowledged in the museum, so make a donation and have your name go down in history. Spinner Spinner Chicken Dinner! Please help us in our Phase 2 fundraising campaign to continue development of the FOHBC Virtual Museum.



The FOHBC and the Virtual Museum team thank our many donors who have helped us raise over \$47k to date. We have close to \$11,000 in available funds to continue development to build our galleries, exhibition hall, research library and gift shop. Donations are tax deductible. All donors are listed on our Virtual Museum Recognition Wall.

With one salaried website technician averaging \$1,000 a month, we need help. Plus, we are now traveling to collections again as Pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted so costs will be incurred. All other time is donated by the Virtual Museum team out of our love and passion for the hobby and the FOHBC. Thank you!



For gift information contact: Alan DeMaison, FOHBC Virtual Museum Treasurer, 1605 Clipper Cove, Painesville, Ohio 44077, *a.demaison@sbcglobal.net* 28 September 2021