



[below] An amateur diver exploring shallow waters off northern Israel found a sword thought to have belonged to a crusader knight 900 years ago. The one-metre (3.3 ft) blade was discovered by Shlomi Katzin in shallow waters off Haifa. It is thought the sword, heavily encrusted with marine organisms, resurfaced after the shifting of sands.



[left] In the 1960s, a small group of these extremely rare "Hutchins and Mason Waterproof Blacking, Keene, NH" bottles and many glass shards were found in Creighton Hall's Keene, New Hampshire side yard when Creighton was setting a pole for a clothesline. Visit the FOHBC Virtual Museum for the rest of the story.



[left] This bottle is one that you will remember as it has a spiral neck and is the only known whiskey to have this look. There are only ten or so examples in collections so it is pretty rare. Two were found in Hoquiam, Washington, and a third in Astoria, Washington along with two broken ones. Three spiral necks were found near Eureka, Nevada and an example was found under a house in Vallejo, California and yet another was found in Sebastopol, California by a ground excavator. Later, another cache was found in Washington State. Visit the FOHBC Virtual Museum for the rest of the story. - John L. Thomas



[above] The 2,000-year-old seal was recently discovered in the bedrock foundations of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Israel. The tiny artifact has a hole for the attachment of a metal wire enabling it to be worn as a ring. Seals were used to sign documents and could also be fashionable items serving as jewelry. It is engraved with a dove next to a thick, long, and fruit-bearing branch.



[above] In the summer of 2020, two British teenagers wielding metal detectors separately discovered a pair of rare, 1,000-year-old coins. Per a statement from Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, who featured the coins in their sale, 17-year-old Reece Pickering unearthed a silver Saxon penny dated to 1066 while treasure hunting in Norfolk this August. The following month, 16-year-old Walter Taylor - who first started metal detecting when he was 4 years old - found an 1106 silver penny in a field in South Essex.



[above & right] Eric Richter once was out picking when he found this unusual Charles Gardner piece. The item is a very heavy 6" x 6" chunk of teal glass with the Gardner Auction sticker "2606 on 20." There is also a very old sticker (appears 1800s) with the name "Latie Dunmore." There are three different engravings all dating to 1886 on it. The first reads, "Maud Floyd & Rob Daisy March 16th '86." The second reads: "Chas Gricneev(?) Oct 27 1886." The third reads: "Gus & Jennie Rob & Daisy Oct 8th 1886."



[right] This 9" tall, iron pontiled "Dr. J. S. Wood's Elixir Albany, NY" medicine bottle in a tombstone form was found in a pawn shop in Florida. Is was auctioned by Norman C. Heckler & Co. some years back. Visit the FOHBC Virtual Museum for the rest of the story.



[right] The Unique British Guiana 1856 One-Cent Black on Magenta Surface-Colored Paper (Stanley Gibbons no.23, Scott no.13) sold at auction recently at \$8,307,000, considerably short of its previous winning bid, \$9.5 million. The stamp remains, by weight, one of the most highly valued items on the planet. To philatelists, it's a really big deal, since it's the only copy of this stamp that has survived since 1856.

[left and below] A brick-lined cistern in Gulfport, Mississippi was full of Hutch sodas! The list of sodas were amazing. Double Biloxi Barqs, Gulfport Barqs, CH Hudson Scranton Miss, F Frank Smith Gulfport, Hattiesburg Bottling Works, just to name a few. There were over 300 Hutch sodas in this four-foot-deep cistern. Mike Burkett, Long Beach, Mississippi



[above] PARIS - The world's biggest triceratops skeleton, known as "Big John," was sold for 6.6 million euros (\$7.7 million) this past October to a private collector at a Paris auction house. The enormous skeleton, estimated to be over 66 million years old, was found in 2014 in South Dakota. The triceratops is known for its three horns on the head. Big John, named after the owner of the land where it was found, is certified by the Guinness World Records as the largest documented skeleton of a triceratops. The dinosaur died in an ancient flood plain on the island continent stretching from present-day Alaska to Mexico, allowing the conservation of its skeleton in mud. The skeleton is 7.15 meters long (23 feet) and stands 2.7 meters high (8 feet) at the hips. The skull represents more than one third of its total length, with two large horns over 1.1 meter long (3.6 feet).

The hammer price at the Drouot auction house, before commission and other costs, was 5.5 million euros. "It's a record for Europe," auctioneer Alexandre Giquello said. Big John's skeleton is more than 60% complete and its skull more than 75% complete, making it unique.