

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.

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I don't look at many websites, and there are only a couple I check out daily. I also don't text, tweet, or have Facebook or other social media distractions. I realize that this may be holding me back from communicating with the bottle world but, at 80+ years old, I still get along just fine.

I do, however, look forward to what is placed in the Virtual Museum nearly every day and seeing the incredible images of colorful bottles, flasks, jars, target balls, etc. These images and the history provided keep me learning something every day, more so than when I was in history class at school. I look forward to the new additions. I'm sure if you check the museum out, you'll also get hooked on it. You are just a click away from some tremendous antique glass. You would have to visit quite a few collections to see what we have on display in the museum and, for those out there that wonder why the glass category they collect isn't in the museum, it will be down the road. Give us time, and milk, soda pop, fire grenades, beers and ales, perfumes, and colognes will find their way into the museum too. [Editor Note: The museum already has galleries for bitters, early American glass such as free-blown, pattern-molded and blown three mold, foods and sauces, historical flasks, inks, jars, soda water, spirits, spring and mineral water, target balls and utilities.]

Our second West Coast photographer is gearing up to start imaging, and that would be Eric McGuire, who is a big plus because he is also a great historian and researcher. If you haven't yet heard, Eric will be our featured speaker during the Reno 2022 banquet. Tickets are available now, so plan on attending.

Recently, Ron Hands, our newest Virtual Museum team member, went with Alan DeMaison and imaged flasks, medicines, and bitters at the home of Chris Bubash in Columbus, Ohio. The next trip will be to see Chip Cable's collection in Pittsburgh to image his bottles, then to Phil Smith's for more fruit jars.

Alan already has plans for imaging in March 2022 in Houston and New England in April, hoping to add 300+ images to the mu-

seum. We have well over 500 spinning examples now and, by the end of 2022, 1,000+ is possible! As far as support images, we have well over 5,000 to date.

Ferdinand is doing a fantastic job getting Alan's work into the museum. I don't know how he keeps up with that and runs a business as well. I think Elizabeth is a big help with that. Miguel keeps the site tuned up and deals with computer and software issues that seem ever-present. If you have a computer, you know what I'm talking about. When mine goes down, I call for help as I don't know how to fix it. The museum site is highly complex and we need someone like Miguel to keep it running smoothly.

Miguel, by the way, is the only paid staff the museum has, and the bulk of our operational costs goes his way and, believe me, it's a very much-needed expense. That's why we can always use your help with a donation to the museum. You can take a tax write-off with your gift as we are a 501c-3 educational corporation.

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Our Midwest imaging director, Alan DeMaison, made a trip to see and image the Ron Hands collection in Solon, Ohio, this past September 2021. Team member, Terry Crislip, accompanied Alan and at the same time coached Ron Hands on the imaging process as Ron has joined the Midwest team. We are also excited to be adding the following examples to the museum Jar Gallery: Ball Standard, Joel Haines West Middleburg, Ohio, Frederick Heitz Glass Works St. Louis Wax Sealer, Cadiz Jar, AGWL Pitts Pa Wax Sealer, Improved Standard Patented April 17 1888, and Mason's 16 Patent Nov 30th 1858, among others. The Jar Gallery is fast approaching 125 examples.

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Alan DeMaison made a second imaging trip in the latter part of October with Ron Hands to image specific examples from the Chris Bubash collection in Columbus, Ohio. The primary focus was historical flasks, pontiled medicines and bitters. Some of the first pieces have been processed. They include Kimball's Jaundice Bitters from Troy, New Hampshire, five molds of Mof-fat's Phoenix Bitters, a GI-95 and GI-96 "Benjamin Franklin" And Bust - "T.W. Dyott, M.D." and bust portrait flasks, some great Success to the Railroad flasks and Bininger bottles, among others.

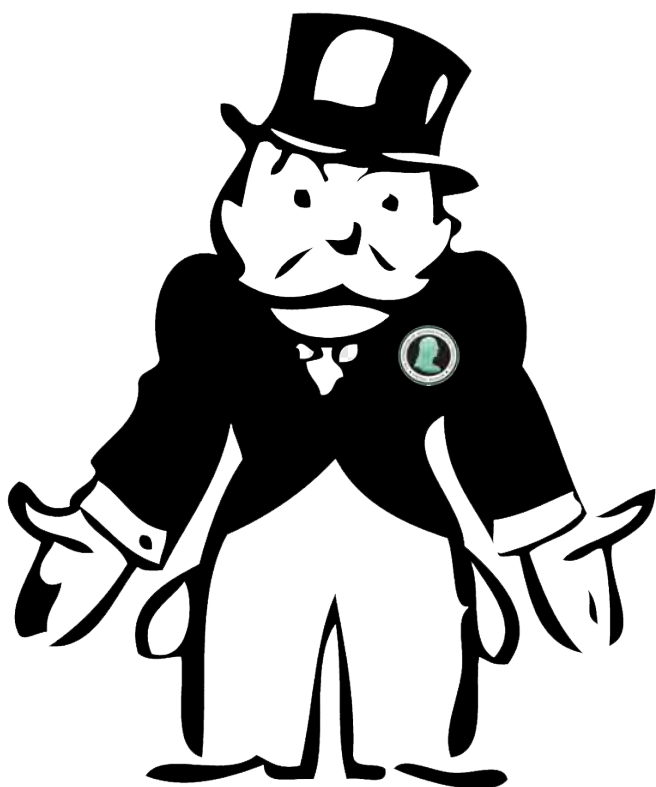
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Did you know that the Virtual Museum is preparing to open the Research Library on the First Floor? In a quieter part of the museum, you will soon see the first scanned books, catalogs and magazines on the shelves for reading and research. Michael Seeliger is leading this effort. You will be able to read cover-to-cover our first books such as *Collecting the Cures* and *Collecting All Cures* by Bill Agee, *H. H. Warner, His Company and His Bottles* by Michael Seeliger, and others as we get the books processed. The Research Library will also be archiving historical images, including old photographs from past shows, displays, collections and collectors. Michael Seeliger is also leading this effort. We have been gathering and storing pictures for years that might be otherwise lost if not put in our library. A special notice has been placed in recent magazine issues.



## Spinner Spinner Chicken Dinner!

Please help us in our  
Phase 2 fund-raising  
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 \$50k to date. We have a little over \$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!



## VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL BOTTLES AND GLASS

Phase 1 Goal:  
\$30,000  
ACHIEVED

Phase 2 Goal:  
\$60,000



\$30k  
\$25k  
\$20k  
\$15k  
\$10k  
\$5k

## PLEASE HELP US FILL OUR JAR!

Current Operational Account: \$11,132.80 - Development Gifts to date: \$50,071.48

[FOHBCVirtualMuseum.org](http://FOHBCVirtualMuseum.org)



For gift information contact: Alan DeMaison, FOHBC Virtual Museum Treasurer,  
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15 November 2021



