

VIRTUAL MUSEUM NEWS

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.



The two magazines, *Bottles and Extras* and *Antique Bottles and Glass Collector*, will have been joined together when you read my message. This significant development should bring a lot of new people to the doors of the Virtual Museum. With 600 spins planned by the end of January and another 100 by May, we stand an excellent chance to be at 1,000 by year's end. Alan, our chief imager, is hard at work processing each example and then getting the files to Ferdinand Meyer

for history and design and Miguel Ruiz for website upload. After all this, the bottle or glass piece is placed in the correct museum gallery.

Eric McGuire, our newest West Coast imager, besides Gina Pellegrini, is gearing up and, with Alan's help, should be ready to start imaging very soon. Miguel addressed some major issues with the website mechanics, storage, and processing over the holidays. He is working from Almaty, Kazakhstan, and is experiencing internet stoppages because of the recent civil unrest in that city and country. The Research Library is ready to open, and Ferdinand will work with Miguel to take it live on the museum website. You can purchase Virtual Museum merchandise through the FOHBC at this point. A gift shop is being developed within the Museum in a future phase.

We have been receiving enough donations to provide access to the Museum at no charge to viewers and will be working to find corporate sponsors to fund galleries in the future, and that would enable us to keep the free sign on the door. So please take advantage of the free access and enjoy the Museum as there is nothing like it anywhere.

Virtual Museum Committee—Team Meeting

The notes below reflect the items discussed and decisions reached during the Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 7:00 pm CST Zoom call. This call was attended by Alan DeMaison, Eric McGuire, Ferdinand & Elizabeth Meyer, John O'Neill, Gina Pellegrini, Michael Seeliger, Richard Siri, and Jeff Wichmann. Not Present, Ron Hands and Terry Crislip.

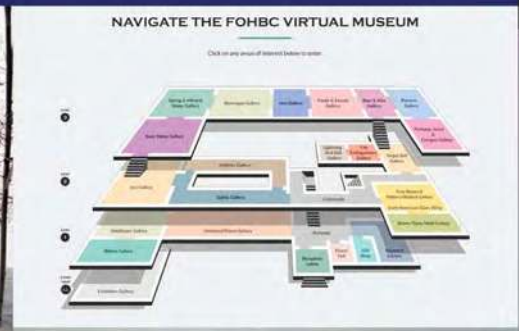
1. **General Overview (Meyer):** Ferdinand gave a general overview of Virtual Museum (VM) progress covering architecture, floorplans, gallery spaces, new additions, future components, website size and server etc.
2. **Financial (DeMaison) (account, fundraising, donor wall, bank account etc.):** Alan reviewed VM finances and noted that he had sent out a report earlier in the day. He noted the following donations since his last update: Robert Hagge Jr. \$1,000

and Chris Bubash \$1,000 lifetime now \$3,010. Alan discussed a few corrections concerning the \$27,000 Drakes Plantation Bitters sold at recent American Glass Gallery auction. These were the John Pastor/American Glass Gallery \$1,350 VM donation for waived fee, lifetime \$1,450, Jeff Wichmann \$12,825 lifetime VM donations \$17,825, and Anonymous \$12,825. Total lifetime donations to the VM is \$80,391.48. Current status: USBank—\$32,220.06, PayPal—\$4,621.09. Total \$36,841.15. Still to be paid this month is December invoice from Miguel for website development/maintenance. Ferdinand noted the January 6, 2022 email to the FOHBC board outlining financial history of the Virtual Museum. The document was displayed.

3. **USBank:** John O'Neill to help with USBank VM account signature situation.
4. **Design (Meyer):** Ferdinand briefly discussed and displayed the Google.doc museum inventory. He discussed the various stages from planning, imaging, website spinner, research, secondary images, page set-up and placement in museum gallery. The Inventory list was displayed.
5. **Technical (Ruiz):** Miguel could not attend call. Ferdinand gave an overview of issues since Thanksgiving 2021. This included website stoppages, movement and migration to new larger server, Miguel's workload, technical issues, new apps, and testing. It was noted that Miguel is still living and working abroad (for the FOHBC and FMG) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. His city and country is experiencing civil unrest. Internet stoppages have been occurring. Miguel and family are OK. We are now back on track with our website and new pieces are being added daily.
6. **Imaging (DeMaison, Pellegrini, McGuire):** Alan, Gina and Eric gave an overview of their imaging progress and plans. Eric is having problems syncing his camera with the turntable. He will work with Alan and Gina to resolve.
7. **History (Meyer):** VM History timeline updated and with Miguel to make the update on the website.
8. **Research Library (Meyer):** Research Library is ready to open. Ferdinand will work with Miguel to take live on the website.
9. **Marketing (Meyer):** Ferdinand gave an overview of daily VM new addition emails to the VM team, board members and VM guests. Mass emails using MailChimp are now occurring to FOHBC members. A few examples were referenced on screen. List will be expanded with AB&GC subscribers, Peachridgeglass.com emails and Antique Bottle Auctions emails.
10. **New Discussion:** A: Add bios and pics of major donors. B: Develop first Exhibition. C: Ferdinand confirmed receipt of Eric's thumb drive of scanned *Federation Journals*. D: For the time being, the Virtual Museum will continue to have free access. E: Start interacting with potential large donors and glass museums. F: Sell Galleries. G: Gift Shop has not been developed. All VM merchandise sales are presently run through the FOHBC. H: Direct FOHBC membership link added to every Virtual Museum specimen page.

Virtual Museum Team: Terry Crislip (Imaging Assistant), Alan DeMaison (Imaging Director & Treasurer), Ron Hands (Imaging Assistant), Eric McGuire (Imaging & Research), Ferdinand Meyer V (Director, Design & Research), Gina Pellegrini (Imaging), Richard T. Siri (Director), Miguel Ruiz (Website)





Phase 2
Jar Filled
Dec. 2021



Fohbcyvirtualmuseum.org

73 January 2022