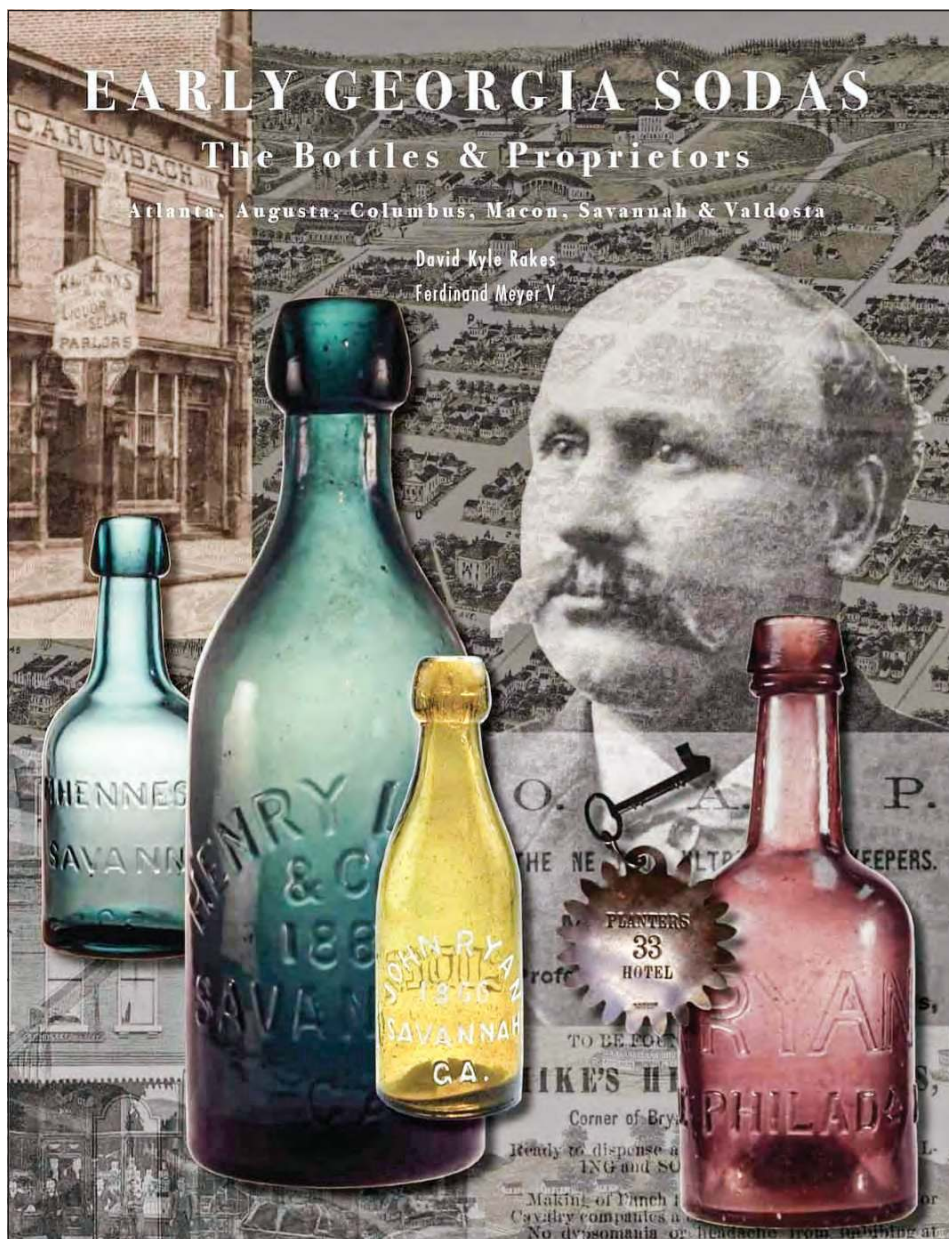


After becoming involved in the hobby of collecting antique bottles more than fifty years ago, my curiosity was piqued by large numbers of 19th-century sodas, whiskies, patent medicines, pharmacies, and mineral waters I'd excavated from a 19th-century landfill on the outskirts of Augusta, Georgia. Many were embossed not only with the names of the contents, but those of the proprietors, many of whom were members of prominent Augusta families.

So I started doing research and found it hard going during those pre-internet days. Few reference books existed and my earliest gleanings came from bound files of *The Augusta Chronicle* (established in 1785) and the *Augusta Herald* (established in 1890). I also was lucky to be able to contact and interview extant members of families whose 19th-century ancestors were involved in various businesses requiring specially designed and blown glass bottles.

Fast forward from 1969 to the present day. Our hobby continues to attract newcomers, some of whom have become talented researchers whose efforts have resulted in well-written magazine stories and can also be found between the covers of the occasional book.

Enter David Kyle Rakes and Ferdinand Meyer V. Each shares a love for the antique glass forms known as bottles. Their formidable backgrounds are posted on page 6 of their book. David has become a superior researcher, while Ferdinand leads the research and design component for the FOHBC Virtual Museum of Historical Bottles & Glass. The hobby has also benefitted from his involvement with the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors when he served six years as its president. He continues to be active on the board of directors. The book's covers, front and back, and interior content reflect Ferdinand's world-class talents as a designer.



Early Georgia Sodas The Bottles & Proprietors *Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Savannah & Valdosta*

By David Kyle Rakes and Ferdinand Meyer V

A Review by Bill Baab

