

JONES' EMPIRE INK N.Y.

Ferdinand Meyer V



Museum example Jones' Empire Ink N.Y.

You really do not know where you're headed when researching antique bottles. That is part of the fun. While I enjoy reading about others digging and finding bottles, and imagine being deep in a hole, I get just as excited digging for information as every bottle has a story.

In many cases, when researching a rare piece of glass and the person behind the name embossed on or associated with a bottle, you put a spotlight on a year or two of a person's lifetime. You tend to think that the bottle was the high point of a career. Of course, that is not the case. It would be like someone researching your own life, a couple hundred years down the road, and focusing on one of your achievements and then defining your life.

In this case we are looking at the proprietor of Jones' Empire Ink who was Theodore Lent, living and operating in New York City in the mid-19th century. Ted, as we will call him, was initially a plumber before he began selling inks and go-withs. He was also a flim-flam man who would marry "The Ugliest Woman in the World."

The FOHBC Virtual Museum recently displayed in our 3rd Level Ink Gallery a Jones' Empire Ink which is an extremely rare, twelve-sided master ink. The pint-size bottle is 5 13/16 inches tall and was blown in a yellowish olive green glass. There is an applied square collar mouth and a tubular pontil scar.

The bottle is found in two sizes, pints and quarts. The museum example is embossed on four consecutive arched panels, from shoulder to base, in a serif type-style, "JONES'" (panel 1), "EMPIRE" (panel 2), "INK" (panel 3), and "N. Y." (panel 4). The bottle was also made in emerald green glass. This bottle is on loan to the museum from the Michael George collection and was previously in the Alan Evanuk collection.



Museum example Jones' Empire Ink N.Y. pontiled base.

NEW YORK ADV'MENTS.

JONES'S EMPIRE INK

The following are the net prices to the Trade:

Quarts, per dozen	... \$1 50	6 ounces per dozen	... 50
Pints " "	... 1 00	4 " "	... 37½
8 ounces " "	... 0 63	2 " "	... 25

On draught, per gallon, 20 cents.

This is the best article manufactured—it is black when first used—very free-flowing, and is a first rate copying ink. All orders promptly attended to, directed to

THEODORE LENT, 87 Nassau street, Sun Building, New York City.

Jan 20 1y

Jones's Empire Ink advertisement — *The Buffalo Commercial*, January 13, 1852. The last newspaper ads for this product occurred in January 1852.

Theodore Lent advertised Jones' Empire Ink for only a short period of time from late 1850 to January 1852. His business address was 87 Nassau Street, New York

He was married to the “Ugliest Woman in the World”



City in the 5-story Sun Building. His advertising said he was the manufacturer of “Liquid Blueing, Starch, Furniture Polish, British Lustre &c., &c.” Other advertising said, “Jones’ Empire Black Ink, warranted not to corrode Metallic Pens.” He sold his quarts per dozen for

\$1.50 and his pints for \$1.00. You can find the majority of his small advertisements in 1851 in regional newspapers and specialty publications like the *United States Post-office Guide* and the *American Railroad Journal*.

Not too much is known about Theodore Lent other than he was born in New York City around 1826. His father was Samuel E. Lent and his mother was named Catherine. He was living with his parents and working as a plumber in the late 1840s. It is suspected that he took over a paper and ink business from his father who was listed as both a New York City merchant and an agent from 1843 to 1852 or so.

Theodore Lent was frequently in court and listed in newspapers being charged with various nefarious things like obtaining items under false pretenses, leasing space in buildings he did not own, forgery, or embezzlement. For example, Lent was charged with Forgery and False Pretenses for presenting a “forged promissory note to Mr. Christian F. Pfeifer, an importer of watches on No. 35 Courtland Street, dated July 14, 1848, for the sum of \$185” purporting to be drawn by Theodore B. Hatfield. For this, Lent received a gold watch. Hatfield was his former employer when Lent was a plumber.

Another time, Theodore Lent was arrested on a warrant issued by “Justice Osbourne, in which he stands charged with obtaining \$100 and over, from various persons.” Lent would present bills to customers on Hatfield’s billhead and receive payment when the money was due to his employer. Another time, in 1853, it was a “Matter of False Pretenses” as he obtained several hundred dollars from a female named Bertha Juratzék, a keeper of a house of ill-fame at No. 74 Mercer Street. That same year he was charged with leasing spaces in buildings he was not responsible for nor owned. He seems to settle down for a

Left: A crowd watches baseball scores being posted on the New York City Sun Building in 1914., Theodore Lent operated from and sold his ink from this building 65 years earlier. - New York Historical Society.

Below: Stage poster for Miss Julia Pastrana, “The Nondescript! The Wonder of the World! Just from the United States and Canada.”



Left: Two examples of Jones’ Empire Ink N.Y. I have two different Bryant’s Stomach Bitters lady’s leg bottles from New York City in the same time period, in the same green colors.

year or two as an auctioneer. From there he met and married Julia Pastrana, the “Ugliest Woman in the World.” Ted, of course, had other ideas in mind.

Theodore Lent called his wife, who he would manage for profit, a “bear woman.” An 1854 advertisement in the *New York Times* said she was the “link between mankind and the ourang-outang.” She became known in the popular imagination during the mid-19th century as “the ugliest woman in the world.”

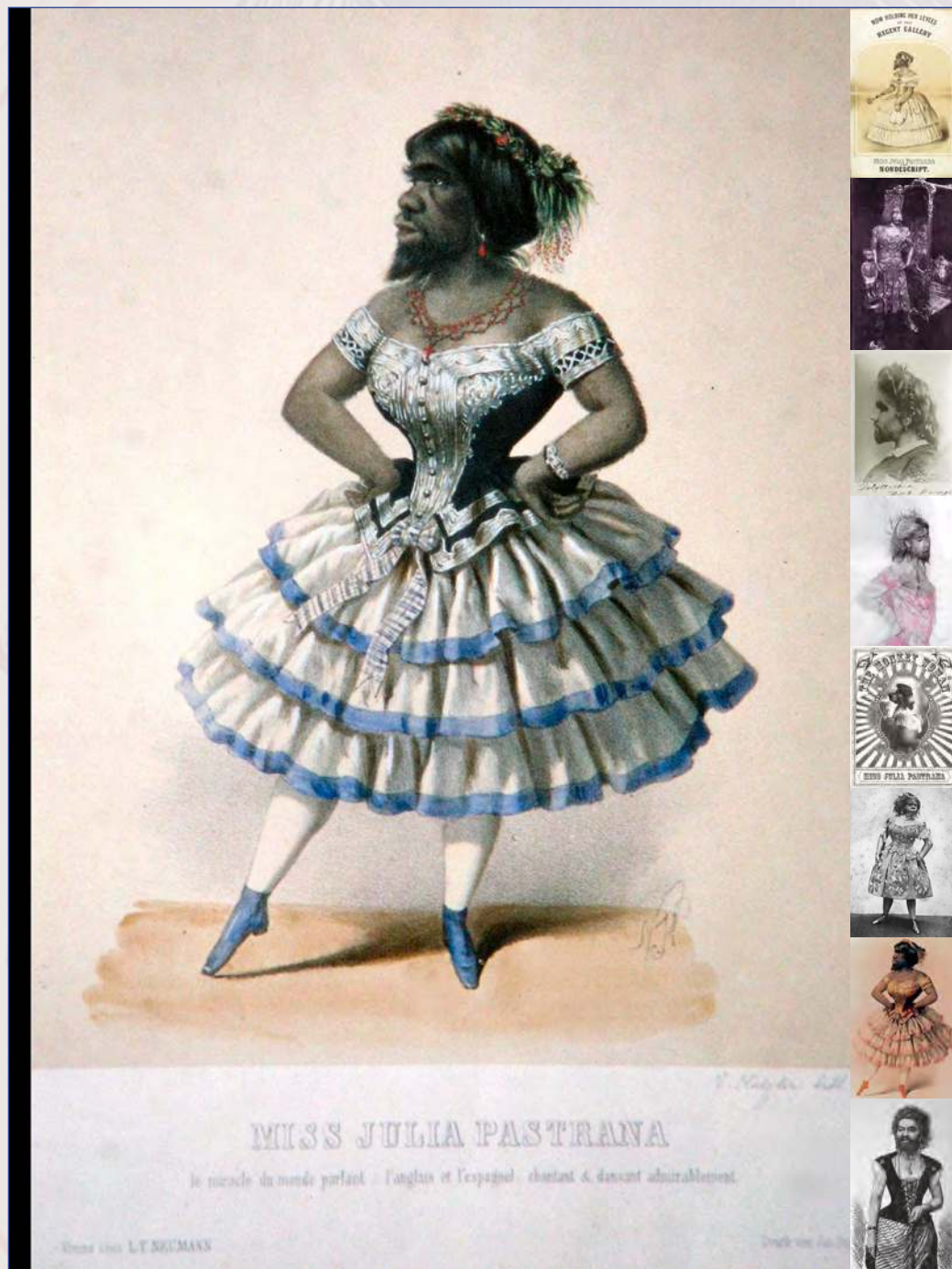
Pastrana was born in Sinaloa, Mexico in 1834. She had two rare diseases, undiagnosed in her lifetime: generalized hypertrichosis lanuginosa, which covered her face and body in thick hair, and gingival hyperplasia, which thickened her lips and gums. She was 4 feet 5 inches tall.

It is thought that a customs official in Mazatlán purchased Pastrana and brought her to the United States. At first, Pastrana performed under the management of J. W. Beach, but in 1854 she eloped with Theodore Lent who she met in New York City, marrying him in Baltimore, Maryland. Lent took over her management, and they toured throughout the United States and Europe. Pastrana was advertised as a hybrid between an animal and a human and worked in sideshows and freak shows under the stage names the “Baboon Lady,” the “Dog-faced Woman,” the “Hairy Woman,” the “Ape-faced Woman,” the “Ape Woman,” the “Bear Woman,” and “The Nondescript.” However, during her performances, she illustrated her intelligence and talent by singing, dancing, and interacting with the audience.

Below: Lithograph of Julia Pastrana by V. Katzler circa 1860

Bottom Left: “Miss Julia Pastrana, The Embalmed NonDescript exhibiting at 101 Piccadilly.” Engraving from 1862.

Center Right: Various images of Julia Pastrana from the Internet.



During a tour in Moscow, Pastrana gave birth to a son, with features similar to her own. The child survived only three days, and Pastrana died of postpartum complications five days later on March 25, 1860 at the age of 25. After she died, her body and the body of her baby appeared for decades in “freak” exhibitions throughout Europe. Ted would move on, but that is another story.

