

LOST & FOUND



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[below] Not bombs, but still powerful. Old German juniper gin bottles unearthed in Sulecin, a small town in western Poland. Quite an “arsenal” was discovered at a sewage system construction site in Sulecin. The works in the central part of town led to the unearthing of a small cellar, stored in which was a find, at a first glance, resembling unexploded bombs. Luckily, it turned out the objects were only stoneware bottles which had once contained a certain herbal liquor.



[above] Two “stolen” notebooks written by Charles Darwin have been mysteriously returned to Cambridge University, 22 years after they were last seen. The small leather-bound books are worth many millions of pounds and include the scientist’s “tree of life” sketch. Their return comes 15 months after the BBC first highlighted they had gone missing and the library launched a worldwide appeal to find them. “I feel joyous,” the university’s librarian Dr. Jessica Gardner said. — Cambridge University Library

[below] A Palestinian farmer working his land in Gaza has uncovered the head of a 4,500-year-old statue of Canaanite goddess, Anat. The head, which was recently unveiled to the public, was found in Sheikh Hamouda in Khan Younis, Jamal Abu Rida, director of Gaza’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, said at a press conference.

[below] This drawing by Michelangelo, discovered in 2019, will be offered for sale by Christie’s and could fetch 30 million euros (\$33 million), the British auction house said. It was largely forgotten until 2019, when a Christie’s specialist recognized it as one of Michelangelo’s own. The drawing is thought to be one of the artist’s early works, from around the end of the 15th century. It reproduces a shivering man depicted in a fresco, “Baptism of the Neophytes,” by Masaccio. Two other people stand near him in the drawing.



[left] This Cassin’s (sic) Grape Brandy Bitters was found in Baja, California. The bottle, with a crack on another side, was used as a float in a fishing net on a boat by Merle Emery who is from Nelson, Nevada. He brought it to the Las Vegas bottle show and sold it to Alan Wilson who eventually sold it to Don Mulloly. Don then consigned it to Jeff Wichmann at American Bottle Auctions where I was the high bidder. The only other Cassins in this rare dark blue-aquamarine glass color was also sold through ABA for \$155,000 with the buyers premium. Jeff was really startled when my example showed up as he told me that the new example was very close to the same color — not as brilliant and just a little more blue. — Dave Kyle

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[left] Would you offer a new Mercedes Coupe for a GI-66 General Jackson — Eagle portrait flask? “The photograph did not do this bottle justice—it was absolutely beautiful in person,” Norman Heckler, Sr. recalled. The consignor’s father had purchased the bottle in 1971 from Ernie Burger, an antique dealer, for the price of \$41.80. According to the consignor, several major collectors tried unsuccessfully to acquire the bottle over the years, with the late collector, Edmund Blaske, offering \$750, and on another occasion, the bottle collector, Roy Brown, offering a new Cadillac. It has been in the family for the last 39 years and safely stored in a box. The Heckler pre-auction estimate was \$40,000–\$80,000. The price realized was \$176,670!



[upper right] Revolutionary find: 19 cannons in Savannah River likely sunk in 1779 — A cannon encrusted in rust and mud sits inside a warehouse operated by the Army Corps of Engineers in Savannah, Ga., on Thursday, April 28, 2022. It’s one of 19 cannons discovered in the Savannah River since last year that experts believe date to the American Revolution, when British ships were scuttled in the river to block colonists’ allies from reaching Savannah by ship. — Credit: AP Photo/Russ Bynum

[below] This abundantly embossed “Bodine & Brothers Ne Plus Ultra Fruit-Jar” with circles and squares print is from Williamstown, New Jersey. It was discovered in a riverbed in New Jersey, and the condition is exactly as found. — Greg Spurgeon, North American Glass



[above] In this September 2013 photo provided by Donn Pearlman, a Gold Rush-era \$20 gold coin recovered from the *SS Central America*, still with some Atlantic Ocean residue on it, is shown at a coin expo in Long Beach, Calif. The gold was unearthed from the *SS Central America* after treasure hunter, Tommy Thompson, found the ship in 1988.



[above] ‘Onion’ Form Wine Bottle, (Van den Bossche, plate 72), Dutch, ca. 1720 - 1740, olive green, 6 1/4”h, 4 1/4” base diameter, sheared mouth, applied string lip. Approximately 85% of the surface has a metallic patina, created by various minerals or chemicals in the soil. A number have been found in various Holland canals when dredged. This patina is like that of the bottles found in the famous “Benicia,” California mud flats dig of the 1960s - 1970s. — Glass Works Auctions

