



The Latest Email Scams

The FOHBC is not immune to scams. Consider the following two recent hustles. The first scam was spotted by Andy Agnew of the Baltimore Bottle Club and brought to our attention. The email had been sent to a handful of collectors.

[Dear FOHBC Person] How are you doing? Are you available at the moment? I need your assistance to handle a little project. Can you please handle this for me on behalf of the organization? The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors is requesting gift card donations to assist Veterans at hospice care welfare with patients who have been negatively impacted by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every gift helps provide resources that will stabilize a Veteran and ensure a positive upward trajectory during this critical time. I have decided to make it a personal duty and I'll be responsible for the reimbursement of cards bought. Kindly confirm if you can help out. — John O'Neill, President

[FOHBC] This certainly looks real enough but this was not from John O'Neill. An inspection of his email address reveals that it is not correct and it's the email address of the scammer. If you were to play along with the scammer and answer, the scammer would ask you to go to your nearest drug store and purchase money cards. You would then transfer the information to John (the scammer). Most of us have seen these scams before. Some have fallen for it so please be careful.

This second scam almost fooled us as it appeared to be similar to many other real "thank-you emails" we receive.

John, Ferdinand and Elizabeth,

As a library media specialist out here in Maine, I wanted to thank the FOHBC for putting together your links page.

My name is Harry Rizzo and our library is hosting a special 'Antique Collectors and Pickers' seminar this month. Antiques are really popular up here in Maine and New England, so we thought we would do a fun community based seminar to teach our members all about antiques and collecting! I'm compiling a reference guide for the attendees, and I have some student volunteers assisting me! Your page had some fantastic bottle collecting websites to check out, so my students requested I reach out and let you know how much you've helped us :)

As a thank you, I wanted to pass along this bottle collecting guide my student Ashley found... <https://blog.bottlestore.com/the-curious-world-of-bottle-collecting-and-the-people-who-collect-them/>

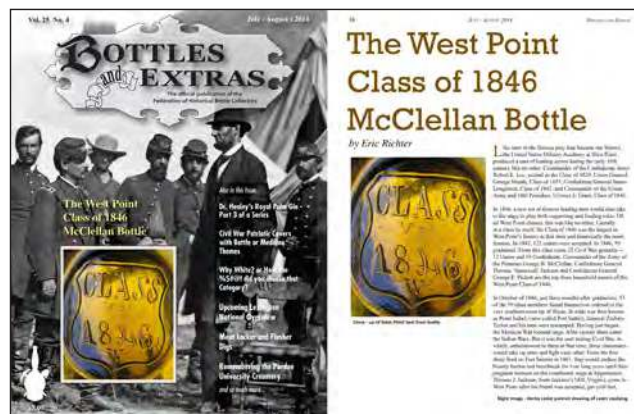
Ashley was very excited to share it with you! She thought it would make a great addition to your page... <https://www.fohbc.org/links/>

Could you include this on there for her? It's always nice to get some recognition for a job well done and I know she would be thrilled to see she

could help other collectors! Let me know! Thank you again for all the help!

Sincerely, Harry Rizzo

[FOHBC] This looks real enough too, but there is no Harry Rizzo, there is no "out here in Maine," no library and no Ashley. When I clicked the link it sent me to a well-laid-out antique bottle blog page with a goofy bottle illustration and header graphics titled "*The Curious World of Bottle Collecting*" that was full of (cribbed) antique bottle and glass collecting information. This almost fooled us as we were going to thank "Harry" and add "Ashley's" link to our website. However, something did not feel right. When I clicked any one of "Ashley's" many bottle reference links like "Caps and Closures," it took me to a very robust advertising page for hundreds of products like energy drinks, natural soy candles, dog biscuits, etc. Some flim-flam man had gone to a lot of trouble to trick the viewer. It must work as I bought some dog cookies. Only kidding! By the way, if you did purchase something, the scammer has all your credit card info. Be careful!



Concern of Copyright Infringement

Hi Ferdinand, It's been a while and I hope you and yours are doing well. I'm writing to you as I have a concern of copyright infringement as I believe both my website, 1780farmhouse.com, and the FOHBC hold a copyright on *The West Point Class of 1846 McClellan Bottle* article, which poses no problem whatsoever with me. The issue is that some business and marketing website has plagiarized the written material on Stonewall Jackson and is using my photography without credit or permission. The FOHBC magazine is Vol. 25, No. 4, July–August 2014. The infringed written material is on page 40. Below is the link he published in 2016 and I only now caught it as I was using the google lens app to see if anything else came up on the bottle. I did email him last week and asked him to either take down the plagiarized material and my photo or give proper credit. He has done neither. Again I hope you're doing well and was wondering what your reaction to this situation would be. I am considering a copyright infringement notice to be sent via certified mail, but thought you may have other ideas or resources. Link: <https://digitalsparkmarketing.com/west-point-class/> (Scroll

down to Stonewall Jackson section. He uses eleven of our paragraphs and, while making a change here and there, he also copied material verbatim.)

I'm living in Philadelphia now and am doing very well working at a fantastic thrift store and scoring some amazing antiques. I'm back in my home city near my remaining family. If I had a new blog I guess it would be 1930germantownapartment.com... ha ha. Please let me know what you might make of this; not sure just how far fair use goes and what our rights are as both copyright holders. Thanks,

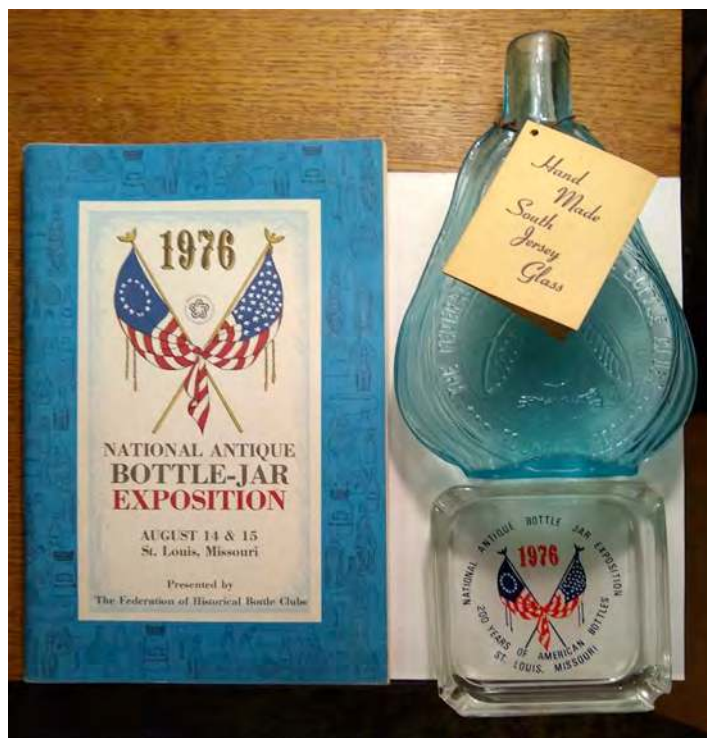
Eric Richter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[FOHBC] Hi Eric. Seems like a Catfish site intended to be found by researchers only to be trapped on a fake website intended to generate advertising revenue. Funny that they are using a fake picture of a blurry man. Definitely wrong but there are lots of sites like this that steal your stuff and repackage. Nice to hear from you!

More on the The case of the 'missing' flasks of the St. Louis Bottle-Jar Expo in the May-June AB&GC issue

To Bill Baab (author) from Elizabeth Meyer: "*James Roth from West Fargo, North Dakota sent me these images for you.*"

The other two pictures were detail shots of the inside spread and back page of the little booklet attached to the flask which read: "Hand Made South Jersey Glass" (cover), "The Downer Glass Works Box 213A Stanger Avenue, R. D. Williamstown, N. J.



08094." (page 2), "The Downer Glass Works is located in the Jersey Pines, where Glass Making is carried on just as it was 200 years ago. The Formulas and Methods have been rediscovered through careful research and are carried out by Skilled Craftsmen in the South Jersey Tradition. Our production is very limited, making each pattern a true Collectors Item." (pages 3 and 4).

1984 – First issue of Antique Bottle & Glass Collector

By the early 1980s, Jim Hagenbuch was sending out over 400 lists of bottles for sale to his customer base. In 1983 he decided to publish a magazine. At that time two other magazines existed, *Antique Bottle World* published by Jerry McCann in Chicago, Illinois, and *The OBX* (Old Bottle Magazine), published by Ken Asher in Bend, Oregon. Jim had heard that both were potentially for sale. Jim approached Jerry McCann about purchasing *Antique Bottle World* but was not able to arrive at a price so Jim went forward with a new magazine. In April of 1984, the first issue of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* (AB&GC) went to press. Jim does not remember how many subscribers received the first issue, but many of his loyal customers had subscribed.

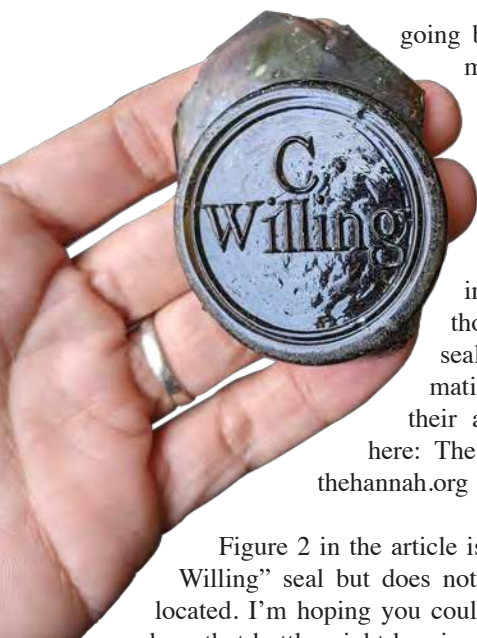
In August of that year, at the FOHBC National Convention held in Montgomery, Alabama, Jim was approached by Jerry McCann regarding the purchase of *Antique Bottle World*. The price he was asking was now considerably less than when they first talked a year earlier and Jim agreed to make the purchase. By the fall of 1984, Jim merged the two magazines and *Antique Bottle World* ceased to exist. Several years later, Jim received in the mail an express envelope from Ken Asher. In the envelope were two signed contracts and a letter from Ken telling Jim he could buy OBX for \$1! By now Jim probably had over 2,000 subscribers to AB&GC and wasn't sure he needed to buy another magazine. He called Ken and after a short conversation with him decided it would probably be beneficial to make the purchase which he did. Probably three or four months later the two magazines were merged and OBX was gone. At its peak, Jim had over 4,500 subscribers; when he turned it over to John Pastor 25 years later it was down to around 3,500. Ken Asher told Jim that at its peak, he had over 7,000 subscribers! Note: John Pastor gifted AB&GC to the FOHBC in late 2021.

FOHBC Article Question Re: C. Willing Bottle Seal

Hello John (O'Neill), I hope this finds you well! I am reaching out on behalf of Matt and Melissa Dunphy with regards to this article on the FOHBC website. I understand that the author, Cecil Munsey, has passed on. We're trying to find a point of contact regarding a picture included in the article and I'm wondering if you or anyone at FOHBC can help?

With that said, Matt and Melissa reside on Callowhill Street in Philadelphia, PA on a piece of property that has a history

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going back to the Penn Charter. To make a rather long and incredibly interesting story short, the Dunphys have unearthed quite a bit of artifacts from the 18th and 19th century in several privy pits found on both their and the surrounding properties. Included in those artifacts is a “C. Willing” seal (see photo left). More information about the Dunphys and all their amazing finds can be found here: The Boghouse. <https://boghouse.thehannah.org>

Figure 2 in the article is an intact bottle with the “C. Willing” seal but does not mention where the bottle is located. I’m hoping you could point us in the direction of where that bottle might be viewed. We would love to be able to get a better picture of that particular bottle and take a look at an intact specimen. If there is any information you have regarding where that bottle could be viewed or who owns it, please let me know, it would be greatly appreciated!

Dina Steiner
Managerial Assistant, Mormolyke Press
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mexican Drug Co., El Paso, Texas

Hello Miss Elizabeth! I hope that you, your family, and all of your loved ones are doing well and staying healthy in these pandemic times we are all living in.

My name is Robert and I got your email from the FOHBC homepage. I would like to ask if you or any of your colleagues would be kind enough to help me put a price on this small bottle. I am not a collector, or enthusiast, but I would like for it to go to a good home after I find out what it is worth.

I would like to ask if you could review the pictures and the letter by Professor of Anthropology Bill Lockhart that I enclosed. He and his Associate Professor Miss Wanda Wakkinen inspected and photographed this bottle from all angles on a snowed-in Christmas Day a few years back. He did not place a value on it though as he said there was no other comparable. This bottle missed being in his book by a few months that he published in 2015.

I would really appreciate it if you would be kind enough to help me find an adequate good home for it as I feel it needs someone who will be a good steward and keeper of this so far only-one-known bottle.

Thank you very much in advance. Be well and be safe out there. Best wishes to you and all of your loved ones always!

Robert Maese



[Response from Bill Lockhart & Wanda Wakkinen, March 21, 2016]

Dear Robert, When we were at your house in December, we observed your bottle embossed “Mexican Drug Co. Botica Mexicana “Hildalgo” 603 S. El Paso El Paso Tex Tel. 1607.” Since there is no manufacturer’s mark on the base, there is no way to tell when or where the bottle was actually made. However I was able to determine the following:

The Ruiz Bros. (F. A. and A. S. Ruiz, a.k.a. Ruiz & Ruiz and Botica Mexicana) were first listed in the 1907 city directory listing at 616 El Paso Dr. The listing continued until 1918. Although the business was across the street from the Botica Mexicana discussed below, it was probably unrelated. However, the city directories were notorious for maintaining listings after businesses had closed. The Ruiz brothers may have sold the store to Manuel Porras (see below) in 1915.

The Botica Mexicana Hildalgo opened about May 1915 at 603 S. El Paso Dr. An ad in the May 23, 1915, *El Paso Morning Times* noted the phone number as 1607 and listed five doctors connected with the firm and the times they were available. The store had received a shipment of French and German perfumes along with “plantas medicinales Mexicanas” (natural Mexican remedies). The store had a new soda fountain and an ice cream parlor—all at moderate prices. Manuel Porras was the principal by 1916 and both Manuel and Guillermo Porras were listed in 1921—Guillermo was also listed as a local lawyer. The 1922 city directory listed the El Paso Pharmacy (Botica Mexicana), operated by Rodarte & Co., almost certainly indicating the sale of the firm. Rodarte dropped the name Botica Mexicana by the following year.

In 21 years of collecting and studying El Paso bottles and their users, your bottle is the only example of its kind that I’ve ever found. It is a unique treasure of El Paso history.

Thank you for thinking of me and staying in touch.

Sincerely, Bill Lockhart