

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.



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 Ott (Imaging), Richard T. Siri (Director), Miguel Ruiz (Website)

Ferdinand Meyer is still adding to the museum almost daily. He has been receiving a lot of positive feedback from regular visitors and those visiting the museum for the first time.

I don't know if you saw it, but we took out a full-page color advertisement in the April 2022 issue of the *Journal of Antiques & Collectibles* annual "A Touch of Glass" issue. We are trying to reach new folks who may not have heard about our museum.

Alan DeMaison, on the other hand, has been busy guiding Eric McGuire on the imaging process. Eric is setting up our third imaging studio for the museum. It was frustrating at first, as some of the software Eric was using wasn't doing what he wanted it to do. All of the issues have been resolved and Eric is preparing to image his first bottles.

Alan and his traveling buddy and imaging assistant Terry Crislip just returned (27 March 2022) from Mike Newman's house outside Augusta, Georgia. Mike had provided a comprehensive target list of primarily southern soda waters. He even added a few southern bitters and historical flasks that are not represented in the museum. The imaging trip started out a little rocky as Alan left the battery and battery charger to the camera plugged in at his house in Ohio. Alan found a charger at Best Buy, and Elaine, his wife, overnighted the battery and charger. Alan and Terry were still able to get 38 spins and six others from Mike's guests the first day and another 65 the next day, bringing the total to 109 bottles for two days which is a great total even when everything goes well.

Bill Baab visited the Newman imaging session and commented, "I was very interested in the photographic technique used by Alan. More to it than meets the eye. Allen Woodall, his wife, granddaughter, and dog, arrived Wednesday. After breakfast Thursday morning, they followed us to Mike Newman's, where they were astounded by the scope of his collection. After the photo session, we took them to the Augusta Museum of History to see the Bill & Bea Baab Bottle Collection. They loved it."

Alan and Terry then went to Bob and Shari Jochums' to image embossed cure bottles in Atlanta. For the past several months we have been working with Bob and Dr. Bruce Shephard to develop a new Cures Gallery on the First Floor of the museum. We are building out the space now next to the Bitters and Medicines Gallery. Bob and Bruce have put together a comprehensive grouping of cures to image. Alan will visit and image the balance of the initial group of cures in Tampa, Florida, where Bruce lives, in the coming months. Michael Seeliger and Michael and Kathie Craig are also planning on bringing some Warner's Cures to our national convention in Reno to be imaged. This addition will be an excellent start for the new gallery. Bob and Bruce are also planning to provide the research for each bottle, which will undoubtedly help when adding the bottle and write-up to the museum. Ferdinand also conducted a Zoom call with them and gave them some tips on finding information for each bottle.

Alan and Terry are discussing an April trip that will take them to see Dennis Huey to image Ohio sodas. After that, the duo is planning to see Charles Betts from the Rochester area to image his fire grenades. I believe they are discussing plans to visit Jim Hall for more sodas after that.

Gina Pellegrini Ott, our second imager, has added some more images from her father's food bottle collection, like this rounded, draped square pickle bottle (left), which will be on display at FOHBC Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention. Remember, at Reno, Alan and Eric will be shooting bottles too. If you have something you want imaged, contact Alan or Eric to see if they can schedule you in.



Some collectors are asking when we plan to start the galleries for milks and creamers, beers and ales, perfumes and colognes, soda pop, ACL sodas, and the like. I know there are a lot of collectors in those categories. As a collector of antique bottle and glass advertising myself, I find the graphics on some of the ACL sodas very attractive. With three people now being able to image, we should start planning and getting into some of those categories.

Remember, there is also the historical side to the bottles, so it would be a great help for a collecting group to get together and figure out what bottles should go into the museum and document the history of the bottle. You know, like who, when, and where? Is the proprietor known? This information would significantly speed up the process of opening new galleries.

We are still asking for donations to keep this project moving forward—see our Phase 3 "Fill the Original Pocahontas Bitters bottle" on page 21.





Phase 3
Please help us fill our
Original Pocahontas
Bitters bottle

FREE ACCESS FOR ALL! THE FOHBC VIRTUAL MUSEUM RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT!



Please help us in our Phase 3 fundraising capital campaign to continue development of the FOHBC Virtual Museum. The FOHBC and the Virtual Museum team thank our many donors who have helped us raise over \$82k to date. We have \$33,605 in available funds to continue development to build our galleries, exhibition hall, research library and gift shop. Donations are tax deductible. All donors are listed on our Virtual Museum Recognition Wall.

With one salaried website technician averaging \$1,000 a month, we need help. Plus, we are now traveling to collections again as Pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted so costs will be incurred. All other time is donated by the Virtual Museum team out of our love and passion for the hobby and the FOHBC. Thank you!



**FOHBC VIRTUAL MUSEUM
OF HISTORICAL BOTTLES
AND GLASS**



Phase 1
Flask Filled
Dec. 2018



Phase 2
Jar Filled
Dec. 2021

Fohbcvirtualmuseum.org

For gift information contact: Alan DeMaison, FOHBC Virtual Museum Treasurer, 1605 Clipper Cove, Painesville, Ohio 44077, a.demaison@sbcglobal.net

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