

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.



FOHBC Virtual Museum by the Numbers

We thought we would look at a few numbers this issue to give Richard a break as he has been busy with the Reno 2022 Antique Bottle Convention.

13 Years Ago

The Virtual Museum concept was first proposed at the FOHBC bi-annual board meeting by Federation president Richard Siri in August 2009 in Pomona, Ca. at the FOHBC National Antique Bottle Show. Richard asked fellow board member Ferdinand Meyer V to head up the project and develop a presentation to board members. The Virtual Museum finally opened on January 1, 2020. Many years of team development, planning, design, imaging, fundraising, and board approvals occurred during the abovementioned years.

87 Bitters Bottles

Since we opened the museum in January 2020, we have added 87 spectacular bitters to our Bitters Gallery, with another 15 imaged and waiting for processing. Another 70 examples will be imaged later this year or next year.

92 Target Balls

In February 2018, Alan DeMaison and Terry Crislip left for Michigan to image the American Glass Gallery, Ralph Finch Collection of Target Balls, Traps and Shooting Ephemera. Terry and Alan captured 16 spins on Monday afternoon, 50 Tuesday, and another 26 on Wednesday morning for a total of 92 target ball spins.

Three More Collections Out West

After the 2018 Cleveland National Convention, Alan DeMaison imaged two outstanding collections in Washington State. One was the jar collection of Darrell Plank, where he captured 38 images, and the other was at Steve Hubbell's, where he imaged 36 Western bitters

and Western whiskeys. From Washington, Alan and Elaine, his wife, drove down to Anderson, Ca. and met up with Richard Siri and his wife, Beverley. The following day they visited and imaged many examples from the Ken and Teenie Schwartz Museum of Western Whiskey. 87 specimens from the Richard T. Siri collection had previously been imaged. This included Bitters and Spirits bottles.

75 Jerry McCann Jars

Alan DeMaison and Terry Crislip captured 75 images from the renowned jar collection of Jerry McCann and Patricia Sprang in the Chicago area.

1,467-mile New England Imaging Trip

Alan DeMaison and Terry Crislip returned home from a 1,467-mile museum imaging trip to the New England states. Their first stop was to meet with Rick Ciralli in Connecticut to image excellent specimens from his collection, including medicines, utilities, historical flasks, inks, blown three molds, and free-blown and pattern molded flasks and decanters. Alan and Terry went to New Hampshire the following day to visit with Michael George to focus primarily on very rare medicines and utility bottles like snuff, boot polish, and blacking bottles. They finished with two days of imaging with 92 new items for the museum.

Soda Water Gallery

We initially added 61 Midwest examples from the Doug Shutler collection and then moved south to image the Mike Newman collection, where 75 specimens were imaged. A trip east to see the Chip Cable collection of Pittsburgh bottles added a few more. During the Reno 2022 Antique Bottle Convention, initial plans were discussed to image the Mike Southworth collection of Western sodas.

Historical Flask Gallery

At present, there are 99 examples of great Historical Flasks represented in the Historical Flask Gallery. Another 44 examples are in various processing stages

and will be added to the gallery by the end of the year.

35 examples in the Medicine Gallery

This robust gallery of 35 early medicine bottles always seems to be growing. Another 36 outstanding examples are in various stages of development before they are placed in the museum gallery.

Four Museum Levels

Did you know that the Virtual Museum has four levels? The Lower Level has our large Exhibition Gallery. Level 1 East has areas for Reception, Donor Hall, Research Library, and Gift Shop. Level 1 West houses galleries for Bitters, Cures, Historical Flasks, and Medicines. The Rotunda is a prominent architectural feature between the Level 1 East and West Wings. Level 2 West has galleries for Jars, Spirits, and Utilities. Level 2 East has galleries for Free Blown & Pattern Molded Tableware, Flasks & Decanters, and Blown Three Mold. The Level 2 Colonnade connects the East and West Wings. Level 2 North has galleries for Target Balls, Lightning Rod Balls, and Fire Grenades. Level 3 has galleries for Soda Water, Spring & Mineral Water, Soda Pop, Inks, Foods & Sauces, Beers & Ales, Poisons, and Perfume, Scent & Cologne. When you visit the museum, look for the floor plan and get orientated.

29,742 Gallery Images

As of August 1, 2022, the FOHBC Virtual Museum has 647 specimens spinning in museum galleries. Each rotation constitutes 36 individual images. Also, each example, on average, has ten support images. Together, this includes 29,762 gallery images. This number grows just about every day. We have a big museum website with lots of power, memory, and server space.

15 Gallery's Open

There are 15 open galleries in the FOHBC Virtual Museum. This includes

the Bitters, Historical Flasks, Spirits, Jar, Target Ball, Spring & Mineral Water, Medicines, Poisons, Inks, Foods & Sauces, Fire Grenade, Free blown & Pattern Molded Tableware, Flasks and Decanters, Blown Three Mold, Soda Water, Utility, and Cures Galleries.

Six Gallery's To Open Next Year

The FOHBC Virtual Museum has already developed space and is building new galleries for Beers & Ales, Drug-gist & Drugstore bottles, Insulators, Lightning Rod Balls, Perfume, Scent & Cologne bottles, and Soda Pop.

98 Cures

When you look at our museum worksheet representing all galleries, you see 98 Cures in various stages of development. This is a relatively new gallery headed by Bob Jochums and Bruce Shephard.

\$83,953

If you look at the figural barrel to the right and the information below, you will see that the FOHBC Virtual Museum has raised \$83,953 as of this magazine printing. This total is not too far off the \$60,000 to \$80,000 estimated initially to develop the Virtual Museum. This number was presented to the FOHBC board ten or so years ago.

\$0

The FOHBC is entirely funded by donations and has never used money from the FOHBC general account. Your generous donations keep this multi-generation project going.

15 Team Members

The FOHBC Virtual Museum has a wonderful group of volunteers. This team includes, in alphabetical order, Terry Crislip, Alan DeMaison, Ron Hands, Bob Jochums, Eric McGuire, Ferdinand Meyer V, Gina Pellegrini, Bruce Shephard, and Richard Siri.

One Paid Consultant

Miguel Ruiz, working out of Almaty, Kazakhstan, is the museum's paid consultant. He is responsible for the technical website components and he keeps things running smoothly.



Please help us fill our Original Pocahontas Bitters bottle



Phase 1
Flask Filled
Dec. 2018



Phase 3

30k

25k

20k

15k

10k

5k



Phase 2
Jar Filled
Dec. 2021



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 \$83,953 to date. We have \$29,512 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

Fohbcvirtualmuseum.org

For gift information contact: Alan DeMaison, FOHBC Virtual Museum Treasurer,
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