



William Jennings Bryan 1896 Presidential Campaign Flask

Hello Elizabeth, I'm hoping the AB&GC readers can help me with information concerning a colorless, 5-9/16" William Jennings Bryan 1896 presidential campaign flask that I dug on July 16th last year. Attached are pictures of the bottle freshly dug and after a professional cleaning from my nephew, Michael Savastio.



The bottle is embossed: PURE / WHITE METAL SPIRITS / portrait of William Jennings Bryan (BRYAN) / FOR / FREE SILVER ONLY/ 16 TO 1 /. On the back is a portrait of his presidential running mate (SEWALL). The base is embossed TRADE MARK RECD / PAT AP FOR. The bottle has a ground screw top with a heavy lead pewter stopper in good condition.

In *American Bottles and Flasks and Their Ancestry* by Helen McKearin and Kenneth M. Wilson, an 1896 Bryan campaign flask, GI-126, is listed: Bryan bust and "IN SILVER WE TRUST / BRYAN 1896 SEWALL" - Eagle and "UNITED DEMOCRATIC TICKET / WE SHALL VOTE / 16 TO 1" Portrait Flask, America, circa 1896, in the form of a coin, tooled double-collared mouth - smooth base, height 5-1/8" (picture attached). The bottle is known in both amber and colorless. An amber version of this bottle, from the Timothy and Christine Hill collection, appeared in Heckler Auction 184, November 2019, lot 15, and was estimated to sell for between \$1,000 - \$2,000.

While my bottle does not list the 1896 date and does not reference the Democratic Party, it too is clearly an 1896 campaign

flask, as both Bryan and Sewall are pictured (and it's the only year they ran together).

Both flasks reference the same big issue during that election year: those who wanted to retain the gold standard versus those, like Bryan, who favored a switch to the silver standard to help alleviate the depression.

Some of the questions I'm looking for help with include: Why isn't my flask listed in McKearin's book? Is it because it's scarce and did not show up when McKearin was inventorying the catalog of bottles that made it into the book? Or does it somehow not qualify as meeting the standards for entry into the book? Why are there two 1896 Bryan campaign flasks? Was mine the first, and was it determined inadequate, so a second flask was designed and made in much greater numbers? How scarce is this bottle? Note that I did find a similar one listed online at a *USAmericana.com* auction. But that one was smaller, at 4-1/2" and had a cork top. Being colorless and not as old as the bottles American flasks collectors tend to covet, would this garner much interest at auction? I'm just curious; no plans to sell it!

Any information at all on this bottle will be appreciated! Please feel free to message me on Facebook, email me at johnsavastio@yahoo.com, or write a reply to the letters section of AB&GC. And yes, I plan to write a story about this bottle for a future issue of the magazine. Thank you.

John Savastio
Latham, New York

2022 Club & Membership Contest and Awards

Hi Ferd, Jack Klotz here. I recently searched the Nov/Dec. issue of the magazine for any news about the contest winners with no success. I must admit I was disappointed earlier to figure out I hadn't finished in one of the three categories since I had submitted five stories with at least one in each. Still, I was looking forward to attending the Reno 2022 banquet ceremony and cheering for whoever won. Unfortunately, that pesky little open heart surgery event sidelined my intended adventure. I was doubly disappointed then to come upon the same question asked by Susan Arthur of the IPBA under the FOHBC News section. You answered her question of what happened with a tame, "We tried our best to have club and membership awards, but, to our dismay, only a handful was submitted this year." I alone submitted a handful with one story for each finger, and I find it hard to believe Susan was the only other contestant.

Be that as it may, even if this was all you got, a courtesy email or notification of cancellation and the reasoning behind it to all who participated would have been appropriate. Unlike Susan, I have never won any award for my writing, mainly because I have entered a grand total of two contests. I was hoping to snag one

here, but my bigger-picture hope was to see who won and read some cool, if not great, stories! The bottom line is I feel ripped off all the way around. I'm sure others are disappointed, and the general membership missed out. So much for my rant about what has happened.

The next point is (your comment), "We are trying to figure out what to do as the dust has not yet settled from our recent convention." It looks simple to me, honor the contest! Even if only one person submitted, it should have been honored. This is not only my opinion but several friends much wiser and smarter than myself agree in stronger terms. I will continue to write and submit for publication because I enjoy sharing my 59 years of experience digging for bottles. My connection to the hobby by digging or writing is what fills my day. During my rehab from my surgery, I was unable to do either, and I realized how much more important to me it was to continue with both as best I can. All that said, I realize there are much more important issues and areas of importance to garner the majority of attention where the group is concerned. It just feels like the writers have been dumped on their heads. It's a small token of appreciation from the Federation, yet for some of us, a huge accomplishment to be proud of, no matter how often one is a "winner." I truly feel like a winner whenever I see one of my silly stories in print, knowing others may be enjoying them now and well into the future. Thanks for your understanding, as another writer must.

Jack Klotz
Hannibal, Missouri

[FM5] Hi Jack, nice to hear from you. I'm disappointed, too, as I'm the one that takes your fine articles and gives them life through design and layout. I am now preparing yet another Jack Klotz article for the next issue. Always front burner attention!

2022 was a crazy year for the FOHBC as we merged and redesigned the magazine, giving great respect and exposure to our writers, both old and new to the FOHBC, issued the Auction Price Report, greatly expanded the Virtual Museum, and had our Reno 2022 convention. We were also down to about seven or eight board members out of 19. Now we have a new president, and things are looking up. As it was, we lost the board member who headed up the contest process for the past decade. Of course, we were also coming out of COVID 19, which impacted our operations. I stated before that we had very few submittals from very few people, which would have exposed the sad situation. The world has changed. We understand your disappointment Jack, but with the past couple of Pandemic years putting a severe strain on our hobby, we focused on some bigger issues and unfortunately could not get everything done, but don't worry, we will.

The Federation plans to have a contest for 2022 or extend it from

2020 to 2023. The new leadership team is working this out. I cannot head up this component as I am working elsewhere.



Red Top Rye

Hello, My name is Edwin George White. Jack Sullivan recommended you as a trusted advisor pertaining to how to have a poster appraised. Our grandfather had Blondies Dew Drop Inn in New Lisbon, Wisconsin, prior to prohibition. There was a group of framed posters stored in the attic of the building. In the 1960s we brought them home and put them in storage and in the 1980s put almost all of them up for auction so the folks could use the money to fix up their house.

One poster in particular was a favorite of my mothers and it was the Red Top Rye poster. After she passed away my sister inherited it. We are now trying to find out how to get it appraised to benefit my sister's financial situation. Would you have a recommendation for an appraiser? Thank you for your time and advice.

Edwin George White
Orlando, Florida

2024 Houston National Antique Bottle & Glass Convention & Expo

Ferd, I see that the next Expo will be in Houston, and I have some suggestions: First, why not try something new, like a panel discussion on the antique bottle and glass hobby? The panel



Houston 24 working logo.

compelling? Third, ask/invite the insulator collectors to participate as dealers, exhibitors and displayers. Fourth, cajole some of the UK dealers to make the trip over and participate. Ok, those are a few ideas, more to follow.

Chris Hartz
Los Alamos, California

[FM5] Chris, these are wonderful ideas and precisely the things we want to do to make our convention more engaging, relevant, and one to remember.

About Anchor Hocking Royal Ruby Red glass bottles



Ruby red Schlitz beer bottle.

Hello, I am an architecture student at the Federal Institute of Technology Zürich. My colleague Tamara and I are researching red glass and its boundaries and possibilities in architecture. While researching the material, we found Cecil Munsey's article about Schlitz bottles published in 2003.

We became highly interested in the royal ruby red bottles of Anchor Hocking during the 1950s, as it is a very rare initiation to produce 50 million

bottles out of red glass. That is why we would like to learn more about how these bottles were produced on such a large scale. We want to find out what metal oxides are used in the glass mixture to achieve the color of red (maybe it is a foil) and which technique of form was used to produce these bottles (is it pressing or blowing etc.). We already contacted Anchor Hocking, and we tried to contact Cecil Munsey. Still, Anchor Hocking didn't have any information in their archives, and Cecil Munsey's email address seems invalid. Hence, we came upon your organization, and we are reaching out. We look forward to your response and thank you in advance for your time.

Burak and Tamara,
Zürich, Switzerland

[FOHBC] Burak and Tamara, sadly, Cecil Munsey passed away, and the keys to his vast website seem to have been lost and not passed on to any family members or anyone else in the hobby. We tried a few years ago as we set off to see if we could resurrect his website and access information but ran into a brick wall. We will post your letter in the magazine, hoping someone will come forward and answer your questions.

Rare Easton Pennsylvania bottle?



A. Bercaw Wines & Liquors flask.

Hi Ferdinand, West Point bottle guy Eric here. I came across this 'liquid sunshine' yellow 8" strap flask with a company I can find no info on. Slug plate embossing is crude and not centered. Reads: A. BERCAW WINES & LIQUORS EASTON PA. I was wondering if it's a scarce one? I found it in a thrift store just north of Philly. Was hoping you could forward this or post to help identify. Thanks for any help you can offer. Best regards,

Eric Richter
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Glass from the Tomb of Tutankhamun

Hello dear glass friend, *Glass from the Tomb of Tutankhamun*: In Celebration of the International Year of Glass and the Centennial of the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, Howard Carter famously exclaimed "everywhere the glint of gold" when describing the contents of the tomb of Tutankhamun. He could instead have said "the glint of glass," as the tomb also contained thousands of glass inlays and beads, as well as some of the most outstanding glass objects from Late Bronze Age Egypt.

Check out this outstanding production at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3mzvmuULo4>

Willy Van den Bossche
Schoten, Belgium

