

# 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.



## Note from Richard:

Almost daily, there is a new bottle placed in a museum. The first thing I do in the morning is to see if our museum team has placed another bottle in one of the galleries. I'm always looking forward to seeing what's new.

Of course, knowing about the museum gives me a heads-up about viewing the new additions. What needs to happen is for us to introduce the Virtual Museum to those who do not belong to the FOHBC or don't even collect bottles. I have gotten a few non-bottle collectors to view the museum, and everyone was very impressed with the website. I don't know if they became bottle collectors, but maybe a few did.

So make it a point to tell whomever to visit the museum. Besides the great bottles and glass, the catch could be the history and story that goes with them. That's always very interesting, and our research and write-up group does a great job with this component.

With the financial support we have been getting from donors, the museum is still free to visit. Hopefully, we will continue to maintain that support level of giving. We are getting close to offering a significant commercial donor the opportunity to sponsor a gallery. We need to show a complete gallery like Jars or Spirits to show a sponsor that it would warrant their investment.

## Recently Added

Since the last issue of the magazine, we added a couple dozen new examples to the Virtual Museum including a rare amber J. C. Buffum & Co. City Bottling House Pittsburgh, Pa. Hutchinson, a pint "Lafayette" (profile of Lafayette) jar, a pint GXV-25 "Old Rye" "Wheeling Va" lettered flask, a GXII-13 "Union" Clasp Hands "L F & Co" - Eagle and "Pittsburgh, Pa" historical flask, an extremely rare Drakes Plantation Bitters (5-Log variant) in green glass, a "Class of 1846" spirits or wine bottle, a dense, black-amethyst quilted Gablonz Target Ball, a super rare "Georgia Bitters" from Augusta, an outstanding labeled "Kellogg's Nelson County Extra Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey" fifth, a rare half-gallon "Favorite" jar, and a rare "The Denver" jar, a Fulton's Radical Remedy Sure Kidney Liver and Dyspepsia Cure, and a grouping of Wishart's Pine Tree Tar Cordial bottles to name a few.

## Annual Virtual Museum Team Meeting

A Zoom conference call occurred on January 17, 2023, from 10:00 to 11:30 am CST facilitated by Ferdinand Meyer V. The call was attended by Brian Bingham, Kathie Craig, Alan DeMaison, Richard Kramerich, Eric McGuire, Ferdinand & Elizabeth Meyer, Gina Pellegrini-Ott, Miguel Ruiz, Michael & Alice Seeli-

ger, Bruce Shephard, Doug Simms and Richard Siri. An abbreviated accounting of the meeting is noted below. You can read the full meeting minutes at [Member News](#) at FOHBC.org.

The Houston 24 Exhibition was discussed. Most of the conversation centered on this being the Virtual Museum's first exhibition which will parallel the actual exhibition at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, which will be the feature component of the FOHBC national event. This could be the most comprehensive grouping of great American bottles and glass in one setting ever. Two premier hair and barber bottle collections are also being displayed.

Alan DeMaison gave an overview of the VM accounting, expenses, fundraising, donor wall, bank account, etc. His latest report was projected. Artwork for Phase 4 using a Wishart's Pine Tree Tar Cordial bottle was presented. We have started to fill since we broke the \$90k Phase 3 threshold.

The latest VM floor plan was reviewed making specific note of galleries where we have been working of late and galleries that we have not started. Future 3D modeling of the museum was briefly discussed but will not start for a few years. The VM Google.docs master list of items in the museum was reviewed.

Miguel Ruiz gave an overview of website performance issues and monthly work. Short-term vs long-term projects were discussed. Miguel is working in several areas to improve the website's performance. Memory and storage space was previously increased and is sufficient. It was noted that there are very few, if any, websites trying to do what we're trying to do with the Virtual Museum and that there are many thousands of images. For example, each spinner has 36 images x 700 = 25,200. Each page has an average of eight supplemental support images x 700 = 5,600. This means we have at least 30,000 plus images. This does not include the website museum framework and all the graphics associated with the website.

Alan DeMaison, Gini Pellegrini-Ott and Eric McGuire gave an overview of their imaging progress and plans for 2023. Alan is proposing a Northeast trip planned for Tod von Mechow (sodas and beers) and Joan Cabaniss (poisons). He will also visit a local Ohio region collector to practice and start out our Soda Pop Gallery. Tom Pettit Atlanta trip mentioned. New files have been put into Dropbox. In future years, Gina could travel to Belgium, Germany and England to image some of the great collections. Eric was determined to move into creating spinners using his own technology and work process. He has many bottles of great interest to the museum and will keep everyone abreast of his progress.

Museum History, Research Library, Gift Shop and Marketing was discussed in depth.



Please help us  
fill our Phase 4  
Wishart's Pine  
Tree Tar Cordial  
bottle



Phase 4  
Medicine Bottle



Phase 1  
Flask Filled  
Dec. 2018



Phase 2  
Jar Filled  
Dec. 2021



Phase 3  
Barrel Filled  
Dec. 2022



Please help us in our Phase 4 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 \$91,800 to date. We have \$27,462 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 \$1,200 a month, we need help. Plus, we are now traveling to collections with the Pandemic hopefully behind us, so more 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](http://FOHBCVirtualMuseum.org)

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