



lots, Covill's and others (Joe Mathew's excellent *Teakettle Guide* for instance). Embossed or labelled bottles can be found by name (even by scant letters or monograms) but plain ones require separate headings that match Covill's: from 'Bell Shaped' to 'Umbrellas,' via 'Octangonals' and 'Teakettle Fountains.' Figural too, with entries for Barrels, Cottages, Shoes and Boots, Human Figures and more are scattered throughout.

Although I cover all the main companies, I haven't attempted to do a comprehensive American guide. Ed and Lucy Faulkner's *Inks*, which can legitimately claim to be the heir to Covill where American bottles are concerned, is the nearest to that. They very kindly printed me a copy of the 2017 edition which I was pleased to see used a similar method to order things. Great minds think alike! What I felt was needed was a book that centred on Britain and its old empire, but covered the rest of the world. In Covill's day

collecting bottles was far more restrained by country but not today.



With the advent of the Internet and online auctions, collecting has become international. Although there are blogs and forums there was nothing in the way of a comprehensive guide. It became clear to me that just confining the book to British bottles was not sufficient. It was necessary to discuss their similarity and confusion caused by bottles that were turning up all over the world but may not have originated in that country. The exporting of companies such as Staffords for instance, who had British bottles made over here, or of David's of New York who registered and ordered theirs from British potters, or Carr's who sold mostly for export to Australia.

I discuss the design. Confusion with perfumes and lamps; why a glue or type of ink needed a different shape; why the pens you used altered the bottles needed. The differences in bottle making are discussed under country headings: pontils and burst lips for instance. Where Covill did get things wrong was in assigning some bottles to USA. This is most apparent with teakettles and figural, many of which he thought American but are actually French. I have full listings for not only the fancy French makers like Maurin and Antoine & Fils, but also Dutch, German, Scandinavian and Eastern European bottles and more. My book concentrates on throw-away packaging: I do not include refillable inkwells and fancy ornamental teakettles that were sold empty. I have done the work on these too but that will have to wait for the next volume!

BBR aims to launch the book at the UK Summer National on the 1st and 2nd of July 2023. It will be some 440 pages, with a hardback, colour dust jacketed cover with colour images throughout. Priced at £100 but Alan Blakeman at BBR, handling the distribution, is offering a pre-publication price of just £80. Overseas postage will be calculated exactly once printed but collectors can pre order with a deposit of £20. Contact Alan: alan@onlinebbr.com.

