

FOHBC NEWS

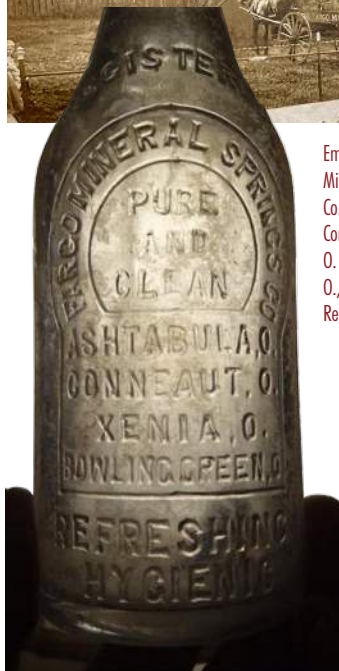
FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS



Fargo Mineral Springs Co. Xenia, O.

Hey...I bought this old image and thought maybe you could use it somewhere. Zoom in and check out all the bottles.

Martin D. Van Zant
Mooreville, Indiana



Embossed "Fargo Mineral Springs Co. Ashtabula, O. Conneaut, O. Xenia, O. Bowling Green, O., Pure and Clean Refreshing Hygienic."



Lafayette Flasks and Bottles

Hello Ferdinand—I have followed the continuing story of the Lafayette flasks with great interest. I was especially keen to see Ken Previtali's information on the Lafayette Mineral Springs Company of Derry, New Hampshire as I have never before seen bottles with the paper die-cut image of the General, or the promotional ginger ale glass. The Crystal Spring in Derry functioned as a producing mineral spring from at least 1825 up until 1925, but by

the turn of the century the Lafayette Bottling Company had shifted its primary production to carbonated sodas ("tonics" to many New Englanders!)

In the early 1920s, new owner, Adelard D. LeMay, moved the operation from Derry to the city of Manchester with the aim of serving the large Franco-American population there. In 1926, a bakery delivery driver named Antonio Jolicoeur bought the bottling plant with \$500 down, borrowed on a life insurance policy, and 16 years worth of monthly payments for a grand sum of \$3,800. Under the Jolicoeur family, the new Lafayette Beverages would become a major player in New England's soft-drink marketplace, growing and thriving as an independent bottler until selling to PepsiCo in the mid-1980s.

The Lafayette Beverage story is one of many profiled in my coming book, *Granite Fizz: The Untold Story of Spring Water and Flavored Tonics in New Hampshire*. Look for it in late spring on the Amazon/KDP platform. Regards,

Dennis Sasseville,
Bedford, New Hampshire

Zeus

I found the *Shards of Wisdom* article submitted by Willy Van den Bossche to be quite interesting. The concept of ranking a top seven of the most significant glass 'contributions' to the world is a rather monumental undertaking. It is sort of like the ultimate 'shootout' that we in the West like to play with at our national shows. Aside from the obvious scale of this worldwide undertaking, it seems the candidates cannot be fairly ranked in importance. They are all good. But, it is tempting to add another candidate for consideration. Admittedly, it no longer exists, however; there is enough evidence to know it was real.

One of the seven wonders of the ancient world was the monumental statue of Zeus, constructed by Phidias about 435 BC at Olympia, in Greece. Estimated to have been roughly 41 feet in height, it was made of a composite of materials including a wooden substructure covered with ivory plates, ebony, gold and precious stones. Much of his body consisted of the ivory plates, but, the most fantastic element of the statue had to be the immense robe that adorned the lower half of Zeus as he sat on his throne, which was made of glass panels, allegedly covered with gold. The demise of the statue is a topic of debate. It is believed to have been destroyed some time between 475 and 551 AD.

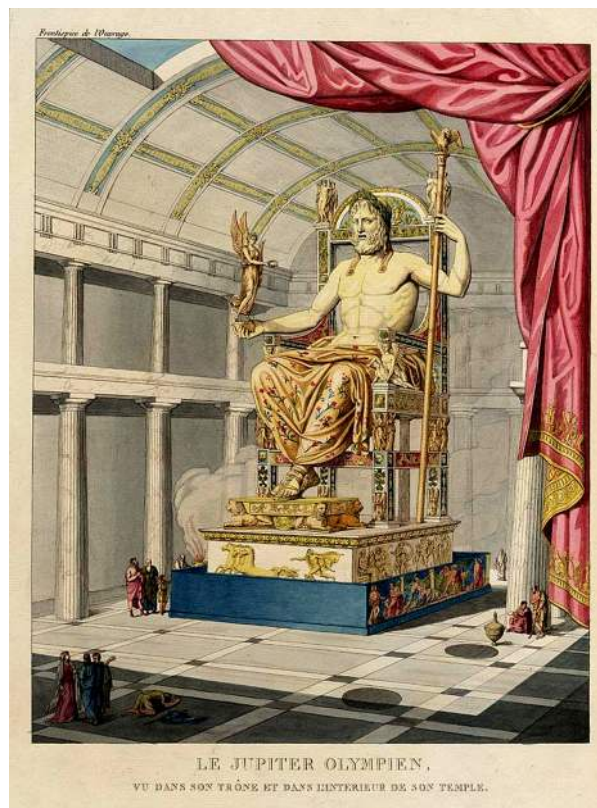
Phidias constructed a workshop nearby the site where the statue was located. The statue is, of course, long gone, but the site of his workshop still exists. It was archaeologically excavated by a German team between 1954 and 1956. The complex was a rather

large shop which included a ‘factory’ developed to manufacture the glass used in the statue. The excavations recovered a fairly large amount of glass at his workshop. These shards are currently on display at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, as well as in Berlin, Germany. Some of the glass molds are also on display at the Archaeological Museum in Olympia.

Eric McGuire
Petaluma, California



[Above] The glass shards from Phidias’ workshop don’t look very interesting but they represent what must have been a colossal work of art. Also noted are clay molds which created specific elements of the statue. Of note are parts of flowers incorporated into the statue scene. Some of the glass pieces precisely fit the molds.



[Above] One of a number of artist’s renderings of the colossal statue that was located in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. Most of the drawings began to appear in the 16th century, well after the demise of the statue, but were based on the scant eyewitness accounts and the early Greek coins.

[Left] Certain of the archaeological discoveries at Phidias’ workshop made their way back to Germany. This photograph shows a display of molds for forming glass into desired shapes including a glass shard in the form of folded fabric for the construction of the robe of Zeus. It is part of a display at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. Photo courtesy *The Workshop of Phidias*.



[Left] A typical pose of Zeus on a Greek coin minted about 350 BC. Several Greek coins depict Zeus in a similar style, which are thought to be designed after the great statue at Olympus. In his right hand is a statue of Nike and in his left hand is a staff comprised of lightning, topped by an eagle.

[Left] The ruins of Phidias’ workshop at Olympia, where the glass shards and molds were excavated. The workshop was approved for restoration in 2020, but I don’t think it has begun. Hopefully, more archaeological information will come to light with regard to the use of glass in the statue.



Figural Bear Bottles

Hello, I had received a black bear figural bottle as a lamp back in the 70s. It was painted white like a polar bear. Later in life when I started collecting bottles, I removed the paint to reveal its real beauty. It was black with purple swirls in the glass but was not see-through. The face was applied and it had a pontil scar on the pedestal base. It also had a collar with a heart pendant. Later, two year ago, I was able to locate its aqua sister. You have the same one pictured on your site (PeachridgeGlass.com). I believe they could be Russian vodka bottles. But the Kummel's are so much more stylistic. Could you educate me on these two bottles?

Tony Moller,
Malvern, Pennsylvania



Aqua face-applied bear.

[Editor] Yes, I collected various figural beer bottles over the years but honestly have not researched the bottles. I do remember once, when Norman Heckler Sr. gave me a tour of the Heckler house in Connecticut, seeing some amazing bear bottles in their kitchen window. The house was like a country museum of glass. I was wearing my Texas cowboy boots and every step I took the house, shelves and glass seemed to tremble with my boots contacting the wood floor. Or maybe I imagined this...I wish I would have focused more on the glass. Anyway, I'm asking one of our members if they would do some research and write an article on figural bear bottles. We would be more than glad to give you some space in an upcoming issue. Thank you.

More on Lafayette Flasks and Bottles

Thanks for including our Lafayette conversations in the latest magazine. That was a great article. As a follow up, I wanted to share a "small world" story. In researching Lafayette's travels, I came across Julien Icher, founder and president of The Lafayette Trail, Inc. (thelafayettetrail.org and lafayette2024.org). He also has a very well-developed YouTube channel and has produced 20 professional "*Follow the Frenchman*" videos documenting his visits to various states, tracing Lafayette's footsteps, giving presentations and planting markers. I called him and asked if he would be a resource for future Lafayette articles and we discussed the many Lafayette flasks commemorating his visits and Lafayette's travels through Alabama. He wasn't familiar with the Lafayette flasks. As we talked more, I told him my home was on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and this is where the "small world" kicks in. He told me he spent time working on a book at a

friend's house in Deal Island each year and would be staying there in a few weeks. It's 20 minutes from Dad's house and his Lafayette flask collection in Salisbury! So, here's Julien at Dad's house with his Lafayette flasks on 29 January. I know Julien enjoyed learning about another dimension of America's appreciation and recognition of Lafayette, and Dad certainly loved the opportunity to share.

Julien and I will meet when he comes to produce his Alabama video later this Summer. Regards,

Doug Simms
Prattville, Alabama



Julien & Dad.

Checking in from Deadwood

Hello Elizabeth, I hope everything is great in Houston. Thanks for all you do for the Fed and magazine and all! I sure like the Members Photos and Lost & Found. I'll email from my phone some of my photos as soon as I send this off. I'm glad Mike Dickman is doing the great ACL soda bottle articles. I'm back into that hobby and was in Tulsa when we reformed the old painted soda club. I collected these a lot as a teen. Lately I have bought up several hundred—but must slow down now! Tell Ferd the article on the 2022 Reno National was the best ever! Wow. That article needs to get out in antique mags etc...let people see how wonderful our hobby is and all the serious collectors. I've also talked with Craig Cassetta and I'm glad FOHBC interviews and the new YouTube channel are being done as we have a lot of old timers. The Youth Coordinator is fabulous too. So glad you guys are all so very involved!

James Campiglia,
Deadwood, South Dakota



James Campiglia (left) and Ralph Holibaugh.

