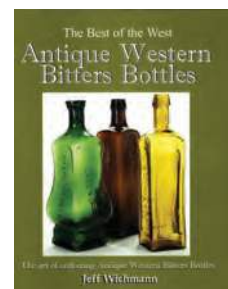


and agents for the products. Jeff Wichmann published *Antique Western Bitters Bottles—The Best of the West* (pictured) in 1999 and was instrumental in getting this Bitters collector hooked.

The work of Carlyn Ring in *For Bitters Only* (pictured left column), illustrated

by Diane Wheaton and published in 1980, combined accurate drawings of the bottles with their embossing with related material and introduced a catalog system for the bottles. Her publication helped Bitters become one of the most prized and collected categories of antique bottles.



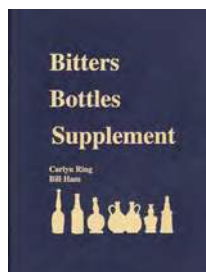
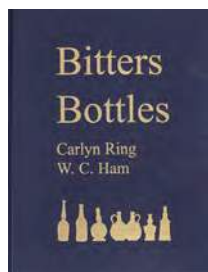
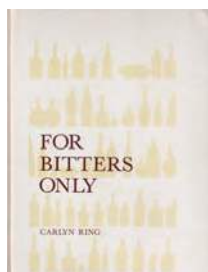
When *Bitters Bottles* (pictured) was published in 1998, Bill Ham thought it probably included all the various Bitters bottles up until that point. He was surprised when several unlisted Bitters bottles were brought to the *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector Extravaganza Show* at Valley Forge the Labor Day weekend in 1998 when the book was released. Collecting information for a supplement was started that weekend, and the first *Bitters Bottles Supplement* (pictured) was published in 2004. Since that publication, many more bottles have been discovered, and much more information has been found. This material resulted in *Bitters Bottles Supplement 2* or BBs2.

BBs2 was a monumental effort that included much work over many years. The 474-page hardcover book was meticulously cross-referenced and based primarily on Bill Ham's collected information and the Peachridge Glass database with 38,000 plus images and hundreds of files of obscure bitters. Besides new and updated bottles and advertising, there were color plate sections on rare bitters, bitters facsimile bank notes, postal covers, almanacs, shell cards and tokens. For ephemera, the great museum-destined archives of Dan Cowman, Joe Gourd and Ben Swanson, among others, were included. Additionally, the Index was redone to include all three books. Every documented Bitters ever produced and their makers were indexed.

Bill Ham closed out his Foreword in BBs2: "Future information and discoveries should now be sent to Ferdinand Meyer V, who will continue cataloging Bitters bottles and related material for possible future publications."

Work of this nature is never complete. Just as previous researchers stopped at some point and presented their work, we believe that the additional information found in BBs2 justifies ongoing archiving. There will be further discoveries, which we have set aside for *Bitters Bottles Supplement 3*. Whether this is a hard-bound or digital book is undetermined as time will tell us when is the next benchmark to publish.

I thank my wingman, Joe Gourd, who constantly sends and reviews new material for us Bitters collectors. If you have what you think is a new find or an interesting addition to BBs3, please send it to Ferdinand Meyer V at fmeyer@fmgdesign.com so it can be assessed and cataloged.



Bitters Bottles Supplement 3

by Ferdinand Meyer V

Collectors are deeply indebted to all who have worked on cataloging Bitters bottles, going back to Stephen van Rensselaer's original publications. The cataloging of Bitters as a separate category began with J. H. Thompson's *Bitters Bottles* (left), published in 1947. The work of Richard Watson in *Bitters Bottles* (right), published in 1965 with a supplement in 1968, was the first to include accurate drawings of the bottles with their embossing. This was followed by *It's a Bitters* (Volume 1 & 2) (left) by Jewell Umberger in 1969 and *1001 Bitters Bottles* by Ed Bartholomew in 1970. *Western Bitters* by Bill and Betty Wilson (pictured), also published in 1969, combined the cataloging of Western brands with historical information on the producers

