

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:

Alan DeMaison, our lead imager, is also the Museum treasurer. Did you know that the FOHBC Virtual Museum receives no monetary support from the FOHBC and survives on donations from members? This condition has been this way since we started the Museum in 2010. With Miguel Ruiz, the only paid person at the Museum, we need about \$18,000 a year to continue using his outstanding website technician services. This budget cost includes travel expenses for imaging collections, equipment costs, hardware, software, website hosting, storage, and applications to keep up with performance, regulations and security.

Without the Virtual Museum team (Alan, Eric McGuire, Ferdinand Meyer V, Gina Pellegrini-Ott, myself and others) donating their time, the cost could double or more. Remember, the Museum is an educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit; your donations are tax-deductible. When you provide a gift, your name will be listed permanently on our Donor Wall, which shows all levels of contributions. There is no question about the quality of the Museum—it's a head and shoulders above anything else in the antique bottle and glass world.

Alan is set to image poison bottles from the Joan Cabaniss collection and is looking for other collections in the Virginia area to image. He also sent another large group of early Beer and Soda Water spins for our growing Ales & Beers Gallery and the already robust Soda Water Gallery. These early specimens all came from the Tod von Mechow collection outside Philadelphia. [Editor Note: See page 22 of this issue for *Registering Bottles* by Tod] Also, we are seeking an imager in the Southeast if you are interested. Please get in touch with Alan or Ferdinand for specifics.

Remember to tell your friends and others about the Museum. After seeing what it's about, maybe they may develop an interest in antique bottles and history. Get the younger generations to check it out; they love the Internet.

New Druggist Gallery off to a Healthy Start

Our latest Museum gallery is for Druggist bottles and is located at the West Wing of Level 2. Druggist, pharmacy, drugstore or prescription bottles are closely connected to other types of medicinal bottles. Most of the many thousands of local druggists during the 19th and early 20th century typically concocted their medicinal compounds to sell from their stores utilizing proprietary druggist or prescription bottles, many in gorgeous glass colors, with their embossed name and address. There were likely tens of thousands of different embossed druggist bottles made between the 1870s and 1920s—the heyday of the proprietary druggist bottle. As of this writing, we already have 58 representative bottles in various stages of development or displayed in the Museum.

Poison Bottle Gallery

As noted previously, this gallery received a nice boost recently when we set the groundwork to visit with Joan Cabaniss and her poison bottles. Many collectors know Joan as one of the authorities on these types of bottles. Joan, for many years headed up the Antique Poison Bottle Collectors Association, which has now gone online on Facebook. These bottles are bound together because they were primarily intended for products, not internal human consumption. Content possibilities for some of the more generic bottles were virtually limitless. They included cleaning compounds, formaldehyde, insecticide or other pest chemicals, iodine, liniments, acids, embalming fluids, various antiseptic compounds, vaporizer substances, and many other substances known to be toxic to humans if ingested. We thank Joan, who contributed Rudy Kuhn's *Poison Bottle Workbook* to help with the research component and look forward to a strong relationship with collectors in this arena. You can find the Poison Gallery located at the northeast corner of Level 3.

Frequently Asked Questions

One "Rule of Thumb" we prescribe to is that whenever we are asked a question about the "Virtual Museum," we ask ourselves, "What would an actual museum do?" Let's test it out.

Q: Will there be a Gift Shop? **A:** Yes, there already is, but it is under construction. The shop will be located to the right of the Entrance Lobby on Level 1. **Q:** How will you have time to image and write up hundreds of thousands of bottles? **A:** Like any museum, we are not a library and strive to have representative antique bottle and glass examples and history from all collecting areas. **Q:** Will the Museum ever be finished? **A:** Museums are never finished. Some start as a room in a house, then fill a volume, then move to a floor in a building, eventually growing to have their own structure or grow even more significant to a collection of Museums, like the Smithsonian. Museums are constantly evolving and expanding. **Q:** Will the Museum include foreign bottles? **A:** It already does. Since the initial planning for the Museum, the effort has always been intended to be a global effort. Eventually, we plan to image collections in Great Britain, Germany, the Middle East, and Australia. Many 19th-century early American bottles were made in Europe and shipped to America. The second online Zoom Lecture was based on this topic. **Q:** I have a bottle; can it be imaged for the Museum? **A:** Indeed, if we do not already have an example. Many persons made appointments or dropped by the Virtual Museum imaging station at our Reno 2022 Convention and had their bottles imaged. **Q:** My bottle is not expensive, can it be in the Museum? **A:** Certainly, if the bottle is historically important and has a story, it's a prime candidate for inclusion. Hundreds of bottles are already in the Museum that fit this criteria. **Q:** How can I help? **A:** Besides financially, we need help researching, imaging, and for technical areas.



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10k

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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 \$93,368 to date. We have \$24,845 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

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