

LOST & FOUND



[Left] Jessica Vincent often stops by the Goodwill in Hanover County, Virginia, on her way home from work. On a regular afternoon in June, a colorful glass vase caught her eye. It was 13 inches and wrapped in burgundy and green brushstrokes. Then she saw the mark on the bottom: Murano. "It was so unusual. It had such quality. I knew it was a good piece of glass with the mark on the bottom," Vincent, 43, said. She paid \$3.99 for it, even though she was prepared to pay \$8.99 or more. "I knew it was coming home with me." The Carlo Scarpa Rare Pennellate vase sold for \$100,700 at a recent auction. — Wright Auctions

[Below group and bottle] This medium olive green "John Moffat New York Phoenix Bitters Price \$2.00" was part of a recent discovery in Kingston, New York. While renovating a historic home from the 1830s the woman pulled down a lathe and plaster ceiling and found a trove of objects that appear to be from the 1840-1870 period including many bottles. This example has not seen the light of day in close to 180 years. An old makeshift cork, possibly part of the paper wrapper, is in the mouth. The bottle is approximately half full of some type of black granular material. It was gently and easily cleaned with a bit of Windex, and the accumulated attic dust and soot was simply washed off. As noted in *Bitters Bottles Supplement 2*, very rare, and one of the most desirable of all the Phoenix Bitters molds. — American Glass Gallery and Peachridge Glass.



[Left] In artwork depicting the Napoleonic Wars, gunpowder often clouds the scene, but among the hundreds of troops, one figure is immediately recognizable as Napoleon Bonaparte. What makes the French emperor stand out from the other uniformed men on horseback? Naturally, his bicorne hat. Napoleon's penchant for croissant-shaped headwear made him one of the few historical figures who can be instantly identified by mere silhouette. His obsession with the headpiece drove him to accumulate an estimated 120 bicorne hats over his lifetime. On Sunday, an unidentified buyer put down 1.9 million euros—or about \$2.1 million—for one of them, largely surpassing its estimated high value of 800,000 euros. The cracked black beaver felt hat sold by the Osenat auction house in Fontainebleau is one of approximately 20 that remain from Napoleon's collection. The hat sold on Sunday was worn by Napoleon around 1810 as he established French hegemony over much of continental Europe. — *Daily Mail*, November 2023



[Left] For those who appreciate the finer tipples in life, a bottle of the world's "most sought-after Scotch whisky" sold for more than \$2.7 million Saturday (18 Nov. 2023) at Sotheby's in London. The Macallan 1926 is one of just 40 bottles drawn after ageing in sherry casks for 60 years, making it the oldest Macallan vintage ever produced, according to the auction house. Sotheby's had expected it to raise between \$934,274 and \$1.4 million, but were in for a shock when the prized bottle fetched a whopping \$2,724,967, making it a "new record for any bottle of spirits or wine sold at auction," the auction house told AFP news agency. — *Sotheby's London*.

[Below right] This interesting (and rare, I believe) Dr. Stiebel's Stomach Bitters bottle was dug by my digging partner Andrew Weber in an oyster pit in Galveston, Texas on the site of an old saloon. We both did a double-take when we saw the embossing as we expected it to be a Hostetter's. I'd love to hear if anyone has any idea where this bottle originated from. — Brandon DeWolfe



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Houston 24 Expo



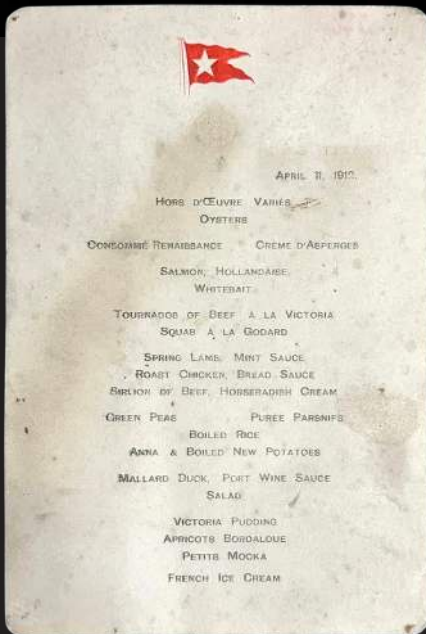
Read and see more in the
FOHBC Virtual Museum.



[Left] This incredible "Sphinx" bottle will be on display at Houston24. (Mortar and Pestle) "L S & CO" (monogram) "CHICAGO, ILL" - (Griffin) / (Front view of the Sphinx) (Human Headed Lion). The neck in the form of an Egyptian Obelisk and is covered with hieroglyphs as are other areas of the bottle. (unlisted), Illinois, ca. 1883 - 1885, medium amber, 12 1/4" h, smooth base, applied double collar mouth. — Hou24



[This Image] Researchers at New York University's Applied Mathematics Laboratory created clay models of the Great Sphinx that incorporated harder inclusions. The team washed the models with a fast stream of water to represent the wind and its erosion effects. — NYU's Applied Mathematics Laboratory



[Left] A rare first-class menu from the *Titanic* sold for over \$100,000 when it went on sale in November 2023 in an auction of memorabilia associated with the ill-fated ocean liner. The salvaged and heavily water-stained menu details the first dinner on board after the *Titanic* set sail from Queenstown, Belfast, and reveals the opulence that the ship's first-class passengers would have experienced. Dinner options on the night of 11 April 1912 included oysters, salmon, beef tornadoes, sirloin of beef (with horseradish cream), spring lamb, duck, with desserts including apricot Bordaloque (a type of tart), Victoria pudding and French ice cream. — Henry Aldridge & Son, UK



[Above] Have you ever wondered what the favorite "M&M" candy initials stand for? The initials stand for Mars and Murrie. The son of the Mars company founder, Forrest Mars Sr., spotted British soldiers eating Smarties in the 1930s during the Spanish Civil War. The sugar-coated chocolate inspired him to invent M&Ms, which received a patent in 1941. Mars is responsible for the first M in the initials. The second M, Murrie, comes from Bruce Murrie—the son of Hershey's Chocolate president William F. R. Murrie. He had a 20% share in the product, and Hershey's chocolate was used to make the original product. M&Ms were actually once used to feed soldiers during World War II.

[Bottom Right] Along the Maryland—Pennsylvania border, a volunteer group of surveyors is racing to save the stones—and the story—of the Mason-Dixon Line. 18th-century Englishmen Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon placed the monuments at one-mile intervals along the border line that now bears their names. About two dozen Maryland and Pennsylvania surveyors volunteered to locate and document these aging landmarks embedded in the ground over two centuries ago. Some have been replaced, a few are missing. They wear the scars of time, weather, neglect, and maltreatment—accidental or intentional. Monuments have been buried, broken off, tipped over, plowed under, shot at, stolen, dumped, defaced by souvenir hunters, and repurposed as church steps, curb stones, platforms for mounting horses, and building blocks for farmhouses and barns. — *Popular Mechanics*

