

FOHBC NEWS

FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS



Nicholas Longworth and his Catawba Wine Bitters

Hi Ferdinand, as a serious collector of Rookwood Pottery, I greatly enjoyed the Nicholas Longworth (Catawba Wine Bitters) article. It was through his great wealth and progressive ideas that Cincinnati became the Queen City—and allowed his granddaughter Maria Longworth Nichols to establish Rookwood Art Pottery in 1880 becoming one of the first female owners of a manufacturing company in America. An interesting aside...the illustration of Nicholas Longworth on page 14 is a life portrait of him...humbly showing reminder notes safety pinned to his left sleeve as he was famously forgetful. I believe this portrait currently resides in the Taft Museum located in his former residence in Cincinnati. Job well done! The monster crock in the photo background is the largest (60 gallon) one made by Western Stoneware Co., Monmouth, Illinois. It is a great storage container! With contents it would weigh over 700 pounds.

Jerry McCann
Chicago, Illinois

I started it a week ago and I'm very pleased with how it looks. I am hoping that you will take a look at it at least once and maybe drop in a comment about what you think of it! I would really appreciate the support of everyone whom I have reached out to in this email! By the way, I have set up this site to be completely ad-free, so you will only see what I have created. I hope you will like the site enough to come back to it often and to share it with your friends!

Andy Rapoza
Conroe, Texas

More on Tom & Mabel Hicks

Responding to Ralph Finch's terrific article, about Tom and Mabel Hicks, in the January-February edition of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, I give some of my thoughts and memories.

Tom grew up in Autauga County, Alabama, and got his B.S. degree from Auburn University. He worked for the Georgia Wildlife Service as a Wildlife Biologist for most of his adult life and lived for many years on Rabbitskip Road, just South of Eatonton, Georgia.

I first met Tom and Mabel at the Southeast Bottle Club's show at the Community Center in Decatur, Georgia, in April of 1987. It was there that I first met the Hewitt family, Butch Alley, Faye and Larry Witcher, and many folks who became my "bottle collecting family." At that time, many shows urged dealers to exhibit some of their collectibles and Tom won "Best In Show" for his glass Christmas lights. I remember how good the food was—it was specially prepared by Faye Witcher, Debbie Alley, and other wives of the club members.

Another favorite memory is of the year Tom and I went to, and set up at, the fabulous Baltimore show, back when there was a waiting list for sales tables. Our location was right behind Jim and Janice Hagenbuch, so I had a great time getting to know them. I never went on any of their trips to England, so I'm glad Ralph covered that era well. Besides Baltimore, my wife, Joyce, and I either met or went with Mabel and Tom to many other shows, many thanks to all who have been, or are now, chairpersons of these wonderful shows. I've learned through the years that the friendships that are made through this hobby far outweigh the money that is either made or lost.

As most of us know, Tom could talk almost non-stop about many things—including his vast knowledge of antique glass or pottery. His collection was significant, and much of it is still on display at his and Mabel's home. He began to dig when he was assigned to the Darien, Georgia area, and later spent time searching and digging there, in Savannah with Tommy Mitchener and others, and Grant Park with Bobby Hinely, John Joiner, Jim Sanders, et al. In recent years Joyce and I would often meet them for lunch,



60-gallon crock
made by Western
Stoneware Co. See
Member Photos this
issue.

Rookwood
butterfly vase.

Promising Cures

Dear friends, now that my book is published and I have completed my speaking engagements for 2023, I have embarked on the next phase of my plan: creating a website where I can write short stories and the results of my ongoing research. To that end, I have created a website with a blog: promisingcures.com

either in Eatonton, or in nearby Madison. I considered Tom my best friend, and I miss him greatly.

I would take this opportunity to thank EVERYONE who now works, or has worked, to make our hobby so wonderful. I especially thank Ferd V, Elizabeth, Michael, John (three of you), Bill (two of you), and others too numerous to mention. Respectfully,

Bill Johnson
Snellville, Georgia

The Weirdness of Glass Article

Just a note to express my enthusiasm for the article by Bruce Resnick in the Jan-Feb edition of AB&GC on the “*Weirdness of Glass*.” As an employee of Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in the late 1950s, writing articles for their plant newspapers, I have always been impressed with the many faceted qualities of glass. For collectors, I recommend, even if just once, touring a real glass factory making bottles and glassware, just to watch the molten glass rolling from the ovens. Boutique glassblowing shops are interesting. Seeing a red hot sea of liquified glass up close is a mind-blowing experience.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria, Virginia

A Puce Eagle Tale

Happy New Year. I read with interest Mr. Weiner’s article “*A Puce Eagle Tale*” as I have recently discovered where the old outhouse was on my property. It is brick lined and I wanted to ask him how one would go about digging it out. I have been collecting bottles and glass for years and enjoy your efforts with the FOHBC magazine! Would appreciate any help you can provide.

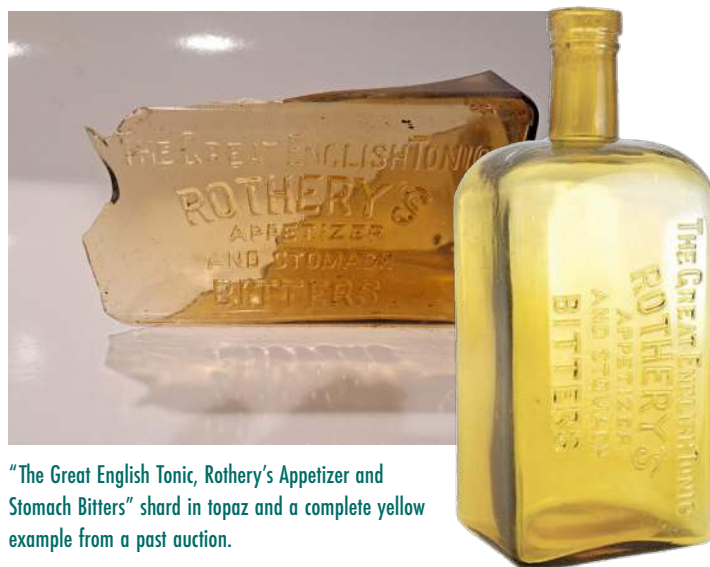
Elizabeth Hower
York Spring, Pennsylvania

Rothery’s Bitters Shard

Back, maybe three or four years ago, I visited Jim Healy with Adam Koch. I was so impressed with a dug shard I saw with the embossing “The Great English Tonic, Rothery’s Appetizer and Stomach Bitters.” I thought that someday it would make for an interesting addition to the Virtual Museum.

Alan DeMaison
(chief VM imager)
Painesville, Ohio

[Editor] It certainly would. This brand is listed as R 104 in *Bitters Bottles* and is rare in amber. It is found in two molds. The straw yellow and yellow glass is extremely rare. We will certainly add to the Virtual Museum Bitters Gallery. I have added an image of a yellow example to accompany your topaz shard.



“The Great English Tonic, Rothery’s Appetizer and Stomach Bitters” shard in topaz and a complete yellow example from a past auction.

Pre-prohibition glass ceramic-lidded beer stein

Can you include this in an upcoming issue of our AB&GC magazine? I recently came across this example of a pre-prohibition glass ceramic-lidded beer stein. I am currently conducting local research and I have reached out to others to determine if there are similar examples from other areas. None western so far. I have seen others on eBay, and Paul Van Vactor (Louisville) reports that over the years he has seen others from the midwest (Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, etc.) I am thinking about a magazine article in the future, but would like to include photos. Would any readers who have examples send me high resolution photos of similar 6” steins for the article? Here is my email address: foabbott@comcast.net

Steve Abbott
Sacramento, California

“Capitol Hotel Grill” painted white ceramic lid and handled glass beer stein.

