

FOHBC NEWS

FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS



John & Mary Wolf

The story on John and Mary Wolf in the March–April 2024 edition of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* was excellent, a fitting tribute to the recently deceased John Wolf whom I met over 40 years ago and who jump-started my own interest in collecting “cures.” As noted in the article, John was a legend and without question the most knowledgeable collector of cure bottles since another legend, from an older generation, Bill Agee. John was passionate about his “goodies” but never self-assuming—always a soft-spoken, unpretentious, quality human being. When my wife Coleen and I visited John and Mary in Dayton many years ago we were amazed at their museum-like home, filled with countless antique treasures but highlighted by the largest collection of 19th-century “cures” known to man.

John was a former physician like myself, but we never talked clinical medicine. Our deep bond was as collectors and I feel very grateful to have known him. Fortunately, his massive collection of 2,000 cures is in the good hands of his close friends, Dann and Sue Louis who are cataloging the John Wolf collection and writing a book about it. Perhaps its publication will generate a new wave of enthusiastic “Cure” collectors.

Bruce Shephard
Tampa, Florida

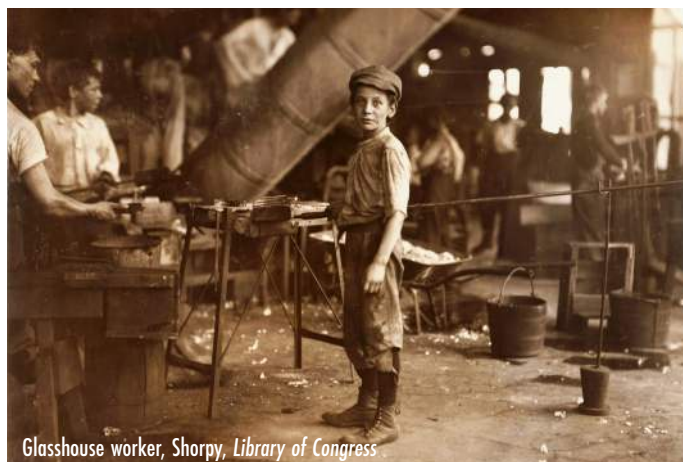
Historical Fiction for Kids

Dear Ferdinand: I write historical fiction for kids and my current project is a historical novel that features two young teenagers working in the glass industry. The book has two timelines and two points-of-view (POV). I am creating two fictional glass factories based on material I have gleaned from Adeline Pepper’s book *The Glass Gaffers of New Jersey* as well as from online resources. My main character, Andrew Dinsmore, lives in South Jersey in 1893. He wants to be a gaffer—but as you know, gaffer jobs usually went to the boss’s relatives. (Good novels are built on conflict and tension!) The company house that Andrew lives in used to be a barn. Andrew discovers glass whimsies and notes in a wall near where he sleeps. It turns out that the whimsies were made by a boy, Noah Wheeler, who lived 125 years ago (the second POV and timeline). As Andrew gets to know Noah’s struggles (the Revolutionary War!) and triumphs (meeting Ben Franklin!) he will grow in determination to make his dreams come true. I am writing to you because although I have found a lot of information about child labor in glass factories at the end of the 19th century, (Lewis Hines’ book on child labor is on my shelf) there is not much about apprentices and/or indentured servants working in the glass houses during the colonial period. I am reaching out to you in hopes that you, or someone you know, may know more about this time period. I would love to see an image of the inside of a colonial glass “factory”—if a drawing

like that exists. I appreciated your blog post, “*Singing Along at Dyottville Glass Works*.” Likewise,

I appreciated your sharing information and images in “*Glass Works and Glass Factories*” and “*Boys in Glass Houses*.” I am reading *River Chronicles I* and the archaeological dig near Philadelphia is a great source of information—but was trying to find more information or images. From your studies, what would the interior of a glass house in New Jersey or Philadelphia around 1776 look like? I’m trying to picture the type of furnace that would have been used, etc. I’m guessing that the jobs of carrying-in boys didn’t change a lot from 1776 to 1893—what do you think? I have written about Paul Stankard for several magazines as well as about Dale Chihuly and some North Carolina glass artists. I live in Charlotte, N.C. but am from South Jersey. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Baldwin
Charlotte, North Carolina



BBR makes it to Mount Everest!

Alan Blakeman, publisher of *British Bottle Review* in the UK, sends in this great picture from Mount Everest.





Facsimile
example.

Houston 24 Drakes Plantation Bitters News

A limited run (100 to 200 pieces) of hand-blown, pontiled, cobalt blue Drakes Plantation Bitters commemorative bottles will be produced and sold at Houston 24 to celebrate the FOHBC Houston 2024 National Antique Bottle & Glass Exposition.

The FOHBC is planning a one-time-run using the private mold. The eventual retail cost is projected to be \$150 to \$300 a piece. The commemorative bottles will be on sale at the FOHBC Houston 24 tables at Hotel ZaZa. First come, first serve. Limit, one per FOHBC membership. Two sapphire blue pontiled examples will

be blown (one for raffle and the other for the Sunset Auction). The Drakes Plantation Bitters component is headed up by Michael Craig and Michael Seeliger. No advance reservations or sales. Pictures of the process at FOHBC.org



Drakes Plantation
Bitters mold
by Federation
member Michael
Craig.

More on Bottle Transportation

Ferdinand: In response the “Jerry Box” article last issue please see the attached image of a black pelican case that is carry-on size. I typically do a single wrap of bubble wrap on each bottle, then place it in there; key is to make sure it is packed full and nothing is shifting. No issues ever getting this through security full of bottles (empty of course). Typically they don’t even search it—when they do it’s usually because there is some sort



of clear “leaded” glass that the x-ray machine can’t see through. I’ve made many trips flying from New Hampshire to Texas carrying a couple of these just loaded with bottles. There are cheaper versions of these as well from other manufacturers.

The other case is something many folks in Texas transport bottles in and it is put together by Wayne Fulks. He does them in a couple different sizes and they are pretty much bombproof. Perfect, especially for sodas. Best Regards,

Brandon DeWolfe
Spring, Texas



Clear & Aqua but Uncommonly Colorful Webinar #11

Ferd & Mike, thanks so much for taking a risk and letting me talk about “plain” bottles. It was my first-ever talk to fellow bottle collectors and I really wasn’t sure how it would go over, but I was delighted by their enthusiastic responses and questions. This is truly a great hobby where people can enjoy and be supportive of fellow members who enjoy different facets of collecting bottles. A note from Terry Lindblom came to my website within an hour of the presentation. What I thought would be an especially happy note is that he is now seriously considering coming to Houston 2024. You just never know what’s going to be the trigger for someone, but I’m glad I might have helped nudge someone in this direction. Again, thanks for the opportunity.

Andy Rapoza
Conroe, Texas

