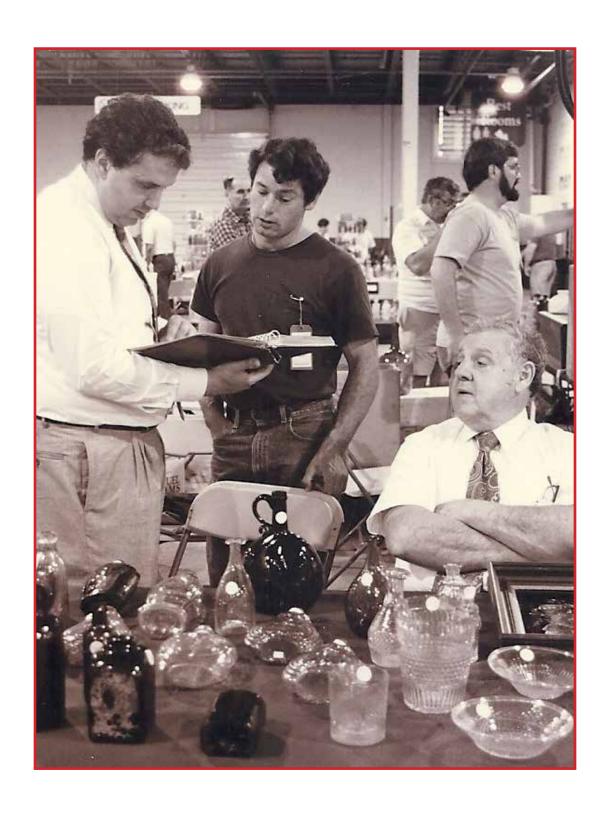


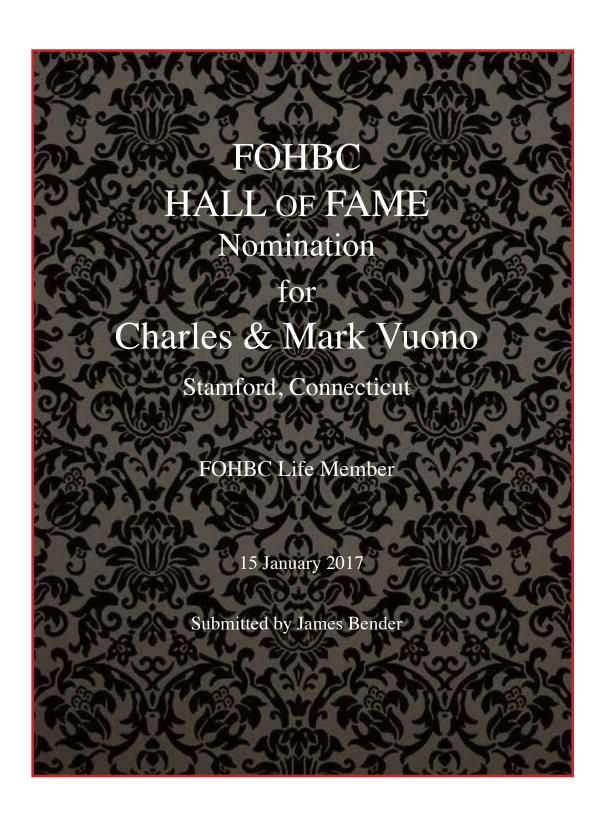
#### FOHBC HALL OF FAME

Nomination for

### Charles & Mark Vuono

Stamford, Connecticut









Jim Bender FOHBC FOHBC Historian PO Box 162 Sprakers, NY 12166 518.673.8833 iim1@frontiernet.net

30 January 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles & Mark Vuono

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Dear FOHBC Board Members.

With great privilege, I would like to thank you all for considering Charles and Mark Vuono for the FOHBC Hall of Fame.

The name Vuono is a well-known name today in the world of bottle collecting. I have been lucky enough to be friends with Mark Vuono for some time now. One thing that Mark will be quick to tell you is that since the year 2000, he has been the one to watch over and build up the family collection. Mark believes the collection is the family collection, not just his.

Mark's father, Charlie, was the founder and backbone of the collection. I met Charlie once as a young man in my teens. I was looking at a flask at a bottle show and he stopped to tell me about the bottle. I had no idea who he was at the time. He treated me as an adult and would nod his head and say hi to me if our paths ever crossed. Charlie was a teacher by trade and continued teaching young people, even after he left the school system. Charlie was the founder of the now famous Vuono flask collection. Charlie taught Mark all about the molds and how to tell what was rare and what was not. This is something that Mark does with his sons as well as anyone who is interested. I will go on record as saying he is the most knowledgeable person in the world today on flask molds.

Today, most people relate the name Vuono with Mark. Since his dad's passing in 2000, Mark has watched over the family collection and added hundreds of flasks to the collection. Currently, it is what I believe to be the greatest flask collection ever assembled and I believe there will never be another one of this caliber again. This is more than a collection; it is a legacy.

Many world record flasks sit in the collection but they are not there as a world record but as a rare mold as the Vuono flask collection has been collected by mold numbers. This is the only collection of flasks by mold numbers in the world and has taken close to 60 years to get it to where it is today. Two men have spent the better parts of their lives building this amazing collection which is shared with anyone who respects it and the home that houses it.

Mark carries on not only the collecting, but the teaching as well. Mark loves to share his knowledge with everyone. He writes many articles for the magazine *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*. You can ask Mark a question any time about a flask and you will get an honest answer. Mark is a life member of the FOHBC and supports it in any way he can.

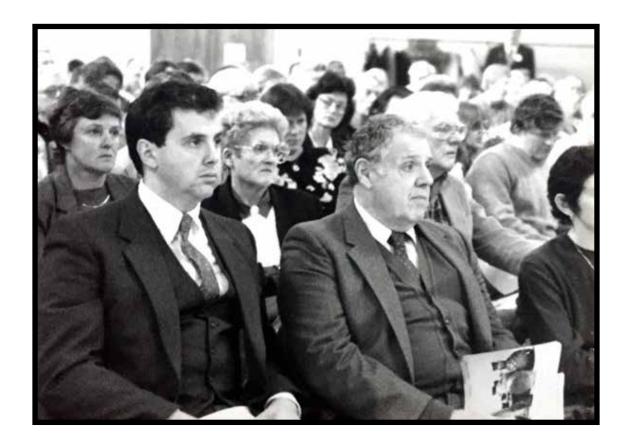
Both these men belong in the Hall of Fame. I know one would not want to be there without the other. This truly is collecting at its best and I don't mean the bottles. Both father and son sharing a love of something so much it will carry on for generations.

It must be noted that Andrew Vuono is seen at almost every show with his father Mark. We can all hope that collection continues on for another 50 plus years in Andrew's hands.

Please support me with this nomination of a father and son team. This is a fitting tribute to two true legends of our hobby.

Jim Bender FOHBC Historian

FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Co-Chair



Seated at auction, catalog in hand, eager with anticipation...
- Mark & Charles Vuono



Mark Vuono poses with Jim Bender

# Mark & Charles Vuono Accomplishments

Of course when anyone would ask what Mark and Charlie Vuono's biggest accomplishments have been, the number one answer would be that they together built the best-ever collection of American-made historical flasks in the world. Their collection has taken well over a half century to build to what it is today.

But what they have done goes way beyond a bottle collection. Charlie started the family legacy years ago by sharing what knowledge he had with whomever he could. I myself as a teenager was told things by Charlie. Keep in mind I did not have to ask him as he stopped and talked to me out of kindness and wanting to teach. Mark has carried on this tradition for years. Mark will share everything he knows about bottles whenever he is asked.

Mark has written numerous articles about flasks over the years with many of them having photos from the family collection. It should be noted that they rarely note that a bottle is from their collection when they are referencing an example. Mark and Charlie have never been self promoters. They are both very humble people who chose to share what they have. Looking in Marks guest book at his house, you will see hundreds of people who have viewed the collection. The only question I have ever heard him ask at the end of the day is, "what is your favorite bottle?"

Being long time members of the Connecticut Bottle Club their home has been open to Club tours.

Mark and Charlie have always known that sharing knowledge is what keeps the hobby going. If all our knowledge and experiences pass on with us there is be no future for the hobby.

If you look at McKearins book of glass in the flask section you will see where certain bottles are have initials by them. CV is attributed to Charlie Vuono. Whenever Charlie would find a new mold or color he would contact Helen McKearin to update her.

One of the families proudest moments came in 1999 when Mark and Charlie were asked by the Corning Museum to supply bottles for an American postage stamp. They both were so proud. I don't blame them, how many people do you know who have their bottles on an official United States postage stamp? Charlie supplied the green "Hearts and Flowers" flask and Mark supplied the blue blown Three Mold Decanter.

For over 40 years, Mark with help from his dad, has gathered information to write a new up-to-date historical flask book. They have found over forty new molds and many new colors of currently listed molds. We can only hope that Mark can finish the project. It surly will become the king of the flask books.

But to end the accomplishments page I would like to say one of life's biggest accomplishments is the bonding of a father and son that is so deep that the son carries on where the father leaves off. I cannot even imagine the hours they spent together enjoying the hobby and each other. Even today, many times you will hear Mark refer to the collection as my father's bottles or the family bottles. I have yet to hear him say "my bottles." Charlie should be very proud of the son he raised.

Jim Bender FOHBC Historian



Mark and Charles Vuono

### Mark Vuono

It is very rare that someone would start any type of endeavor as a child and maintain the same passion throughout his life. Work, family, and other interests typically distract from that focus and the initial spark that started that passion will either dim or go out completely. It is with great pleasure that this was not the case with Mark Vuono.

Since the age of nine, Mark Vuono, has maintained a laser focus on assembling the finest collection of American historical and pictorial flasks and blown three mold glass. Under the tutelage of his late father Charles Vuono, himself a collector, Mark has maintained the passion of collecting throughout his life. In fact, his father Charles would often refer to him as the "eyes" of their collection, he would never leave any stone unturned in his pursuit of a bottle. With his bible in hand (American Bottles and Flasks and their Ancestry by McKearin/Wilson) the spark of collecting has never dimmed for him. As a matter of fact, his mother Grace Vuono, would often tell stories of how Mark, as a little boy, would often fall asleep at night with the first version of that book (American Glass by George and Helen McKearin) sitting by him. She would often refer to it as his bible! His encyclopedic knowledge of McKearin numbers and mold rarity has become the stuff of legend.

His passion for knowledge and collecting continues to shine more brightly than ever before. There are countless stories of him and his father Charles Vuono driving all throughout the eastern and mid-western United States hunting down a flask mold needed to complete a grouping or attending small farm auctions far from their home. Of course this was long before the benefit of email and the Internet! Come hell or high water (literally as was the case of the Swank auction of the early 1970s) there was nothing that was going to stop them.

Mark is not only a collector of American flasks and blown three mold but more importantly a student. Even after collecting for almost six decades he has never stopped learning and anticipates with great excitement bottle news and mold discoveries. Throughout his collecting career he has always maintained a humble demeanor in his quest for knowledge for all things bottles. He has always been a student first and a collector second. It is said that one of the greatest rewards a student can obtain is to become the teacher, and that is why it is such an honor for Mark Vuono to be nominated to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame.

Through countless articles and stories, Mark has tried to share any knowledge he has with both the advanced and neophyte collector. As a young man he would often tell stories of how much he was influenced and inspired by some of the greats such as Charlie Gardner, Ed Blaske and most importantly his father Charles Vuono. He has made it his endeavor to inspire all collectors of American glass the way they inspired him.

Most importantly he has often stated that the only thing more important than collecting bottles is collecting the friendships and memories along the way. His collection of people is what drives him to pass on this knowledge. It is without a doubt that his body of knowledge and passion for American glass will continue to inspire for many years to come through the countless articles he has written and the stories he has told. This is why it is such an honor for him to be nominated to the FOHBC Hall of Fame. To be recognized by the Federation for a lifetime of contribution to the pursuit of knowledge and collecting of bottles is a humbling achievement and truly an honor.

## Charles H. Vuono

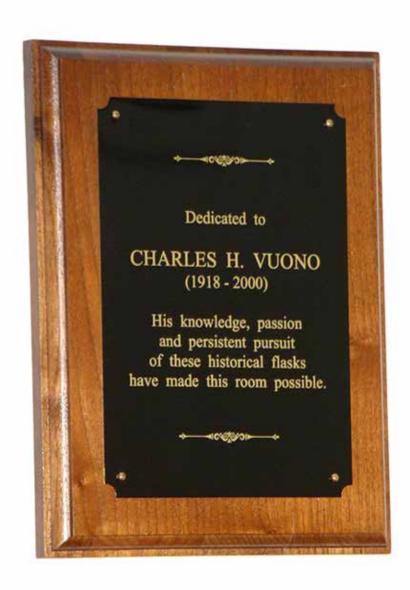
It was while driving on a country road in rural Vermont with his young family that Charles Vuono's life would forever be changed. It was August of 1958 on the last day of a family vacation when his wife Grace asked to stop at a little antique shop. It would be her passion for antiques that would light the spark in him to collect American historical and pictorial flasks. His passion being gardening at the time, he would wait patiently outside enjoying the views while she perused the small antique shops that dotted the country roads. Finally, on this occasion, after a period of time he grew impatient and decided to enter the shop to see what she found so fascinating. Upon entering he saw a display case filled with bottles. Being a history teacher he became intrigued by a bottle with masonic symbols on it and then a bottle in the window in the shape of an Indian queen. It was this innocuous encounter that would drastically change the course of his life.

Grace would have colored bottles and flasks displayed in the windows of their home and a few weeks later there was an antique show in White Plains, NY. She asked him, "why don't you come down to the fall show with me? There's a little white haired gentleman who always displays some beautiful bottles. They're expensive but you don't have to buy them but you can learn about them". That "white haired gentleman" turned out to be George McKearin, and unfortunately he did not take her advice! Eventually he was able to obtain the monumental book written by George McKearin and his daughter Helen, *American Glass*, and his bottle collecting career began in earnest soon after.

He soon began to subscribe to different antique magazines and slowly but surely began to build a working knowledge about bottles and flasks. However, it was not until two years later while on another summer vacation in Vermont with his family that "Charlie" stopped in a little antique shop in Westminster, VT that he purchased his first flasks. It was a GII-61 Willington quart eagle flask in a deep red amber color and a GII-79 Stoddard eagle flask in an olive amber color. He paid nine dollars for both, there was no turning back. Though having a genuinely gentle demeanor, it was quite the opposite when it came to collecting bottles and flasks. He became relentless in his quest for knowledge about these flasks and how to obtain them. He began to correspond with and view the collections of other pioneering and legendary collectors and dealers, including George Austin, Sam Laidacker, Dick Wood, Gerald Patton, Charlie Gardner and Helen McKearin herself.

Out of all the people he began to build bottle relationships with, the most important of all he already knew. It was his son Mark. As a little boy Mark was inspired by his father's passion for bottles and flasks and began to tag along wherever he went. He became just as passionate as his father and as a little boy of nine years old became inspired to collect bottles and flasks under his father's tutelage. They would travel many miles for many years together going to auctions and shows far from their home in search of that next great discovery to add to their collection. Their relationship became as unique as the bottles they collected, more important than any bottle they could possibly add to their collection. Their passion for flasks as well as the wonderful friendships and relationships collected along the way is what this story is really about.

Out of the countless hours spent and thousands of miles traveled in pursuit of these flasks, one of the greatest honors Charles Vuono received, along with his son Mark, was for one of their bottles to be featured on a United States postage stamp. Those bottles were the GIX-51 "Hearts and Flowers" scroll flask in deep emerald green that Charles bought for his wife Grace, and a GII-7 blown three mold decanter in sapphire blue, that Mark purchased for his wife Annie. It was a beautiful tribute in the sunset of his life. I'm sure if he was alive today, being nominated to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame would mean even more, to know that he can inspire the next generation of great collectors for many years to come.



This plaque hangs in Mark's upstairs bottle room. It is a reference of love and respect for his father Charlie who started it all. Never again will a collection of flasks of this quality and quantity ever be assembled.

#### **Banquet Lecture**

#### EDUCATION AND SHARING ARE THE KEYS TO GREAT COLLECTING!

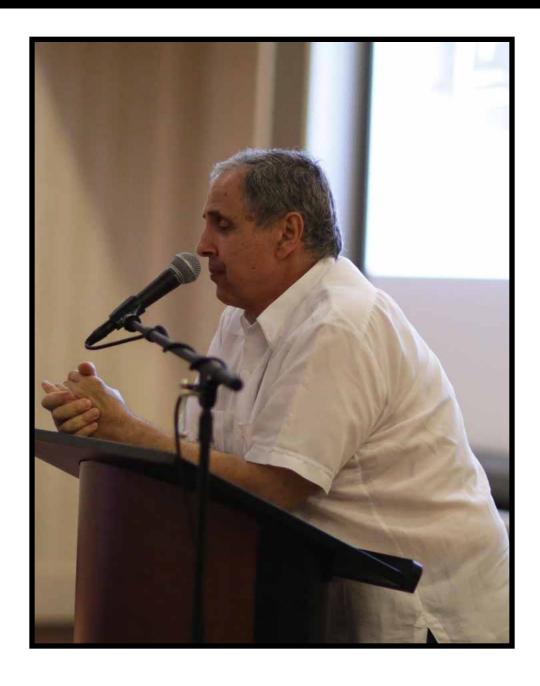
Mark Vuono was born and raised in Stamford, CT where he still resides with his lovely wife Annie. They have two sons, Andrew and David. Mark was subjected to bottle collecting at the early age of nine as his father was the legendary



pioneer flask collector Charles Vuono. Mark recalls the first two flasks his dad purchased were a quart Stoddard eagle and a quart Willington flask which are still contained in the collection. During his dad's tenure as a premier collector, Mark was fascinated by the flasks and studied all the mold variations and their different colors, recording all of the examples in the family's collection. Mark and Andrew continue collecting together making the collection a third generation collection. David is quite interested in the collection as well and has captured each flask in a professional photograph.

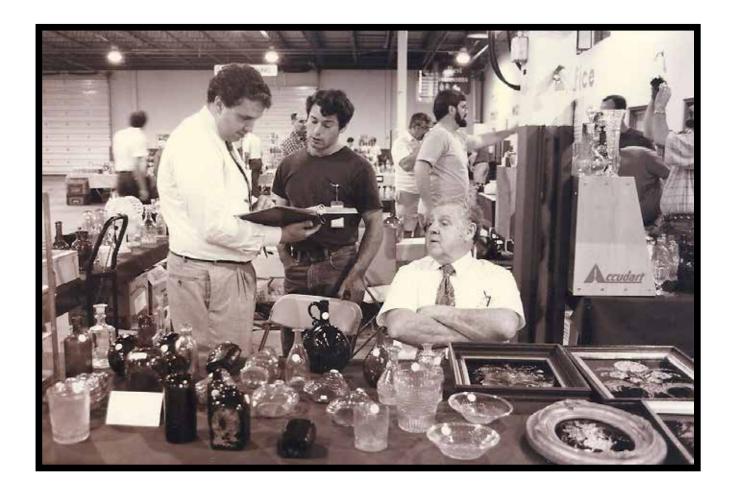
The Vuono collection is without a doubt the finest collection of historical flasks ever put together taking over fifty years of dedication in its assemblage. Mark has earned the reputation of being a specialist on early American historical flasks and has the stories to back it all up. A current life member of the FOHBC, the Connecticut Museum of Glass and other organizations, Mark writes a column on historical flasks for the AB&GC magazine with factual information for collectors at any level.





FOHBC 2013 National Antique Bottle Show Banquet - Manchester, New Hampshire

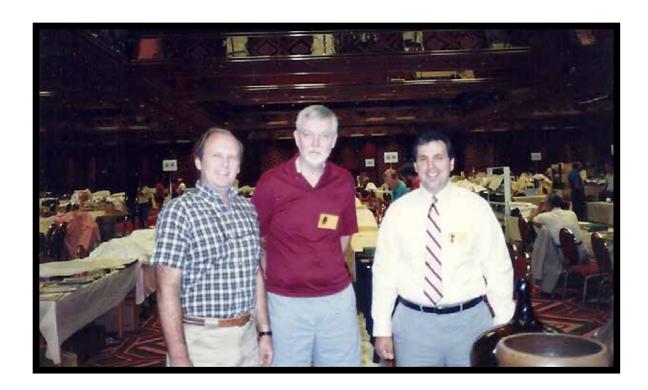
Mark Vuono is Keynote Speaker



Carl Pratt (center) and my father Charles Vuono on the right. Don't ask me what bottle show we were attending - circa 1985 - photo Mark Vuono (left)



Taken at Garth's Auctions in Ohio about 1985. I am on the left, the late Bill Pollard is in the center and my dad, Charles Vuono is on the right. – photo Mark Vuono





**Top:** Taken at the Las Vegas Expo in 1988. Dick Sheaff, the designer of the American Glass stamp, is on the left. the late Dr. Gary Johnson is in the center and I am on the right.

— photo Mark Vuono

**Below:** Taken at The Las Vegas Expo in 1988 with Dr. Gary Johnson on the left, I am in the center and my father, Charles Vuono on the right. – photo Mark Vuono

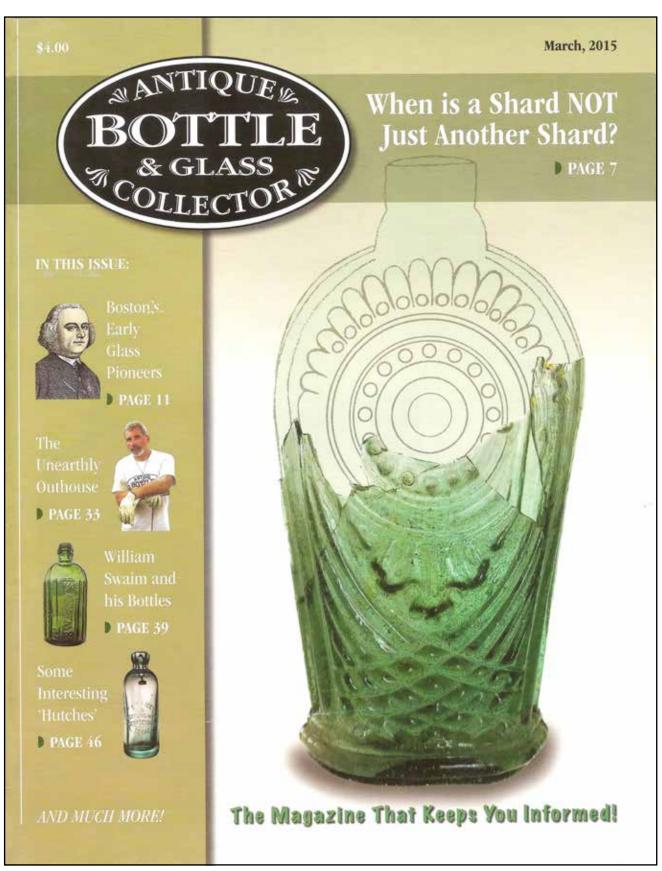


Skinner's in Bolton, MA on May 14th, 1988. Pictured on the left is Beverly Burbage. He was the owner of the GI-118, half pint, blue Columbia flask that was bought by Frank Brockman and displayed at the FOHBC 2012 Reno Expo. I am in the center holding the blue GII-24 blown three mold flask I just purchased and my father Charles Vuono on the right. – photo Mark Vuono





Mark & Charles Vuono bottles pictured on a United States postage stamp. Those bottles were the GIX-51 "Hearts and Flowers" scroll flask in deep emerald green and a GII-7 blown three mold decanter in sapphire blue.



A Broken Dream





ne of the most exciting finds has come to light, one that it is so important I thought it deserves a special article. It all started back in 1970 when Jamie Westendorff, an avid bottle digger from Charleston, South Carolina, decided to spend the day digging at the corner of Market and Meeting streets in Charleston, where the Omni Center now stands. What he found that day proved to be one of the most important discoveries in the annals of bottle digging history. While digging, Jamie discovered half of a flask...but what a flask it was! What he discovered was half of a bluish green unlisted mold of the Jared Spencer grouping of flasks!

Fast forward almost 45 years later to the National Show in Lexington, Kentucky this past August 2014, While seated behind my show table, up walks my good friend Mike Newman from Georgia. With him is Jamie with the bottle shard. Mike introduces me to Jamie and asks me whether or not I have ever seen "one of these" and hands me the shard. Well, folks, I have to be honest with you. Bottle shards really don't excite me, but this one surely piqued my interest. It is not that I don't appreciate shards, but most of the better ones seem to be of better flasks that have known intact examples. Soon, a small contingent of collectors gathered around the table admiring the shard. Pretty much everyone was dumbfounded.

Upon speaking with Jamie, he told me he had the shard in a drawer in his house for over forty years. He stated that he visited with bottle legend Charlie Gardner back in 1971 or 1972 and actually brought the shard with him to show Mr. Gardner. After visiting with Mr. Gardner, and seeing all of his "whole" bottles, he felt humbled

and did not want to show Mr. Gardner his "half" of a flask. He never showed it to him, and brought it back home, where it remained in the drawer until the Lexington show! I know one thing for sure. Having known Charlie Gardner as a youngster, he would have loved to have seen the shard! Being an avid flask collector, I proceeded to ask Jamie if he was interested in selling the shard. He declined, which is very understandable.

My son, Andrew, proceeded to take pictures of the flask, with Jamie's permission. Andrew sent the photos back East to our friends and fellow collectors who were unable to attend the show. All of our friends were completely surprised and grateful for the pictures.

Later on during the show, Jamie approached me and asked if I wanted the shard on loan for a year. He stated that he discussed the flask with other flask collectors and all agreed that I should have access to the shard for a year. This way it would be available for discussion

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and viewing with other collectors who visit throughout the year. I gratefully accepted, and thanked Jamie immensely.

As the show came to a close, with the shard in our possession, my son and I had a slight dilemma on our hands. How were we supposed to get the shard home, since we were flying. Andrew stated the TSA security personnel at the airport might consider it a weapon, given the fact that it was essentially a broken bottle with sharp points and edges. Good point, Andrew! Up steps my good friend, Jim Bender. Jim is not only my good friend, but is also the Membership Director for the FOHBC, and is always willing to help out fellow hobbyists. Jim, who resiedes in upstate New York, drove to the show and volunteered to drive the shard back to New York with him. Thank you, Jim! Now the shard is more than halfway to my house. About a month passes and yet another good friend, Jim Berry, and his lovely wife, Val, pay me a visit. Jim lives very close to Jim Bender and he was able to bring the shard down to my house. Finally, the shard is at "home" thanks to two good friends. I am now able to physically compare it to the other three known Jared Spencer flasks.

The story gets better. Early October arrives and I am graced by a visit from father and son team John and Louis Fifer, and Matt Lacy. All three are Ohioans and spend a few days with me before attending the Keene bottle show. All three are also avid flask, bottle and early American glass enthusiasts. Matt is currently in the process of writing the definitive book on double eagle flasks from the Ohio River Valley. One night, after a fine dinner, we all retreat to the bottle room to shoot the breeze. One thing leads to another, and out comes the shard for discussion.

Not mentioned earlier, there were about ten broken smaller pieces of the bottle somewhat glued to the inside base. Out came my wife's nail polish remover to free up all the shards in the base. After cleaning them all off, Matt feels that, with

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time, he can reassemble the bottle and get it as close as possible to its original appearance. It looked like a daunting task to me but Matt seemed pretty confident. We all decided (with Jamie's permission) to give the shard to Matt and let him try to reassemble it. I called Jamie to let him know that the flask was headed west to Ohio with Matt. Jamie was OK with that and mentioned he had yet another piece of the shard that he would send to Matt.

In my mind, things were shaping up and getting exciting. I was occasionally checking in with Matt to see how things were progressing. Matt responded that it was taking time but he was making progress. Things were going smoothly with the reconstruction. He noted that his talented wife. Elizabeth, was working on a line drawing of the flask. A few more weeks passed and Matt contacted me to tell me the flask was reconstructed with all the broken shards attached in place. Elizabeth took about a dozen hours and painstakingly drew the line drawing. The only thing they were not certain of was the actual center or bullseye of the flask, as there were no actual shards of the center to be found. Elizabeth drew concentric rings in the center to complete the drawing. I believe Elizabeth's idea is perfect regarding the center being concentric rings. If you compare the shard with the other known Jared

Spencer flasks, you will

see that each one of the



well. After viewing both the shard and the line drawing, I was awestruck with their accomplishment.

Now let's look at the shard itself. The shard has numerous differences when compared to the other three known Jared Spencer molds. At first glance, in my opinion, the most notable difference are the medial ribbed sides as opposed to the corrugated sides found on the other three Spencer molds. The slightly "stepped" base and the strong bluish green color also make it unique to the other Spencer molds. The three known molds of the Jared Spencers come in olive ambers and olive greens, so this bluish green color is totally out of the ordinary. If you view the picture of one of the known Jared Spencers, it will be easy to distinguish the differences between them. The flask was most likely a Connecticut product produced at either the Pitkin Glass Works or the Coventry Glass Works. I know there will be much discussion on its origin, but I am going to say the Coventry Glass Works, Granted, there is a Pitkin inkwell known in an aquamarine color, but my main reason for saying Coventry is because I have seen the extremely rare GI-82 Coventry Lafayette flask in the exact color of the shard. This, of course, is pure speculation on my part and one could say my "gut feeling." I am quite certain others have their opinions. Its origin will always remain open for discussion. Any way you look at it, it is a great discovery for the flask and bottle community.

Not to deviate from the subject, but this shard and it pieces remind me of the Mantua, Ohio excavation in the 1920's by Harry Hall White. At the time of the excavation, Mr. White unearthed shards at the Mantua Glass Works of what is now known as the GI-70 Jackson / Masonic flask, He was able to assemble, to the best of his ability, a rendering of what an intact specimen might have looked like from the shards he gathered. His drawing was used in



Two views of a known Jared Spencer flask.



A close-up of the bottom of the shard

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the flask charts in 1941 when the book American Glass was published. Not until an intact specimen was found could we appreciate how close he came to drawing it to perfection. With the exception of the shoulders of the flask being slightly narrower than the rendering, he just about nailed it perfectly.

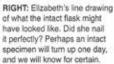
Hopefully, one day an intact specimen of the fourth known Jared Spencer flask will appear intact and "A Broken Dream" will be no longer. If and when it does, I feel quite certain that we will all look back at Elizabeth Lacy's line drawing and say she just about nailed it perfectly.

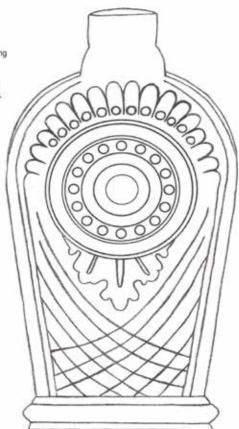
I would personally like to thank all of the above named people for making this article possible. It is a true testament to the wonderful people involved in this fantastic hobby.

The slightly "stepped" base and the strong bluish green color also make it unique to the other Spencer molds. The three known molds of the Jared Spencers come in olive ambers and olive greens, so this bluish green color is totally out of the ordinary.



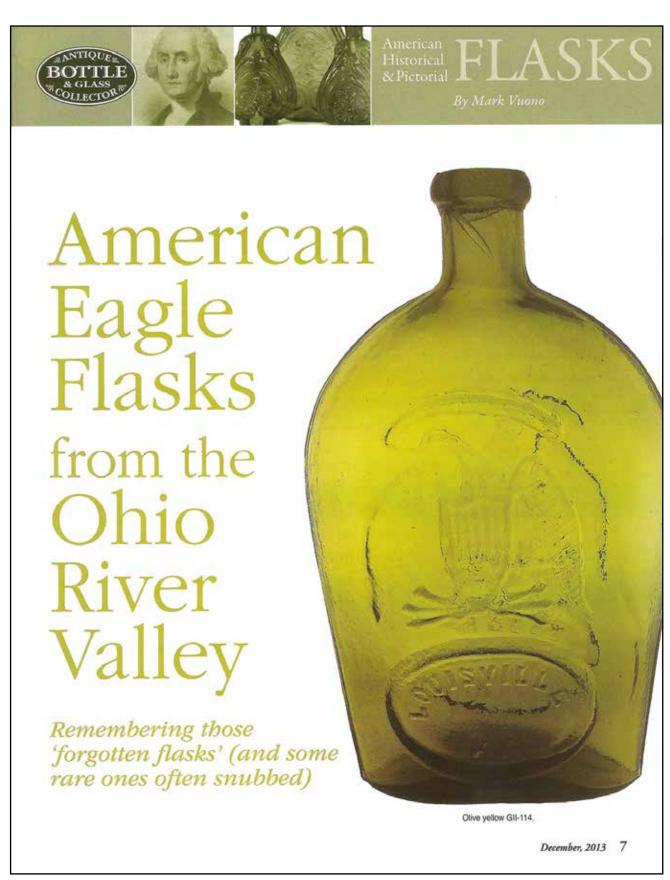
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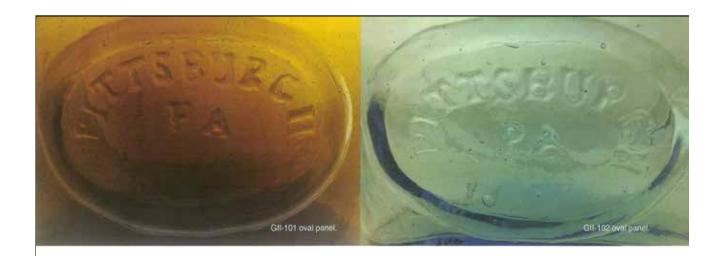


BELOW: Jamie Westendorff with his prized find. Louis Fifer is in the background.





American Eagle Flasks from the Ohio River Valley



rowing up as a young collector, I can recall some of the most forgotten flasks to collect were Pittsburgh double-eagles, Union / Clasped hands, Pike's Peaks and scrolls.

Collecting with my father, nobody in general really liked them or collected them with any vigor. You would hear folks saying, "Who wants that junk! They are not that early and most of them don't even have pontils" (except for the scrolls).

Another common expression was: "They are like pills ... all over the place." However, there was one person who was astute enough and had the foresight to collect the "later molds" of the Pittsburgh double-eagle type flasks. His name was Gail Ross of Malta, Ohio. For over 35 years he collected them when basically no one else wanted them. He was relentless in his search. He attended every large auction, farm auction, and advertised heavily for them. He would even have pickers bring them to him. His efforts paid off. He, without a doubt, assembled the greatest collection of them.

I was fortunate enough to meet Gail twice and both times it was an honor! Upon his death in 1998, his entire collection was purchased from his family by his close friend, Mike Roberts of Akron, Ohio. There, they resided until the entire collection was sold this past June.

Times have changed rapidly for numerous reasons. I believe some of the main reasons are that many "later" molds are still obtainable, affordable, aestetically pleasing and available in a wide range of colors. These so-called "later molds" are now becoming more appreciated and are being avidly collected by newer collectors and advanced collectors alike. They are now being placed on a higher level of importance,

One must remember that most of the earlier flasks with extremely rare mold variations are encompassed in advanced collections and sometimes take years to surface and become available.

One must remember that most of the earlier flasks with extremely rare mold variations are encompassed in advanced collections and sometimes take years to surface and become available. For new collectors, they "need action" to continue and to be able to find nice flasks at still affordable prices.

In this article, I plan on exploring the quart-sized Pittsburgh double-eagle flasks produced in the Ohio River Valley circa. 1860. I feel that choosing an example in an ascending number from Helen McKearin and Ken Wilson's book in order and discussing it would be the best way.

Let's start out with GII-90. This is an extremely interesting mold. Listed as rare in McKearin, I feel it is an extremely rare mold. I have only seen three greenish aquamarine examples with even the great mold collection of the late Judge Blaske lacking an example. Is it really rather a "nothing" looking flask? What sets it apart from the other quarts is the eagle's head is facing viewer's right (usually the head is facing left) and the base is embossed KH & G ZO. McKearin and Wilson mistakenly lists these letters as KH & Co. Z O. While recently doing research with two young Ohio scholars, Matt Lacy and Louis Fifer, and actually having an example to handle, we realized this mistake and feel the letters stand for Kearns, Herdman & Gorsuch, Zanesville, Ohio. This was a glasshouse in existence in the late 1870s-early 1880s.

The GII-91 has the eagles facing left with ribbed wings. These come in a variety of colors with both iron pontils and smooth bases. There is another similar flask, not listed by McKearin / Wilson that I am now calling a GII-91a. This flask is lacking the ribs in the eagle's wings. Once again, it is available in many colors and has either an iron pontil or smooth base. It is interesting to note that McKearin /

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Wilson do not list this mold. In my opinion, this does not make the bottle rare. As a matter of fact, I have seen more 91a examples than 91s. I think at times, both Helen McKearin and Ken Wilson had their "plates full" with writing the revised book and just were not aware of certain molds, completely forgot, or did not have the necessary time to list them. After all, it was just one massive undertaking on their parts.

The GII-98 is a double eagle with ribbed wings, and oval below embossed Geo. A. Berry & Co. George A. Berry opened a glassworks about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh in the mid-1850s and thus embossed his wares. This flask is rather scarce to find and, to date, I have never seen or heard of one in a color other than aquamarine. It would be a real treasure having one in another color.

GII-99 is listed by McKearin /
Wilson as being similar to the GII98 but lacking the inscription in
the oval. They have the color listed
as amber and the degree of rarity as
common. To date, I have never seen
or heard of one. I have checked with
other knowledgeable collectors and
they come up with a "blank" also. If the
bottle exists, I think it should be at least
classified as very rare.

The GII-100 is another interesting flask, in the sense that there are so many fine ribs in the eagle's wings that it is seemingly almost impossible to count them properly. In doing the research with Matt Lacy and Louis Fifer, it was probably the single most difficult flask to obtain a proper rib count in the eagle's wings. Helen McKearin and Ken Wilson must have had the same dilemma as they say the reverse is "Like obverse but one or two fewer bars in wings." One thing for sure, the finely ribbed wings make it an easily identifiable mold. The flask is listed in aquamarines and light-yellowish olivegreen. Listed as common, I think it is a bit scarcer than that.

The next four quarts I will discuss as a group. If I have heard this said once, I have heard it a dozen times ... they all look the same! GII-101 through GII-104 are really beautiful flasks and entirely different. I have come up with a way of telling them apart rather quickly and easily. First of all, they are all marked



Emerald GII-110.

Pittsburgh PA in the oval below the eagle. To decipher them apart quickly, I have come up with the following: GII-101 has a "Lazy" letter "A" in the word "PA". By "Lazy" I mean it is slightly tilted and sags downward to the right. GII-102 is the "folk art" example by having the word "Pittsburgh" in the oval off-centered and not aligned properly in the oval. The letters "GH" in Pittsburgh

extend more than halfway down the oval. GII-103 is the "perfect" example by having the words Pittsburgh PA centered in the oval properly and the eagle's wings ribbed. GII-104 is a close second to the 103 but lacks ribs in the eagle's wings. To me, these are ways to quickly distinguish among the four of them. As far as rarity is concerned, they are all listed as common and deservedly so. If I had my choice, in descending order, I feel the 102 is the hardest to find followed by the 101 with the 103 and 104 very close to being the easiest to locate.

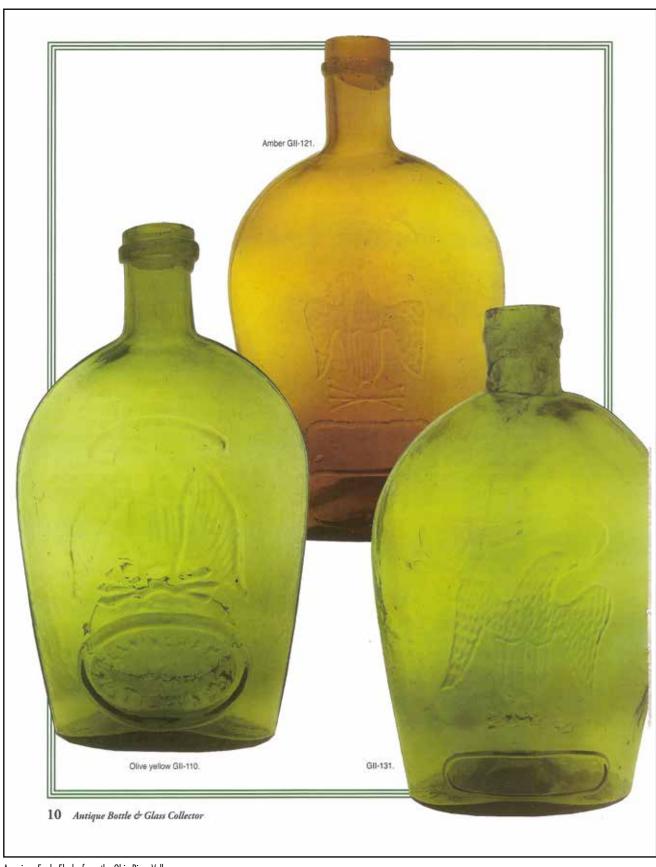
They all come in myriad colors. Trying to put a run of colors together is challenging but attainable, and won't break the bank.

The GII-110 is the next example to discuss and it is also an embossed glasshouse example. Below the eagle, in the oval, are the embossed letters "Cunnigham & Co. Pittsburgh." The reverse eagle has the oval embossed "Glass Manufactures." McKearin / Wilson list this mold as common and only in the color aquamarine. Over the years several different colored examples have come to light and include two different shades of emerald green, medium citron and medium olive vellow. All the colored examples should be considered extremely rare and are prized by collectors.

Moving along the Ohio River we come to Louisville, where our next flask was produced. This is charted as a GII-114 and is another embossed glasshouse example. Marked under the eagle in oval on one side is embossed Louisville KY while the other side is embossed Glass Works. This is listed as scarce and any other color should be deemed extremely rare. To date, two light yellow-green examples, one teal-blue example and one olive-yellow example have surfaced. I would imagine there are others available but I have not seen or heard of any.

The next grouping of quarts is entirely different from the ones previously dis-

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American Eagle Flasks from the Ohio River Valley

cussed. They differ in the fact that the eagle's wings no longer contain ribs. Now, they are depicted with heavily feathered, chunky bodies and wings. Although I like all the doubles eagles, these "chunky, feathered" eagles are my personal favorites. To me, they just have a little more pizzazz and eye appeal.

The GII-116 has a large "folky"-type chunky-feathered eagle with large body and abnormally small feet in proportion to the body. The actual shape of the body is a little different than the others having more squared-off shoulders. McKearin / Wilson list it as scarce with colors of dark amber and aquamarine. I personally have seen only a few aquamarine examples.

GII-121 is a "rare bird," In all my years of collecting I have handled only one example, a golden-orange-amber example as shown. I have been sent pictures of one in dark amber and badly stained that was dug in a Civil War-era pit in eastern Kansas. McKearin / Wilson list it as rare, but I tend to differ with them. I feel it to be extremely rare. In viewing this flask, I think we all agree it is a very delicate, stylish eagle to be put on a quart-sized flask.

GII-131 is next in line and one of my favorites. The McKearins list this as a rare mold and deservedly so. They have charted it in the group C listings of most desirable flasks as No. 24. This flask depicts a large chunky body, feathered eagle with a plain reverse. I often wonder if the plain reverse of a flask was reserved for a label. The two examples I have handled were an aqua example and the deepyellow green with faint amber striations example as shown. Both of these examples have crude early glass.

Not charted in McKearin / Wilson are two extremely rare, embossed quart flasks. The first flask has the usual double eagle with head to left but within the oval below the eagle is embossed Wheeling VA. One thing for sure we know. This flask was produced before June 20, 1863. That was the day West Virginia was admitted to the Union as the 35th state. To date only two examples have surfaced, one being badly damaged.

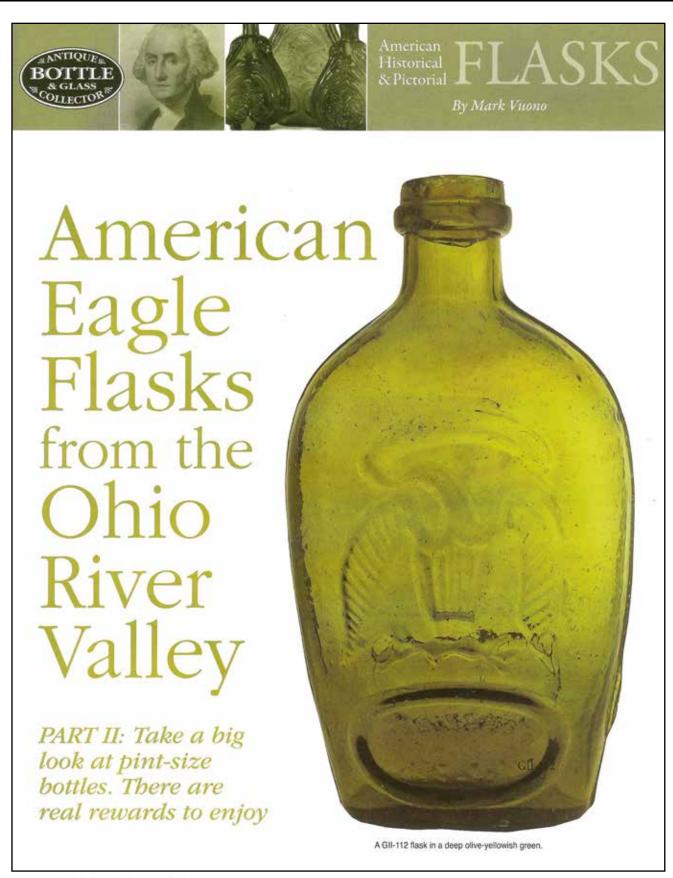
The next unlisted and extremely rare embossed quart flask has an interesting story. Up-and-coming collector Matt Lacy stated the following to me in an e-mail: "While browsing eBay in the spring of 2012, I noticed a number of what appeared to be common aqua flasks listed by a seller in Florida. Upon close inspection of a flask listed as a Union Clasped Hands, I noticed something very different. It was a quart, double-eagle flask with unusual embossing. It reads: PITTSBURGH / PA / McC&Co. Needless to say, armed with this information, I set out to purchase the flask for my collection." Matt did purchase it and was kind enough to send along a picture of it. (See photos and note below). To date, it is unique and quite a treasure. I can only imagine there is a colored example out there just waiting to be found.

I hope you all enjoyed this article and at the same time learned a thing or two. I am always interested in learning also. If anyone has any more unlisted molds or color variations, I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at my e-mail: mark@historicalflasks.com.



LEFT: The unlisted quart found by Matt Lacy. RIGHT: A close-up of the quart.

Editor's note: Due to a lack of resolution in the photos received, this was the maximum size that these two images could be displayed in the magazine. We hope to get some higher quality images of this important find to share with our readers in the future.



American Eagle Flasks from the Ohio River Valley | Part II





In conjunction with the last article written on quart-sized eagle flasks of the Ohio River Valley, I thought to continue along the same theme and discuss the pint-sized flasks. The last article seemed to be fruitful because I received many comments and questions on the flasks described. Hopefully, I will be able to duplicate the success of the last article.

As with the quart-sized flasks, I have heard a few folks comment that all the unembossed pints look the same. I hope to change that by describing certain differences that should help you differentiate among the different molds. Of course, it is always helpful to study, study, study!

All the flasks discussed in this article are pint-sized double-eagle flasks that were blown along the Ohio River from 1850-1865. There are more pint-sized molds than quart-sized molds, so I thought I would discuss the more pertinent molds for this article along with their color variations and degrees of rarity. For the novice collector, the charted mold numbers for this article were taken from the book American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry by Helen McKearin and Kenneth Wilson, published in 1978.

The first flask to discuss is a GII-89. This is an easily recognizable flask by the fact that most examples are poorly blown, having NO RIBS in the eagle's wings. It is interesting to note that this mold usually comes with a nice applied rounded collar and is one of the few double-eagle flasks showing a consistent iron pontil mark.

They come in a variety of colors, with a cornflower blue specimen probably one of the rarest.

GII-92 might be one of the molds that is difficult to distinguish from the others. If you study the eagle's neck on well-blown examples you will see a rather "shaggy" feathered neck and a PRONOUNCED EYE AND BEAK. The mold itself is common, but this particular mold has one example known in a rather exotic bluishgreen color as depicted. As far as I know, this is the only double-eagle pint-sized flask to come in this color in any mold. Truly, one of the finest pints to be had. Other colors available are aquamarine, medium yellow green, light blue, yellow olive and amber.

GII-93 is another common mold, but what is nice about this flask is that it is available in myriad colors. It is very easy to identify from the other molds by having a very small raised star located about one third of the way down the shoulder to the right of the eagle. A rather rare color would be a deep yellow green, but my choice of preference for absolute rarity would be the golden-amber example shown.

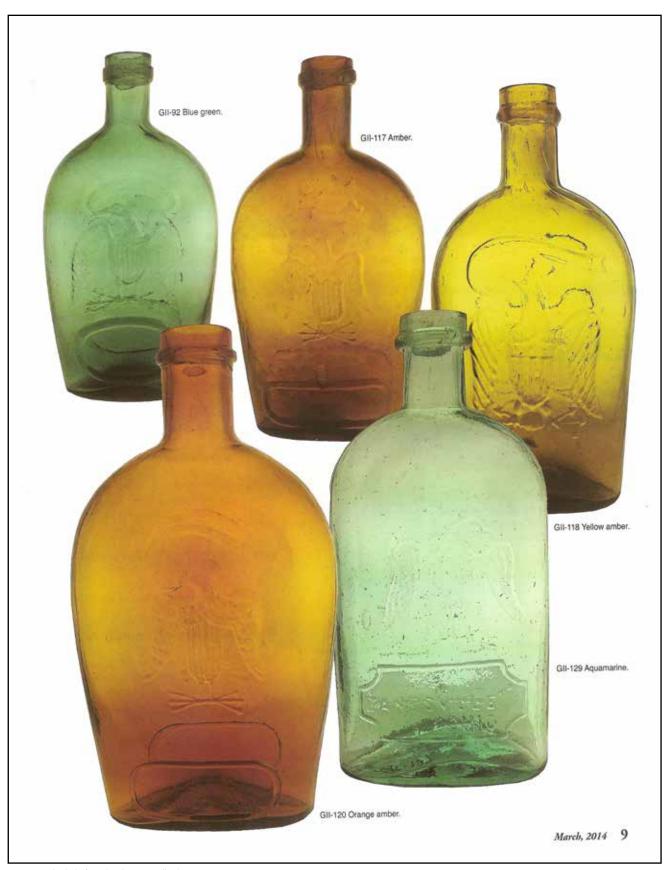
GII-105 is a rather common flask to attain in aquamarine, olive green and olive amber, but a little more difficult in the lighter shades of yellow greens. This is the first flask described with embossed lettering. This is a very folk-art type of flask having the letters "GH" of the word Pittsburgh totally uncentered and positioned lower and to the right of the letters "PA" in the oval below the eagle. It is a "fun" and not too costly mold to try to obtain a color run.

GII-106 is another embossed "Pittsburgh PA" lettered flask and is probably one of the most common to obtain among all the eagles. It is very easy to differentiate between the GII-105 and other marked Pittsburgh pints by having the letters centered properly in the oval below the eagle. If one wants to collect a color run of a certain mold, this might be the easiest to obtain. Probably the two most difficult colors to obtain would be a light golden amber and a straight emerald-green example.

The next flask is not charted, but I thought it interesting to discuss. I am calling it a GII-106a. It is similar to a 106, but lacks the medial rib on the sides and the letters Pittsburgh PA are more thinly embossed. Until recently, of the few known examples, all were a dark olivegreen, almost black color. Another example recently turned up at a West Coast auction in a brilliant medium yellowisholive-green mis-cataloged as a GII-105. As stated, it pays to do your studying.

GII-108 can be placed in the category of common, but lacks the color variations of the GII-105 and 106. The main distinguishing feature is that there are four finely-spaced ribs in each of the eagle's wings. The words Pittsburgh PA are properly centered in the oval under the eagle. Olive green and emerald green are the main colors, with amber being the rarest.

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American Eagle Flasks from the Ohio River Valley | Part II

GII-111 is next in line. This flask is the first to have not only Pittsburgh PA embossed in the oval under the eagle but also the name of the glass manufacturers (CUN-NINGHAM & CO.). Common in aquamarine, one should consider a cornflower-blue example the best color to obtain. Most examples of this flask are blown very well and have sharp impressions.

GII-112 is embossed very similarly to the GII-111, but has an entirely different stylized eagle and the flask itself is somewhat squatter than the 111. It is rather a scarce flask to locate but is attainable. Aquamarine is the most common color, but it also comes in light-yellow green, light-blue green and a deep olive-yellowish green. The colored examples should be considered extremely rare.

GII-113 is another Pittsburgh product and is so marked. In the oval, under the eagle, is embossed Pittsburgh PA and McC & Co, referring to McCully Bros. glass manufacturers. This is a difficult mold even in aquamarine to obtain. The colored examples exist in medium amber, yellowish olive, yellow, yellowish olive green and dense amber. The colored examples very seldom are offered for sale and when they do become available, usually sell in the several thousand dollar range.

Moving along down the Ohio River, we come to Louisville and our next flask, the GII-115. This flask is embossed in one oval under the eagle LOUISVILLE and on the reverse GLASS WORKS in the other oval. It is listed as scarce and deservedly so. Besides aquamarine, they are listed in golden amber and light emerald green. I have had the pleasure of seeing a deep emerald-green example also. Owning a colored example would be a real treat in this mold.

GII-117 is another double-eagle flask but varies from the previous eagles by having a stylized eagle with a chunky feathered breast and wings as opposed to having ribbed wings. McKearin/Wilson list this flask as scarce and in aquamarine only. I tend to disagree with them on this, as

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I have never even seen an aquamarine example. As a matter of fact, I have only seen two examples, period! There is a blue-green example (ex-Blaske collection) and an amber example (ex-Elvin Moody and Robert Currens collections).

GII-118 is another very common mold. This mold can be distinguished from the other double eagles by having somewhat SQUARED OFF SHOULDERS. Aquamarine examples are very common with different shades of blue being rather prevalent; somewhat of an anomaly of



GII-93 Golden amber.

color within the double-eagle flask group. They are also available in yellow green, deep amber, and a golden-yellow amber which would be my choice of the rarest color. A color run of this mold is rather impressive and attainable with patience. This flask is most likely an Ohio product.

GII-120 is listed as rare but I believe it to be extremely rare. Basically, it is a match to the quart-sized example GII-121, but in a pint size. This flask also displays a CHUNKY FEATHERED EAGLE and quite possibly could be an Ohio product. I have, to the best of my knowledge, seen only one example of this mold and it is the orange amber example shown.

The last double eagle flask to discuss is the GII-129. Not only is it rare but one of my favorites. George and Helen McKearin must have thought it rare also, as they recorded it in their book American Glass; listing it among the Group "C" listings of most desirable flasks as No. 10. What makes it so special for me is the SHAPE itself and the wording Zanesville Ohio embossed on the flask. The shape is almost vertically rectangular with sharply rounded shoulders. The obverse depicts a crude chunky-feathered eagle facing right with the words Zanesville Ohio off-centered in a rectangular frame with indented corners below the eagle. The back depicts another chunky-feathered eagle facing right over a plain frame. Swirling from the eagle's beak is a longer than normal olive branch over the eagle's head. It is interesting to note that the reverse of this flask is almost if not exactly the same as the pintsized GXI-44 Pike's Peak "Tippler" flask. I have never seen any colored examples of the GII-129 other than aquamarine. Of the approximately half dozen I have handled, several were imperfect. I once had a visitor who really likes only colored flasks express interest in this one upon seeing it!

As students of American glass flasks, my son, Andrew, and I are always interested in learning of new molds and colors that are unrecorded. I have heard people call us experts, but we are not. In my lexicon, an expert knows all. I consider ourselves "specialists" rather than experts; always learning new things as we continue studying. Should you have any new mold varieties or color to report on any historical flask, we would love to hear from you. We can be reached at mark@americanflasks. com. We will always be willing to help you out with any questions you may have. Happy collecting!

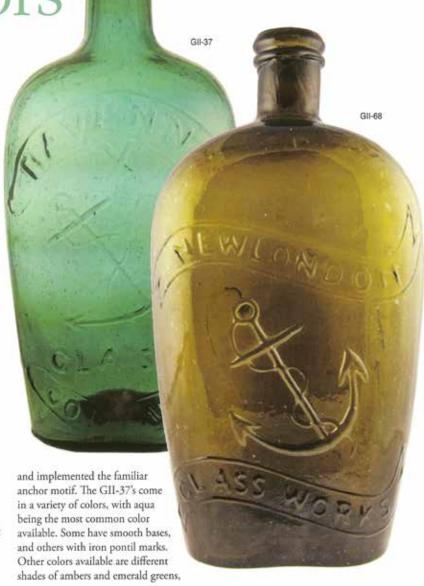


**Anchors** 

was recently requested by several collectors to write an article on . flasks having an embossed anchor motif. Since I enjoy writing articles for AB&GC, I thought I would accommodate their requests. Should other collectors desire an article on a specific flask, I will do my best to accommodate your needs as well.

In reviewing the McKearin / Wilson flask charts in American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry, there are approximately twenty-seven different molds with an anchor embossed motif. Naturally, with the space limitations of this article, I thought I would choose some of the rarest molds and colors to compare with some of the most common molds, thus allowing all phases of collecting to be covered.

The first mold to be discussed is the GII-37 Ravenna Glass Company depicting the obverse anchor and American eagle and stars reverse. I have been asked several times by collectors why an anchor depiction on a flask from Ohio? My response is that I quite honestly don't know. Possibly it was because the Great Lakes are to the north or possibly some eastern glassblowers migrated westward



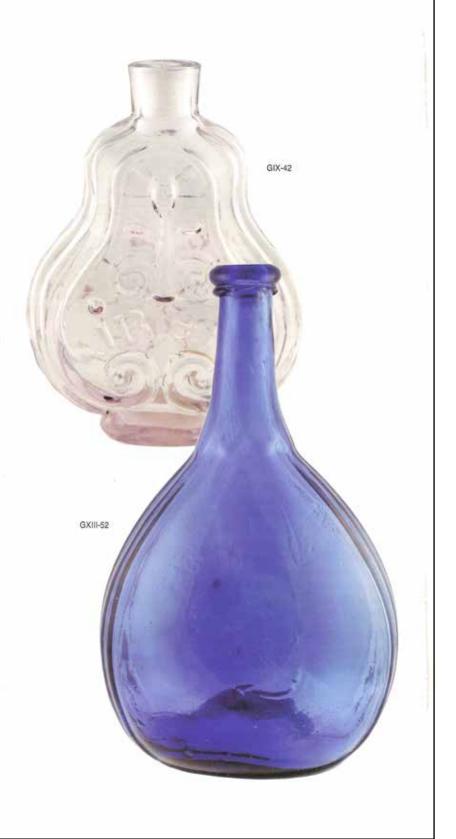
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golden yellow, deep blue green and deep olive amber. It is interesting to note that of all the different shaded emerald green examples I have handled, all have an iron pontil mark, while some of the amber examples have both a smooth base and iron pontil mark. Needles to say, the iron pontiled examples are more desireable.

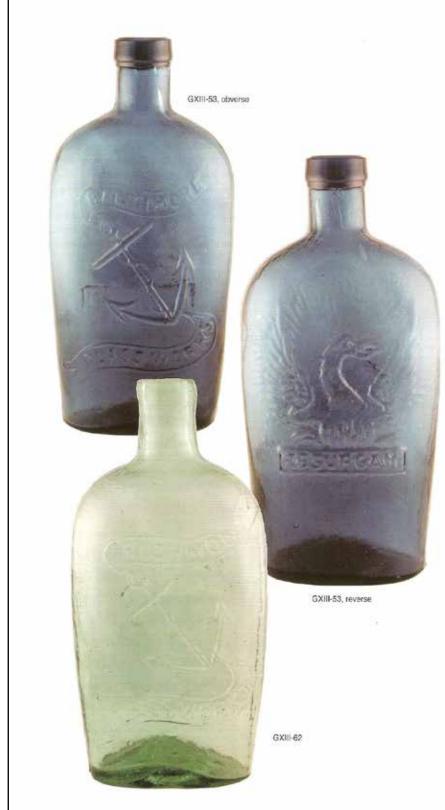
GII-66, 67, and 68 are next in line to discuss; 66 being a quart, 67 a half-pint and 68 a pint. For brevity's sake, I will discuss the GII-66 quart example, as I feel it is the rarest of the three different sizes. The obverse of the flask depicts a large anchor with the words New London Glass Works with large anchor emblazoned on the front. The reverse displays a wonderful American eagle encompassing the entire back, with stars above and wreath below. Smoothed-based aquamarine examples occasionally turn up and should be considered rare. ANY colored examples should be considered extremely rare and real treasures. Some of the colored examples include emerald green, amber, golden yellow, puce (which is probably the rarest color to be found in Connecticut glass) and deep olive yellow. I have handled both an amber example and the deep olive yellow example shown, which have iron pontil marks, making them even greater rarities.

Believe it or not, two half-pint scrolls enter our conversation with depicted anchors. They are charted as GIX-41 and GIX-42. GIX-41 depicts a different shaped scroll flask compared to other scroll flasks, having almost a pear-shaped frame with fleur-de-lis on one side and a large anchor on reverse. This flask is listed as scarce but I believe it to be rare, even in aquamarine. Once again, any colored examples should be considered extremely rare. Examples are known in yellow green, light emerald green, and deep green. GIX-42 is similarly shaped with fleur-delis on one side and an anchor on other side with the letters JR & Son. The letters undoubtedly stand for John Robinson and Son, an early Pittsburgh glasshouse.

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Anchors Away!



This mold is listed as rare, but I believe it to be very rare, as so few have ever turned up. Colored examples should be considered true gems and are all extremely rare. To date, two yellow green, one golden amber, one clear, one pale lavender (depicted) and one imperfect deep purple have surfaced.

The only calabash-shaped flask with anchor depicted is charted as GXIII-52. The front of the flask displays an anchor with the words Baltimore Glass Works, while the reverse depicts a sheaf of wheat. Listed as scarce and deservedly so, as even aquamarine examples are somewhat elusive. The blue example depicted should be considered very rare and highly desireable.

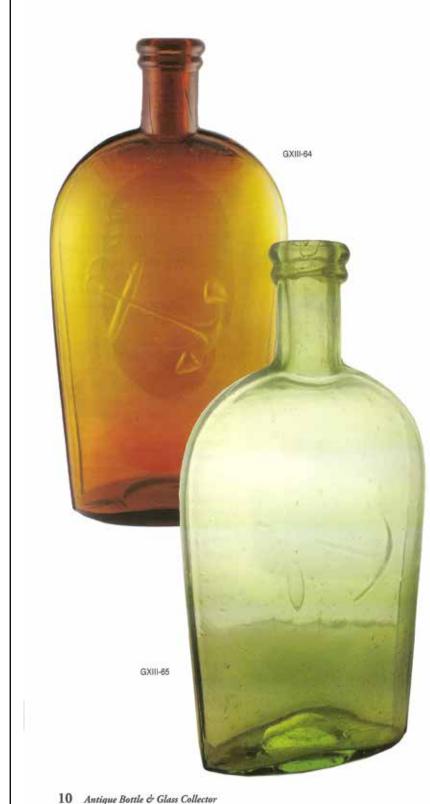
Yet another interesting flask with an anchor displayed is the GXIII-53 Resurgam / anchor flask. In my opinion, the main interest of focus on this flask is the obverse eagle rather than the anchor on the reverse side. In 1850, most of the city of Baltimore, along with two warehouses of the Baltimore Glass Works, was razed by a fire. This flask was introduced shortly after, depicting the eagle (Phoenix) with radiating flames in an arc over its head with the word "Resurgam" (I will rise again) below. Quite the flask for historical significance! These flasks are available in a myriad of colors for the collector's enjoyment.

Without doubt, the rarest mold depicting an anchor is the GXIII-62! This is of Southern manufacture, emanating from the Richmond Glass Works. The obverse depicts an anchor embossed Richmond Glass Works. The reverse displays an unusually shaped glasshouse with six smokestacks, two puffing away. To date only a handful have surfaced and all are aquamarine. Some were manufactured with a smooth base, while a couple have open pontil marks.

So far, I have discussed some of the more obtainable molds to the extreme-

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Anchors Away!



ly rare mold. Now it is time to discuss three of the more common molds. These are very obtainable and can be considered "seeds" for the beginning collector of anchor-related flasks. All of these flasks were blown in the third quarter of the 19th century, most likely at a Baltimore area glass factory. They have strapped sides and plain reverses. They are available in quart, pint, and half-pint sizes, with the most common colors being aqua and clear. There are, however, some light yellow green examples that should be considered rather scarce. For simplicity sake, shown are examples of all three sizes, including the GXIII-64, 65, and 68.

Hopefully, I have discussed some of the more important anchor flasks charted in McKearin / Wilson per the requests of asking collectors. As stated earlier in this article, there are many more charted anchor flasks not discussed in this article. If this article has piqued your interest in anchor-embossed flasks, now would be a good time for the advanced collector to review them, and the novice collector to study and learn them by searching them out in McKearin / Wilson.

As always, I am "at your service" with questions, comments, and any kind of help needed with historical flasks. I can be reached at mark@americanflasks.com

HAPPY COLLECTING!

In 1850, most of the city of Baltimore, along with two warehouses of the Baltimore Glass Works, was razed by a fire. This flask was introduced shortly after, depicting the eagle (Phoenix) with radiating flames in an arc over its head with the word "Resurgam" (I will rise again) below.

Anchors Away!







American Historical & Pictorial FLASKS

By Mark Vuono

# Connecticut Lafayettte Flasks

Tip Your Liberty Caps to These Rare and Wonderous Treasures

erhaps some of the most fascinating and desirable flasks blown were the Connecticut Lafayette flasks. All were blown at the Coventry Glass works and date between 1824 to 1830. Most were made between 1824-1825 at the time of Lafayette's last visit to America.

In this article, I will discuss 10 different flasks along with their color variations and their degrees of rarity. Those of you who are accustomed to reading my flask articles know by now that I do not discuss in this case Lafayette, Masonic symbols, or Liberty caps on poles. There is enough reference material on those subjects. Also, article space requirements limits these discussions. My main objective is to discuss each flask.

In the McKearin and Wilson book American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry, these flasks are charted as Group I-80 through Group I-87a.

GI-80 is a pint-sized flask depicting Lafayette on the obverse with the lettering "Lafayette" above the bust of Lafayette and the initials "T.S." below the bust. These initials stand for Thomas Stebbins, who is believed to have been operating the glassworks at the time. The reverse depicts a bust of Dewitt Clinton with the lettering "Dewitt Clinton" above. Below the bust is the lettering "Coventry C-T". This flask is listed as scarce, and is very attractive with its corrugated sides. It comes in olive amber, amber and olive green. The latter color the most desirable, in my opinion.

The GI-81 is a half-pint flask similar to GI-80 with its corrugated sides. Once again there is a bust of Lafayette with his name above on the obverse. Below the bust are the initials "S & C." These two initials stand for Thomas Stebbins and Rufus Chamberlain. It is believed the two men took over the glassworks in the latter half of 1825. The reverse depicts the bust of Dewitt Clinton with his name above. Below the bust, is the lettering C-T. The word Coventry is omitted, most likely lack of space. It is also listed as scarce, and comes in a variety of olive greens and



One half of the original brass/bronze mold for the GI-95a flask. It is the half depicting Lafayette. Found by Joseph Fliegel in 1968 while excavating an area near the Mansfield, Conn., railroad depot, along the banks of the Willimantic River.

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ambers. There is a golden yellow example that, in my opinion, is the rarest color to obtain. It is interesting to note that many of these flasks are strongly embossed.

On to the GI-81a. This half-pint variant was not originally charted in American Glass published in 1941, but surfaced as a GI-81a. in the 1978 publication of McKearin and Wilson. It is similar to a GI-81, but has two corrugations extending around the base of the flask instead of three. Listed as very rare, I tend to disagree and believe it should be listed as extremely rare. I only know of five or six examples. A collector, under normal circumstances, will wait years to acquire one. The few known are in olive green.

GI-82 is another half-pint similar in style to the GI-81 but lacks the initials S & C under the bust of Lafayette. If you are lucky enough to have a GI-81 and a GI-82 side by side, you will see the GI-82 is much smaller in stature. Listed as rare in the charts, I will once again have to disagree and list this one as extremely rare. I honestly think there are less than 10 known examples. The so-called "common" colors are olive green and amber. There are two known in a clear light green, one in a private collection and the other in the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus that I had the privilege of handling. That one is unfortunately buried in storage, as are most flasks in museums.

The GI-83 is a pint depicting the bust of Lafayette with name above and the initials T.S. below on the obverse. A Masonic arch and symbols decorate the reverse. This is another highly sought-after flask and occasionally comes to market. They are listed as very rare and deservedly so. Their color ranges are olive greens and ambers, but in my opinion the best color is the deep emerald green example depicted at right.

GI-84 is the half-pint "mate" to the GI-83. It is almost identical to the GI-83, with the major exception of a large

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12-pointed star under the Masonic arch on the reverse. This flask is yet another highly sought-after Lafayette and comes mostly in olive ambers with an occasional olive green example. The flask itself is listed as extremely rare, but it is definitely not. As one can imagine, since the publication of McKearin and Wilson's book in 1978, certain things have changed. I would relegate this flask to "rare" as quite a few have surfaced over the years.

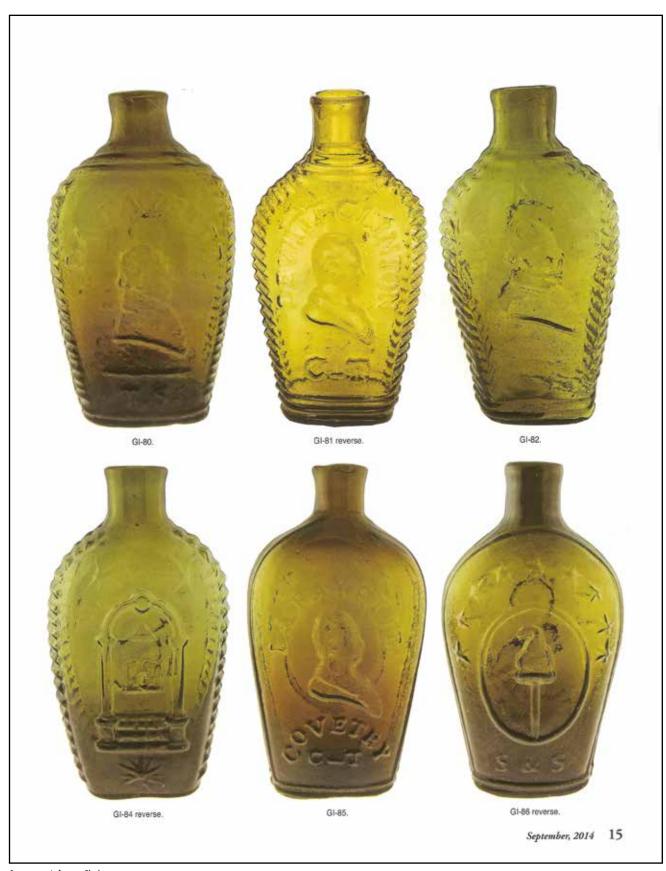


The GI-83 pint flask.

Please understand that the "rarity" factor has nothing to do with the "desirability" factor of all of the above corrugated sided Lafayette flasks. All of these molds are ALWAYS in demand and become harder and harder to find as they are assimilated into collections. The GI-85 is the first Connecticut Lafayette to discuss without corrugated sides. This pint-sized flask has finely ribbed vertical sides. The obverse depicts Lafayette with name above and the word "COVETRY" below and C-T. This one gets a little "folkarty" with the misspelled word COVETRY instead of Coventry. The reverse depicts a French Liberty Cap on pole with 11 five-pointed stars above. Below these motifs are the initials S&S; undoubtedly for Stebbins and Stebbins. Although not documented, there might have been another Stebbins involved at the glassworks, thus the other "S" initial. The flask is listed as comparatively scarce, and comes mainly in olive amber and amber. A handful of aquamarine example are known and are extremely rare.

GI-85a. is a mold not listed by McKearin and Wilson, but has been named an "a" variant by the general consensus of the flask collectors. It is similar to GI-85 but has three depressed circular mold rivet marks on the obverse of the flask. These are located above the F of Lafayette, above and between the two T's of Lafayette and below the letter E in COVETRY. Each circular mark is about 1/4 inch wide. It should be considered somewhat of a rare flask and comes mostly in olive-amber shades. An extremely rare aquamarine example was recently sold in an American Glass Gallery auction and is depicted here.

An interesting side note to this variant is that one half of the original brass/bronze mold of this flask was found. It is the half depicting Lafayette. It was found by bottle digger Joseph Fliegel of Ashford, Conn., in 1968 when he was excavating an area near the Mansfield, Conn., railroad depot along the banks of the Willimantic River. Covered with mud and debris, he thought it was a flat-iron until he returned home and proceeded to clean the piece. Only then did he realize the treasure he found! Rumor has it that the river bed was gone over with metal



Connecticut Lafayette Flasks

detectors like a fine tooth comb in hopes of locating the other half of the mold, but to no avail.

The mold itself has a triangular iron brace tacked on the back, with a finely wrought handle with a curled end. Previous to this find, the only 19th century flask molds were located at The Philadelphia Museum of Art in the period of 1901-1906, and were obtained by its curator Edwin Atlee Barber and J.P. Whitney, president of the Whitney Glass Works. The Philadelphia Museum of Art molds date to 1855 versus 1825-30 for the Lafayette mold, thus making it the earliest 19th-century flask mold known.

The Lafavette mold was eventually sold at public auction as Lot 5 in an April 26, 1989 auction conducted by Arman Absentee Auctions in Woodstock, Conn. I had the privilege of handling it, and it is really something to behold. It sold for the paltry sum (in my opinion) of \$5,100 and was purchased by Paul Richards. Upon his death, his mother, Gladys, bequeathed it to the Corning Museum of Glass, where it now resides. The photo of it for this article is courtesy of the Corning Museum of Glass.

GI-86 is the half pint "mate" to the GI-85, but does have the proper spelling of the word Coventry embossed on it. There are two fewer stars over the Liberty Cap — nine instead of 11. Listed as comparatively scarce, this probably is the most common and most easily obtainable Connecticut Lafayette flask. The colors most often found are olive ambers, ambers and rarely olive green. There are a few aquamarine examples that are truly extremely rare.

The GI-87 is a real gem. This is the halfpint example similar to GI-86, but lacks the stars over the Liberty Cap on the reverse. Once again, this is an extremely

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rare flask with less than 10 known. I don't know about you, but every time I see a GI-86 at a bottle show, I always pick it up and check the reverse in hopes of finding the "no stars" mold. To date, I have never hit the jackpot! All known examples are in olive amber.

dealer Devere A. Card of Hamilton, N.Y. Mr. Card probably owned it in the 1940s or '50s and eventually sold it to George Austin, flask collector extraordinaire. Upon the dispersal of his collection in the '80s, it settled into a private collection of exceptional Connecticut glass where it resides today.

I hope that this article has stimulated some interest in the Connecticut Lafayette flasks. All the molds are early, desirable, historical and worthy of any collection. Happy collecting!



Last but not least is the GI-87a, mold. This is the rarest of all the Connecticut Lafayette flasks, it being unique. It is similar to the GI-87 in the respect of lacking the stars above the Cap and Pole on the reverse, but is in a PINT size. Olive amber in color, it is the finest Connecticut Lafayette in my opinion. I can trace its provenance back to antiques

GI-87.

Connecticut Lafayette Flasks





Historical & Pictorial

Appreciate Lettered' Flasks

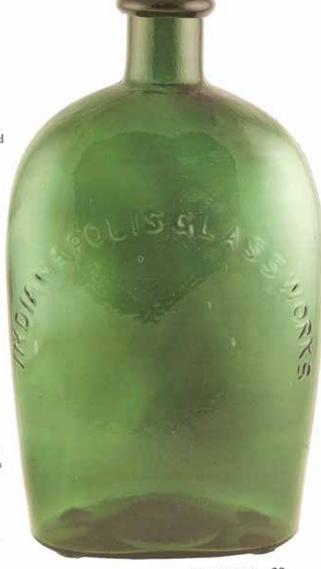
or too long ago, a good friend of mine stopped by. He had visited me many times before, but this time something caught his interest that I wasn't expecting. He began studying the "Lettered" flasks. By "Lettered" flasks, I mean the flasks listed in the Group XV charts recorded by McKearin and Wilson. After studying them, we discussed them a while, and both of us concurred that most of them are both under-appreciated, and some even undervalued.

McKearin and Wilson list 34 different molds in the charts, some common and some rare. My friend and I both agreed that some of the ones listed as rare are really extremely rare!

For this article, I thought I would write about some of the "Intriguing" molds that aren't seen very often. It would be impractical to discuss all 34 different molds for this article, so I have chosen eight that, in my opinion, would be some of the most desirable.

GXV-4. This is a pint sized, strap-sided flask embossed "Cheatham & Kinney, Nashville Tenn." The lettering on the flask is somewhat off-centered, giving it a folk art appearance. The reverse of the flask is plain. This is probably one of the rarest of all the lettered flasks and probably made for a private firm. McKearin and Wilson state the firm was listed in the Nashville city directory from 1871-1878. It is listed in aquamarine.

> GXV-10, embossed in an arch Indianapolis.Glass.Works.This emerald green flask is an exceptional example, and possibly unique in this color.



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I personally have handled only one example and have heard of another. There are probably a few more hiding out there waiting to be discovered. This is one of the examples listed as rare that I feel is extremely rare.

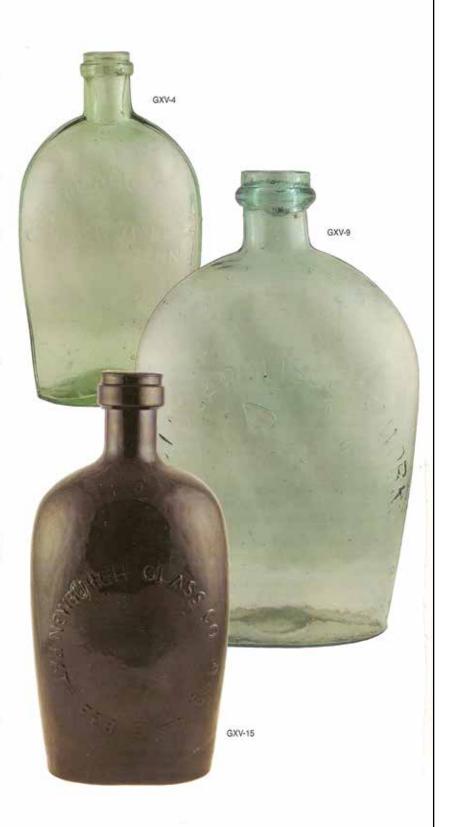
An interesting side note is that an aquamarine half pint example surfaced a few years ago which is unlisted in McKearin / Wilson and as far as I know is unique.

GXV-9. This is the quart INDIANAP-OLISGLASSWORKS flask. Note the lack of spacing between the words. The words are embossed in a deep arch with the reverse of the flask being plain. This is another so-called "Rare" example that I feel is extremely rare. McKearin / Wilson lists the colors available in aquamarine and a strong green example reported by the late George Austin. I have only seen this aquamarine example to date. The example depicted in this article was once in the collection of the late Elvin Moody, and obtained from our editor-in-chief, John Pastor. It is really a tough mold to find!

GXV-10. This is the mate to the above but in a pint size (previous page). It is embossed in an arch Indianapolis. Glass. Works. Once again the reverse is plain. Yet another flask listed as rare that could possibly be extremely rare or very rare. I have discussed this flask with various knowledgeable Midwest dealers and most have told me they might have seen one in all their years of dealing. In the charts it is listed in aquamarine and light peacock blue. The emerald green one depicted in this article is an exceptional example and possibly unique in this color.

GXV-15. This is the pint Newburgh, N.Y., flask. This flask is embossed Newburgh Glass Co in the upper half of the flask and Patd. Feb 27th 1866 in the lower half. The reverse is plain. It is listed in olive amber in McKearin / Wilson, but has been since located in black, murky olive amber, amber and light green. It is interesting to note, that not listed in McKearin / Wilson is a half pint variant

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in this mold also. To date, they have been located in emerald green and olive yellow amber. All of these molds should be considered scarce to rare.

If you would like to learn more about these flasks, a great article on them was written in 1993 by Jim Becker, the doyen of Newburgh Glass. Jim's article was published in the annual journal of The Orange County Historical Society. Copies of the journal are somewhat difficult to obtain, but every once in a while one surfaces on eBay or Amazon. If you have the opportunity to purchase one, grab it, as you will not be disappointed.

GXV-21 is a dark, olive green private mold flask. It is embossed Gentry, Slote & Co. in a semi-circle and New York in a straight line below. The reverse is embossed in three lines: Good / Samaritan / Brandy. As you can see, the shape of the flask is quite different and quite appealing. Listed as rare, I feel it to be at least very rare and possibly extremely rare. Another very difficult flask to obtain.

GXV-24 (not shown) is yet another rare flask and the only lettered flask embossed in a slug plate. It is embossed. S.A. Wheaton Grocer Phoenixville, Conn. This one is so rare that I have never encountered one in a pint size as charted in McKearin / Wilson. The only example I have seen is an unlisted half pint size in aquamarine in a private collection. This is naturally another private mold from a small, rural Connecticut town.

GXV-25. I chose this flask because not only is it rare, but I think it is a downright neat flask. This is a pint sized flask and embossed on the front in a large oval, Wheeling VA. The lettering is somewhat askew, giving it a real folky appearance. The reverse has a similar frame with the words Old Rye. It is interesting to note this flask was made prior to 1863 as West Virginia was not admitted to the Union until 1863. I feel it was probably made some time in the 1850s. The McKearin / Wilson charts have no degree of rarity

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Appreciate 'Lettered' Flasks

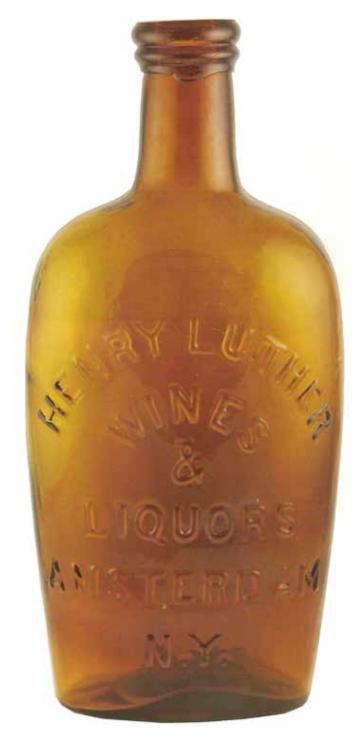
I personally have handled only one example and have heard of another. There are probably a few more hiding out there waiting to be discovered.

listed on this one but I would put it in the very rare category. Oddly enough, no aquamarine examples are known but it does come in light and dark yellowish green, olive green and blue green.

Lastly is the GXV-32. This is another pint sized private mold flask, reported by George Austin, which is embossed in six lines: Henry Luther / Wines / & / Liquor / Amsterdam / N Y. Mr. Austin attributed this flask to the Clyde Glass Works, Clyde, N.Y., which is entirely possible. If you compare it to the pint sized lettered Clyde Glass Works flask, GXV-2, it is very similar in shape and style. To date, I have only been able to locate two unlisted amber examples and one listed aqua example. There are probably a few more tucked away somewhere.

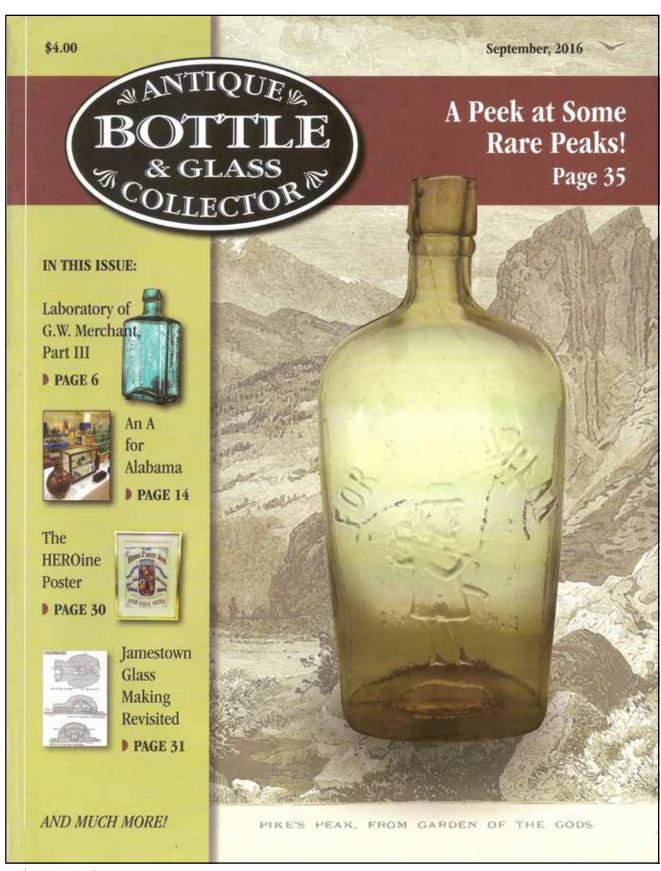
This covers the eight molds of "Lettered" flasks I planned to discuss in this article. Granted, many of them do not have the eye appeal that most collectors require, but still, in my opinion, they deserve much respect. Next time you are visiting bottle friends or attending a show, check and see how many of these molds are NOT available and I think you will agree with me that they need to be more "Appreciated"!

Happy collecting.



The GXV-32.

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A Peek At Some Rare Peek's!





American Historical & Pictorial FLASKS

By Mark Vuono

When it comes to these two amazing examples, they are 'Prized Pikers'



s many of you know, over the years I have written many articles on historical and pictorial flasks. There are 804 different flasks and variants charted in the landmark American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry, published in 1978 by Helen McKearin and Kenneth Wilson. With that many to choose from, and approximately 60 NEW flask molds discovered from the time of its publication, it makes it easy for me to find topics to write about.

In this article, I thought I would write about two extremely rare Pike's Peak flasks. For those novice collectors, the Pike's Peak flasks are charted under the Group XI listings in the above McKearin / Wilson book. After the book was published, people realized that new discoveries were being made in all the different group listings. To accommodate the need for updating the Pike's Peak group, the late John Eatwell "stepped up to the plate." He reorganized the entire Pike's Peak grouping in his book Pike's

Peak Gold, published in 2000. He basically straightened out the McKearin chart by drawing each flask actual size, along with their degree of rarity. He also charted several new molds that were previously unrecorded. Mr. Eatwell, a personal friend of the family, was an architect living in Denver, thus his passion for Pike's Peak flasks. He collected and specialized in them for over 30 years and could confidently be called the doyen of the Pike's Peaks. The book is out of print but can be found from time to time. It is a must have for anyone collecting Pike's Peaks, or for anyone wanting to update information on them.

The two flasks to be addressed in this article are two Pike's Peak flasks, both embossed E Kauffeld. Before discussing the flasks, let's explore the history of E. Kauffeld. According to the Pittsburgh business directories, Elias Kauffeld was a whiskey wholesaler in Pittsburgh, along with his brother, from 1871-76. For whatever reason, he is listed as a sole pro-

prietor from 1877-90. The business was later located at 1505-07 East Carson St. in Pittsburgh in a Victorian Renaissance building built in 1881. The building was restored in 2004, in part through the Pittsburgh History and Land Foundation's Preservation Loan Fund. A photo of part of the restored building is shown (above) for your enjoyment.

Now let's discuss the flasks themselves. There are two flasks: one a quart, the other a pint. The obverses both depict a prospector standing and facing right and embossed above in a semi-circle in large letters "For Pike's Peak." The reverses depict a hunter shooting a deer, with the inscription in a straight line below E Kauffeld.

The quart-sized example is charted as GXI-49 in the McKearin Wilson Charts. It is basically the same mold as GXI-47, with the exception of the E Kauffeld inscription below the hunter. It is listed as colorless with a faint pinkish cast. The

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flask has a tapered-collar, whiskey-style lip finish and boasts rather heavy glass. The McKearins must have thought very highly of it, as they placed it in their Group C listing of most desirable flasks. Of the 30 Group C flasks listed, the McKearins designated this one as 28. It is interesting to note that it is the only Group C flask depicted with a line drawing. In the

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American Glass book, the drawing and description can be seen on page 511.

I don't know about you folks, but when an extremely rare flask is listed as unique, I like to know as much about its provenance as possible. I was able to trace this flask as far back as being owned by James H. Rose of Cincinnati. Mr. Rose was an early dealer and scholar of American glass. If the name sounds familiar to you, he co-authored the book American Glass Cup Plates with Ruth Webb Lee in 1948. (On a side note, Mr. Rose discovered the first specimen of the GI-63 William Henry Harrison flask.) Mr. Rose sold the flask to Charlie Gardiner and per his notes was attained for \$30. The flask was locked up





When an extremely rare flask is listed as unique, I like to know as much about its provenance as possible.

in the Gardiner collection for years, until it was sold as lot 161 in the Gardiner auction of bottles and flasks in 1975. The great collector Edmund Blaske purchased it for \$1,650. Norman Heckler must have thought very highly of this flask also, as he depicted it in the front of the Gardiner auction catalog on color Plate VIII. Upon the sale and auction of the Blaske collection of flasks in 1983, it was sold as lot 934 to John Eatwell for \$2,150. I can distinctly remember John calling me up about a week after the sale and telling me how excited he was about attaining the flask. I could not agree with him more! The flask continued its journey and upon the death of John Eatwell was purchased through the dispersal of his collection by Robert Currens, a very prominent and dedicated Pike's Peak collector. Bob eventually sold it to its present owner in 2000.

If I had to venture an educated guess, I would say the flask was blown about 1875-ish. The flask still remains unique to this day!

The pint-sized flask is similar in color to the quart-sized flask but not quite blown as distinctively. The mold for the flask is the same mold used for the GXI-50 Pike's Peak flask, with the exception of the E Kauffeld inscription below the hunter. It also has a tapered, whiskey-style lip and rather heavy glass. It is interesting to note that this flask was hitherto unknown to McKearin and Wilson before their American Flasks and Their Ancestry book was written. By the time Mr. Eatwell's book was written in 2000, the flask had been discovered and recorded into the Pike's Peak Gold book by Mr. Earwell and charted as flask PP57 and designated as extremely rare. The flask has an interesting

provenance. As the story goes, the flask was found with its neck sticking out of an Arkansas riverbank by two fisherman, who rescued it from the muck. The flask eventually made its way into the hands of prominent flask collector Roy Brown. It was eventually sold at the dispersal of his flasks in 1985 through Skinner's auction gallery. It was sold as lot 166 to John Eatwell and realized \$1,000. Once again, the flask passed through the hands of Bob Currens to its present owner. As far as I know it is the only intact specimen. I have seen shards of one in the same color.

In retrospect, I hope I have enlightened you in respect to the two rarest Pike's Peak molds known. Both were blown as private molds for Elias Kauffeld's wholesale whiskey business in Pittsburgh. I think all can agree that these are truly "Two Prized Pikers!"

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American Historical & Pictorial FLASKS

By Mark Vuono

## Making Sense of Quart Union Molds

ne of the more interesting classifications to collect in the historical flask field are the Union/Clasped hands flasks. They come in a range of sizes, including half-pint, pint and quart, with most being blown in one of the Pittsburgh districts glassworks. They were most likely blown around 1865, commemorating the end of the Civil War. They are all very historical in nature. One side depicts a pair of clasping hands while the other depicts an eagle in flight. They are all charted in the McKearin/Wilson book in the Group XII section of flasks.

It is interesting to note that the flasks charted in McKearin and Wilson state the reverse as an "eagle," but one person in particular believes differently and I tend to agree with him. This one person is my good friend Jim Bender, the doyen of Union/Clasped hands flasks. Jim studied and collected them for a period of over 20 years and assembled one of the finest groupings ever of this classification. What Jim believes depicted on the reverse of the flask is not an eagle but a "peace dove" in flight. This makes perfectly good sense to me, as a peace dove would correspond favorably with the clasping hands on the reverse of the flasks.

The Union/Clasped hands group can be a challenging group of flasks to decipher, as the differences between each mold are very subtle in style and content. When I first started studying them in depth it was very confusing to me also. I always say to buy "the book" before the bottle and read as much information as possible before your first purchase. In my case, even having "the book" and the flasks, it was still rather confusing to me as to which mold was which in corresponding to each McKearin/Wilson charted number. Not to say anything derogatory about the McKearin/Wilson Group XII flask chart listings, but the charts themselves are very confusing to me because the word "similar" is used throughout the descriptions on just about every flask. My son Andrew, an avid third generation flask collector, agreed with me and came up with the idea of making a cheat sheet for deciphering each mold quickly. Sometimes, at bottle shows, we may see a flask but are unable to identify the mold number rapidly to see if it will fit into our collection. We have the cheat sheet installed on our mobile devices to facilitate matters. For brevity's sake, in this article, we have decided to pass along our cheat sheet of the quartsized only Union/Clasped hands flask. Granted, it will still take a bit of studying, but as with any endeavor, hard work pays off with results and satisfaction. There are sixteen quarts to discuss so I will list them in McKearin /Wilson numerical order with each of their differences. Fair warning ... some of the descriptions might not be as traditionally correct as you are used to, but they serve our purposes well and get the job done.



GXII-1 Embossed "Union" on obverse and initials "A & Co", in banner below eagle on reverse.



GXII-2 Embossed "Waterford."



GXII-3 Embossed "Union" on obverse and long vertical sprig below shield on reverse.

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GXII-4 The word "Union" is not embossed on front and the initials L&W embossed on base.



GXII-9 Embossed "Old Rye."



GXII 13 Embossed L F & Co.

GXII-14 (Not shown) Embossed L F & Co but curve
of mold seam shallower and complete.



GXII-5 Word "Union" not embossed on front with shallow arc of stars. Reverse has small oval frame.



GXII-10 Embossed "Union" on obverse with large "crazy" scalloped shaped shield on reverse.



GXII -15 Embossed E. Wormser. GXII-16 (Not shown) Embossed E. Wormser but stars smaller.



GXII-6 Word Union not embossed with deep arc of stars. Reverse large oval frame.



GXII-11 Embossed "Union" on obverse with narrow "crazy" scalloped shaped shield on reverse.

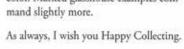
GXII-12 is an interesting flask to discuss,

or at least I have never been able to locate

in the sense that I don't believe it exists,

Hopefully the above cheat sheet will help you more quickly and easily decipher the different Union/Clasped hands quart-sized molds. Perhaps the harder molds to decipher are the 5 and 6 with the depth of arc in the stars, and the 15 and 16 with the size of the stars.

In retrospect, collecting Union flasks can be a rewarding endeavor, as many are still available for purchase. Aquamarine examples command about \$100, making them very affordable to the beginning collector. The scarcer colored examples are still relatively inexpensive and probably some of the best investments of the time. Nice examples usually sell, on average, within the price range of \$1,500 to \$2,000, depending on the mold and color. Marked glasshouse examples command slightly more.





GXII- 7 Embossed No 2 in oval.



GXII-8 Embossed "Union" with a blank banner over eagle's head on reverse.

one. Jim Bender will concur with me as he has never seen one either. McKearin/ Wilson list the flask as having a type 14 base, which consists of a five-pointed star embossed on the base. What I THINK might have happened are two things: There was a typographical error in the charts calling it a quart, or McKearin/ Wilson were slightly confused with the flask when charting it. There is a pintsized flask with a type 14 base (which is unlisted), but in comparison with other pint-sized flasks is slightly larger. It is possible McKearin/Wilson misconstrued the size and called it a quart. One thing for certain, if a quart-size example exists, I would consider it extremely rare, and not

common, as is listed in the charts.

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54 March - April 2017 Bottles and Extras

### A Variety of New England Flasks

by Mark Vuono

I am excited. With the FOHBC 2017 Springfield National convention just months away, the anticipation and excitement is building daily. Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart, the show's co-chairs, have already contributed countless hours towards its success. I really can't think of two better people to have as co-chairs for this mega event. Both exude the enthusiasm and passion to make it a great event.

Several months ago, Jim Bender asked me to write an article for *Bottles and Extras* on New England flasks. Since the show is being held in the heart of New England, the topic was appropriate for the venue.

Because there were so many flasks blown in New England, I thought I would choose just a few to write about. As one can imagine, there are some flasks that are great rarities, some considered rare, and others noted as common. I will do my best in this article and try covering all three categories, choosing two flasks from each category that I feel appropriately fit their grade.

Picking the six flasks for this article was not as easy a task as one might think. The two so-called "common" flasks required some consideration because I wanted to choose two that have eye appeal, historical significance, and that are earlier examples with sheared lips and open pontils.

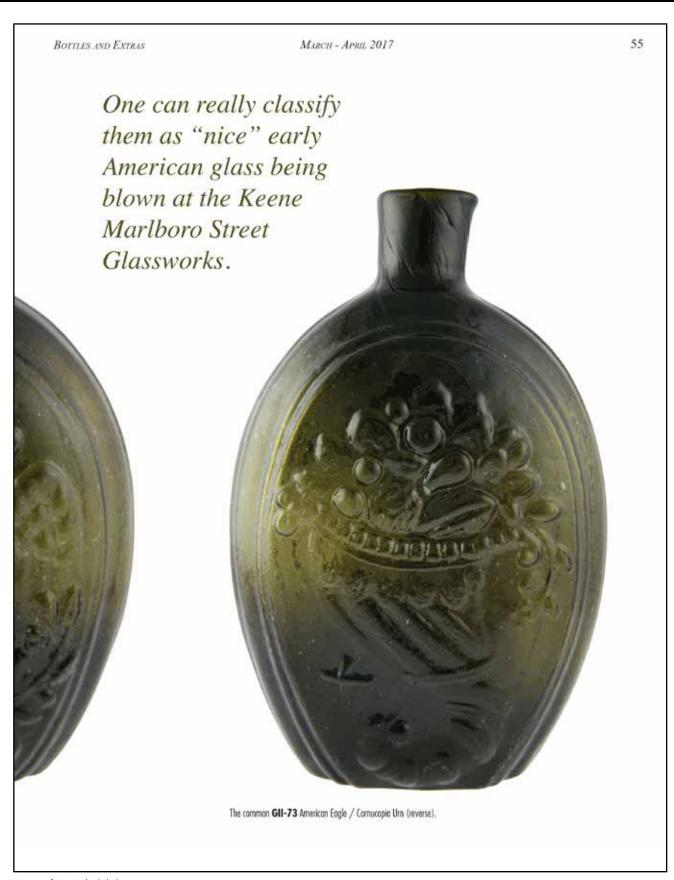
As far as the so-called "rare" examples were concerned, they also had to be chosen rather carefully. These two flasks had to meet the same criteria as the common flasks and also had to merit being rated as "rare." I tried to choose two examples of which a dozen or so examples are known. Examples that, with some patience, could eventually be available to the more advanced collector.

The "great rarities" category was probably the hardest of all. I tried to choose the two flasks that, to the best of my knowledge, had less than five examples known. Historical significance and earlier manufacture played a role in this selection, but their "population" census was the key factor in determining these choices.

Let's begin with the two "common" flasks I have chosen. The first one picked is the common GII-73 American eagle / Comucopia um. These are available at almost all the decent bottle shows. All of them have an open pontil with sheared lips and are a nice early New England product. Having the American eagle on one side and a cornucopia um filled with fruit makes them both historical and pictorial at the same time. They are mostly found in the



The common GII-73 American Eagle / Cornucapia Urn (obverse).



A Variety of New England Flasks

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earth tone colors of olive green and olive ambers and are certainly affordable to the beginning collector. With time, a collector will be able to obtain a nice color run of these in lighter earth tone colors. These flasks were blown at the Keene/ Marlboro Street Glassworks, and one can really classify them as "nice" early American glass.

The second so called "common" flask to note is also from Keene, that being the GIV-17 American eagle / Masonic flask. These flasks depict the ever-popular Masonic arch on one side with all the Masonic decorations embossed on the shoulders and sides of the flask and a beehive embossed below the arch. The reverse depicts an American eagle with oval below containing the word "Keene." There is no doubt as to where it was made! These flasks can once again be found at shows and with quality dealers. They all have sheared lips and open pontils, another nice New England product for the beginning or astute collector. It should be noted that these flasks are common in the earth tone colors of olive greens and ambers, but if one should encounter one in aquamarine, it should be considered an extremely rare flask.

The two "rare" flasks I have chosen were well thought out and I hope most collectors will agree with my decision. So far, I have represented flasks from the Keene, N.H., area but one of my "rare" picks is a Connecticut product that stays with the New England theme of this article.

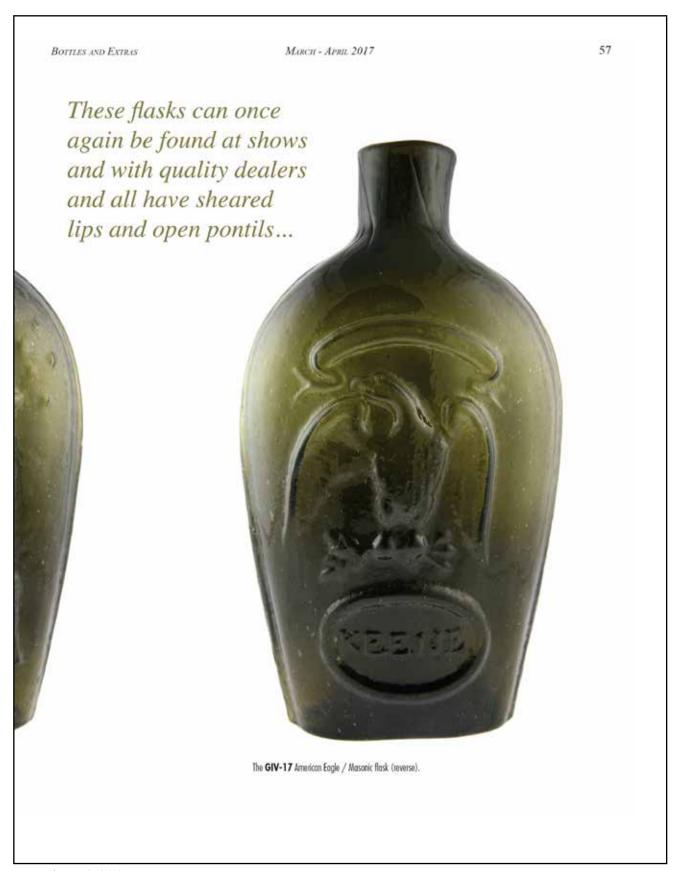
The first pick in the "rare" category is the GI- 84 Lafayette / Masonic flask. This flask was blown at the Coventry, Conn., Glass Works circa 1825. It depicts Lafayette on the obverse with the initials TS below standing for Thomas Stebbins, one of the owners of the glassworks. The Masonic arch and symbols are embossed on the reverse. All known flasks have sheared lips and open pontil marks and come in olive amber, earth tone colors. It is interesting to note that this flask is charted as extremely rare by McKearin / Wilson. Their criteria for extremely rare is 1-10 known examples. Since the publication of the book in 1978, more examples have surfaced with approximately 20 or so examples known. This "rare" flask should be considered most desirable and a prized possession in any collection.

My second pick in the "rare" group is really an all-time classic. It is the Stoddard, N.H. American flag flask. It is charted as GX-27 and depicts the American flag on the obverse and the words New Granite Glass Works, Stoddard, N.H., on the reverse. For eye appeal and historical significance, it doesn't get much better. All known pint-sized examples have sheared lips and open pontil marks and come in various shades of amber. An interesting anomaly of this flask is that of the 20 or so known, few are perfect. Many have chips, cracks, or some other type of imperfection. To find a truly perfect example is a challenge. On a side note, there is a similar half-pint example that is far rarer than the pint.

Finally we come to the two "great rarities" that I have



The GIV-17 American Eagle / Masonic flask (obverse).



A Variety of New England Flasks

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chosen. My picks might surprise many collectors as none of the Jared Spencer grouping of flasks or the "JPF" Connecticut eagle were included. Once again, my choices were based solely on the "population census" of the flask and the knowledge that less than five are known.

The first New England "great rarity" I have chosen is the GIII-3 Cornucopia / Cornucopia flask. Its form alone is unique, having a drawn-out base and being much taller than all other cornucopia flasks. To date, to the best of my knowledge, only four examples are known: an olive green example located at The Corning Museum of Glass, an olive amber example, and two aquamarine examples. The latter three are in private collections. All four examples are rather crudely made with sheared or rolled lips and open pontils. To the beginning or intermediate collector they might appear rather drab or not interesting looking, but to the advanced collector they stand out as being great pieces of early American glass blown at Keene.

The second New England "great rarity" that I have chosen is, believe it or not, a sunburst flask. It is charted as a GVIII-6 and is a Coventry product. Five raised pearl-shaped beads located on each side of the flask make this piece unique. There are three beads spaced evenly above the sunburst in a semicircle and one placed on either side at the bottom of the sunburst. It is blown in an olive amber color with sheared lip and open pontil. It is interesting to note that the McKearin charts identify it as possibly being a Keene product, but excavations at the Coventry site turned up several shards of the flask. Whether it is from Keene or Coventry, one thing for sure is that to date only one intact, perfect example is known. We can only hope another example will surface and can be enjoyed by collectors.

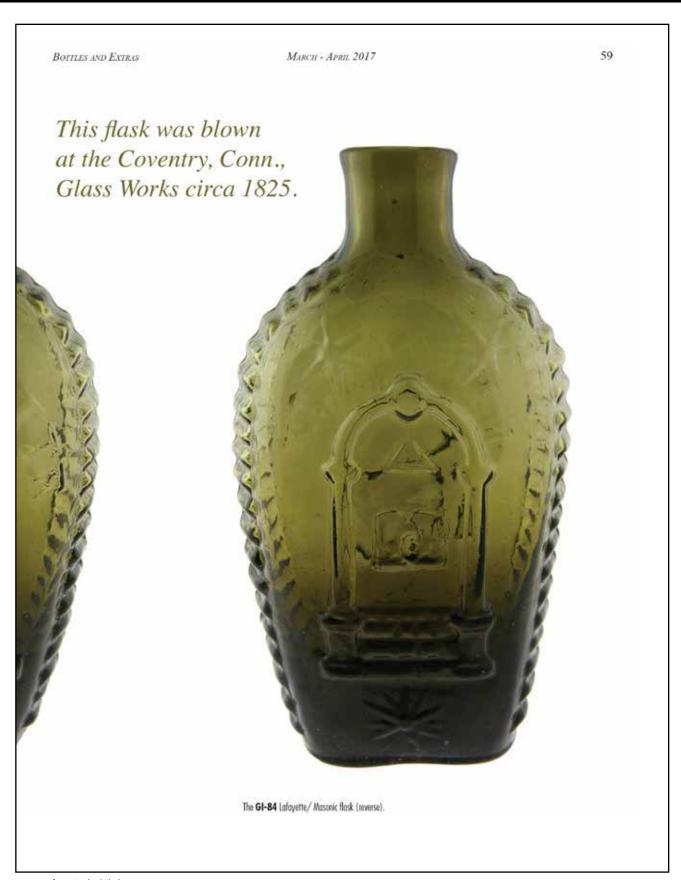
There you have it: six flasks from the New England area ranging from common to being great rarities. I hope readers enjoyed my six picks and their descriptions and that all are planning to attend the 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo.

I have been asked by Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart to give one of the seminars at Springfield. My topic will be "Historical Flasks 101." There are so many new collectors just starting, I thought I would review the fifteen different charted groups with examples and descriptions of each grouping. I will be concentrating on the more common, affordable flasks in hopes of helping out all the new collectors. I hope to see you at the expo and seminar, As stated before... I am excited.

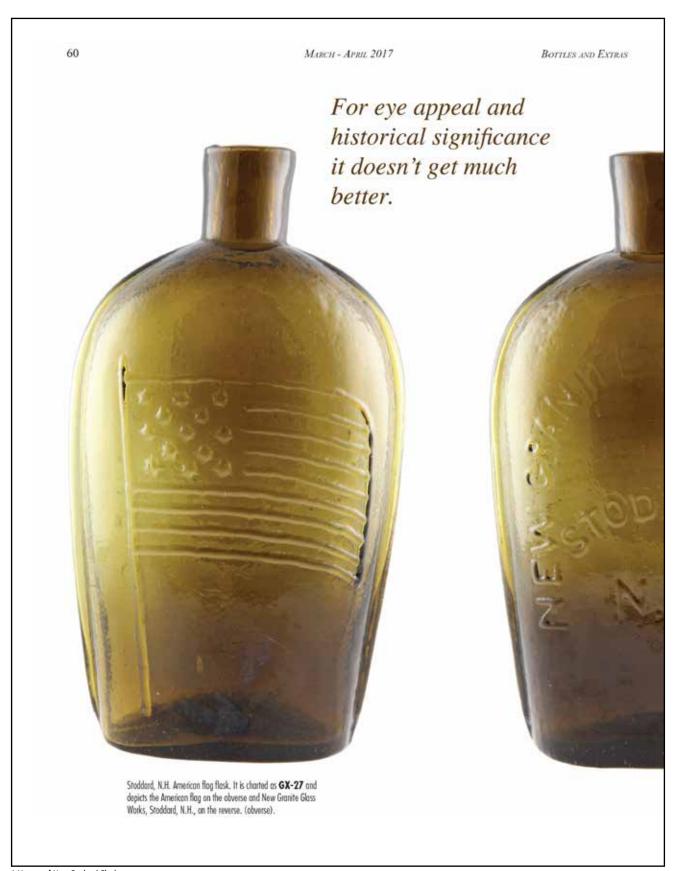




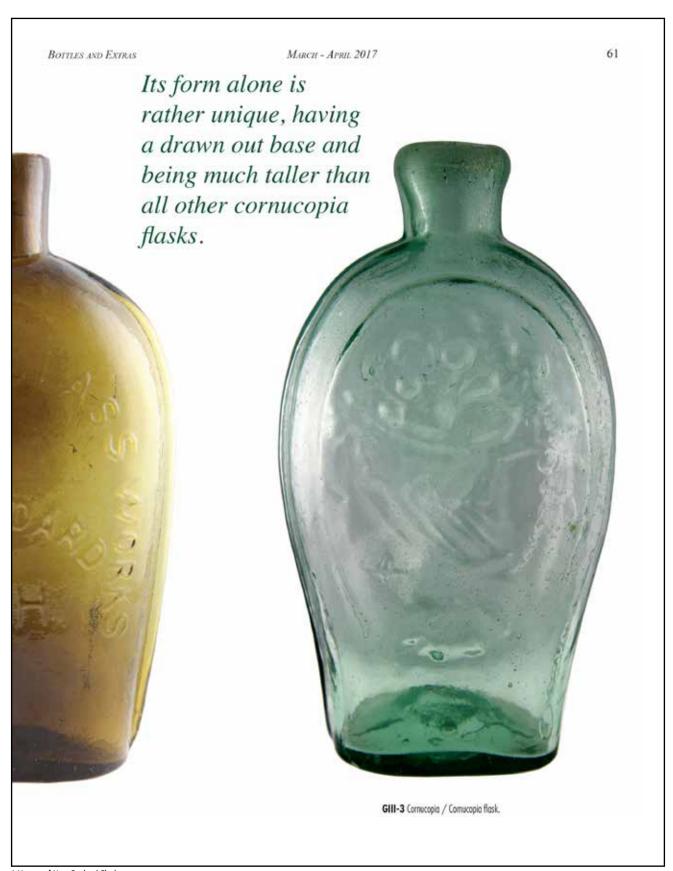
The GI-84 Lafayette/ Masonic flask (obverse).



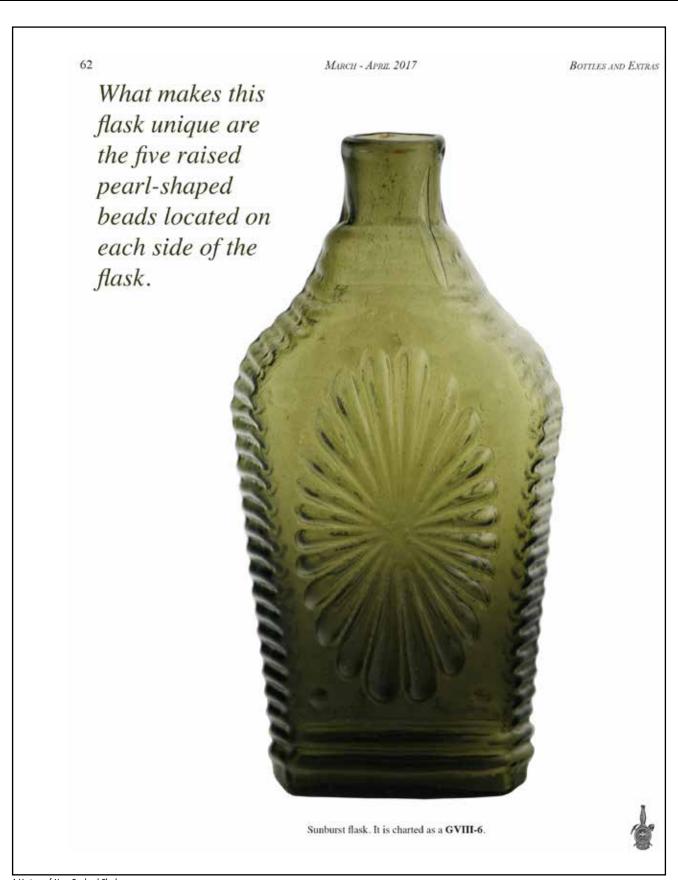
A Variety of New England Flasks



A Variety of New England Flasks



A Variety of New England Flasks



A Variety of New England Flasks



Bill Baab FOHBC 2352 Devere Street Augusta, Georgia 30904

09 January 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles & Mark Vuono

President Ferdinand Meyer V Members of the Board of Directors Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

I have never collected historical flasks, but once owned a few from the South Carolina Dispensary system (1891-1907), an 1890s M.J. Downey whiskey flask from Augusta, Georgia and a 19th century German presentation flask dug in Augusta, the honoree's identity continuing to elude me.

But most of my bottle collecting life, I have heard of the Vuono Collection, not only from my friend Mike Newman, of Martinez, Ga., who has a world class flask collection of his own, but from many others.

Charlie Vuono started the collection years ago and passed it on to his son, Mark, who is the present caretaker. The latter's son, Andrew, is the heir apparent.

The Vuonos are not closet collectors. They are willing to share their immense knowledge built by years of study. In fact, Mark Vuono once sent me an image of a flask with Masonic markings to go with my *Bottles and Extras* story on bottle archaeologist and FOHBC Hall of Famer Harry Hall White, who was credited with the flask's discovery. White described the flask in his story in *The Magazine Antiques*.

One way collectors enjoy the collection and gain knowledge is through Mark's writings in Antique Bottle & Glass Collector.

It is a goal of mine to visit the Vuonos during my time at the FOHBC National Antique Bottle Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts in August of 2017, having heard through mutual friend Jim Bender that Mark was willing to show me the collection.

Sincerely,

Bill Baab Augusta, Georgia 2011 Inductee, FOHBC Hall of Fame

File: FOHBC\_VuonoHOFReference\_Lacy





Jim Berry FOHBC Secretary 200 Ft Plain Watershed Road St. Johnsville, NY 13452 Jhberry10@yahoo.com

Val Berry FOHBC Merchandise Director 200 Ft Plain Watershed Road St. Johnsville, NY 13452 vgberry10@yahoo.com 20 February 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Mark & Charles Vuono

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I first met Mark about 15 or 20 years ago at one of the many Northeast bottle shows we attend. Since that time, we have become very good friends with Mark and his lovely family. Mark and Annie have always been very warm and generous to us as well as many others. Whenever we travel his way in the northeast, we always call and stop to visit. He and Annie have never turned us away. Mark has always been honest and trustworthy. He's always promoting the hobby wherever he goes.

Mark has continued to carry on his father's task of collecting and assembling one of the greatest collections of historical flask ever assembled. This task is now going into its third generation of collecting. Mark is also passing this knowledge down to his children. That is a great thing! Mark, in my option, has the best knowledge of historical flasks of anyone I know. He knows them inside and out. I have yet to ask Mark about a flask that he didn't know the flask history, where it was blown and the McKearin number.

Mark has written numerous articles on flasks and has also presented several seminars for the FOHBC. I still enjoy reading his articles, new and old. Mark has done extensive research on different flasks and will always take time out of his busy day to answer any questions you may have about a flask.

I never personally knew his dad, Charlie, but after meeting Mark, I wish I had. I remember seeing Charlie at different shows and auctions years ago, but never got the honor of meeting him personally. If Charlie was anything like Mark, I missed a lot!

My wife and I consider it an honor to have Mark and his family our friends! Mark is well deserving of the honor of the Hall of Fame award and we support his nomination 100%. We wish him and Annie the best.

Sincerely,

Jim & Val Berry FOHBC Officers St. Johnsville, New York

File: FOHBC\_Vuono\_HOFReference\_Berry





Louis Fifer FOHBC Conventions Director 604 Topaz Brunswick, Ohio 44212 330.635.1964 fiferlouis@yahoo.com

24 January 2017

#### Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles & Mark Vuono

Dear FOHBC Board members.

Mark's willingness to help the younger collectors understand the bottle collecting hobby can't go unnoticed. Whether it be one of his numerous magazine articles that he has written over the years or visiting the extensive collection that Mark and his father (Charles Vuono) have assembled together. In Mark's magazine articles that he's written, he breaks down a specific group number of the McKearin book and tries to simplify as best he can for the novice to understand better. For example, Mark will write about a specific group of flasks within a category of the McKearin book and will break down each flask so you can tell the differences between the different molds in that specific group, rarity of the different flasks in that group and the rarity of the different colors in that group. That way if someone wants to specialize in the specific group they'll read his articles repeatedly to better understand and soak up the knowledge that Mark is willing to share.

Mark also has a world-renowned collection of historical flasks that he and his father (Charles Vuono) amassed over their collective collecting years. Mark will let you into his home to visit his collection and encourage you to handle any of his flasks (except for his Farley & Taylor which is very fragile) to get a feel for the glass and to study each one to understand the differences between the different molds so it's easier to tell them apart first hand. Mark always says that the best way to learn about a flask is to handle it.

Mark is always trying to get young collectors to join the hobby. He helps them in any way he can, he'll even go out and try to find a flask that a beginner is looking for so they don't get discouraged. Mark is always there for you when you need the help or have a question. He will take time out of his busy day to talk bottles and share his knowledge of the hobby. I never had the luxury of meeting Marks dad (Charles Vuono) but when I hear Mark tell a bottle story from years ago, and hear the excitement in his voice on a bottle they bought together it warms your heart. From what I've heard of Charles he was just like Mark and was willing to share his knowledge to anyone that needed it.

I first met Mark at the 2011 FOHBC national bottle show in Memphis. I was a young collector at the time and was talking to John Pastor about a flask and he said, "talk to Mark, he's a big-time collector and he knows a lot about flasks." So, I proceeded to ask Mark about the flask that turned out that it was once in his collection that he upgraded a few years before. That was the last time I talked to Mark for a few years. The next time was at the 2013 FOHBC National Antique Bottle Show in Manchester, New Hampshire. This was when I really got to know Mark. I was invited up to a party that Mark and Rick Ciralli were hosting in the hotel presidential suite. Mark had asked me what I collected and I proceeded to show him some pictures of my small collection of historical flasks to which he was very impressed with what I had in my collection in the few years I was collecting. He said "keep up the good work, we need more young collectors like you in this hobby." I was humbled by what he had said to me that night. Later that year I was able to visit his home with Matt Lacy and see his vast collection of historical flasks. When he took us into his side room my jaw hit the floor when I saw a wall full of flasks. He said that wasn't all of them he had a room upstairs as well. I had never seen so many great flasks in one location in my life. I was told to handle and study as many flasks as I liked and boy did I.

At the end of our visit with Mark he asked me what was my favorite flask? I said I have two, one realistic and one fantasy. My fantasy flask was the GI-70 Mantua Jackson flask (only three known) and my realistic flask was a GII-118 double eagle in yellow green loaded with bubbles (I now own one of my own).

Ever since these visits with Mark, he has always been my mentor and helped me out anytime I needed it.

#### Louis Fifer

FOHBC Conventions Director, FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Co-Chair

File: FOHBC\_VuonoHOFReference\_Fifer

### Norman C. Heckler & Company

Auctioneers & Appraisers

79 Bradford Corner Road, Woodstock Valley, Connecticut 06282 860-974-1634 Fax 860-974-2003

Mr. James Bender P.O. Box 162 Sprakers, NY 12166 February 1, 2017

Dear Jim,

The flask collection of Charles and Mark Vuono is the finest, most complete, and most comprehensive collection of historical and pictorial flasks ever assembled. It took a father, a son, and a grandson to exercise their knowledge, patience, and perseverance to attain their goal.

I approve of Charles and Mark Vuono being inducted into the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Norman C. Heckler, Sr.





Matt Lacy FOHBC Midwest Region Director 3836 State Route 307 Austinburg, Ohio 44010 440.228.1873 info@antiquebottlesales.com

19 January 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles & Mark Vuono

Dear FOHBC Board members,

I am writing in support of the induction of Charles and Mark Vuono into the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame. I would like to provide verbal evidence and supporting information that the induction of these two fine men should be not only permitted, but encouraged. I had the honor of being introduced to Mark Vuono informally through mutual friends Ed and Kathy Gray of Treasure Lake, Pennsylvania. Ed and Kathy have been mentors to me for many years. I turned up a quart double eagle in an unlisted mold in which Ed suggested I reach out Mark Vuono for advice. I had never spoken with or met Mr. Vuono before. I sent an email detailing myself and pictures of the flask. Mark responded promptly with excitement as he had not found this mold yet. This started a several months' string of exchanging emails and resulted in the purchase of a double eagle flask from Mark. Our friendship took off from there. Mark has taken on the role of mentor, friend, and purchase partner with me over the years.

In many ways, I consider Mark family, a surrogate father if you will. Mark has encouraged me in many areas of my life far beyond this hobby and has given me a vision for what is possible. I owe my increased awareness of "big picture thinking" to him. I feel that the bond that has formed over the years is due to our mutual passion for the hobby including the people, the glass, and the history. Mark has done a lot for the bottle hobby. In fact, I do not think that Louis Fifer and I would be serving on the board for the FOHBC without his encouragement. In addition to the many great articles Mark has published, that Mr. Bender will be providing a portfolio of, Mark is constantly sharing flasks on Facebook and providing feedback to even the newest collectors in the hobby. Mark also leaves encouraging and helpful comments to those who participate in the bottle forums.

Mark hosts dozens, of collectors at his home in Connecticut each year to see his collection in person. The collection that Mark and his father have assembled together is something that will likely never be done again. I have personally heard Mark invite many collectors to his home. He has invited many young collectors that have not yet had the opportunity to make the trip. Those that do visit leave inspired and invigorated to participate even more in the hobby. He is eager to share his knowledge and wisdom with anyone who is willing to listen. Mark has also done many talks and seminars over the years which will continue in 2017 at the Springfield National Convention.

Mark has been collecting and contributing to the hobby since he was a young boy. His father Charles invested the time to teach Mark about bitters and flasks. Mark knew bitters and a little later the flask molds at an early age as Charles planted the seeds of passion for the hobby. Charles introduced Mark to the great collectors of the time and took Mark along on many memorable trips that live on through well told stories today. Charles and Mark have made a huge and sustained positive impact on our great hobby. I feel like I have gotten to know Charles through the stories and enthusiasm of Mark. Mark loves to share stories about the collecting greats that came before him. He tells the stories with such vivid detail and excitement that it can be determined that this hobby has made a real and lasting impact on his life.

Lastly, I can state with confidence that Mark Vuono is not done making a positive impact on the hobby. Mark plans to continue to contribute through seminars, articles, and knowledge sharing. Meanwhile, you will see him at shows and in person, passionately talking with collectors about flasks and the great people that have influenced the last several decades of collecting. He has a true passion for teaching much like his father. It is my very humble opinion that Charles and Mark Vuono have earned a well-deserved spot in the FOHBC Hall of Fame so that the legacy they have built will live on through generations of collectors to come.

Best Regard,

Matthew A. Lacy

FOHBC Midwest Director, FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Co-Chair

File: FOHBC\_VuonoHOFReference\_Lacy





Ferdinand Meyer V FOHBC President 101 Crawford Street Studio 1A Houston, Texas 77002 fmeyer@fohbc.org

#### The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

09 January 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles and Mark Vuono

It gives me great pleasure to recommend that father-son Charles and Mark Vuono be inducted into the prestigious FOHBC Hall of Fame in 2017. Though I did not know Mark's father Charles, I am certainly aware of his great contributions to our hobby and broad expertise in collecting of American Historical Flasks.

On a number of occasions, I have had the honor of visiting Mark Vouno and spending time looking at his great collection of historical flasks. Mark has always taken time to guide me thru specific areas of his collection and share his knowledge.

Mark also writes extensively on American Historical Flasks and shares his knowledge with the new generation of collectors on the Internet. This cross-pollination of information-giving is critical in moving our hobby forward.

Fertiliand Meyer V

OHBC\_VuonoHOFReference

Sincere



March 2, 2017

<u>To</u>: Members of the Board of Directors
Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Re: Nomination of Mark and Charles Vuono to the FOHBC Hall of Fame

Dear Board Members,

It is a distinct privilege to have been given the opportunity to write this letter in recognition of Mark Vuono's nomination to FOHBC Hall of Fame.

I have known Mark and his late father Charles for more than 30 years, spanning back to the 1984 FOHBC Montgomery Expo where we shared tables next to one another. I actually met the Vuono's previously while attending early bottle auctions at Skinners Auction Gallery in Bolton, Massachusetts.

During the nearly 33 years since that fateful weekend in Montgomery, I have come to know Mark and his family very well. Mark has always been willing to share his knowledge and expertise freely, to help new collectors with words of wisdom and encouragement, and to support the hobby in any manner possible.

It is no secret that Mark, along with his late father Charles, have amassed what is today the most significant and comprehensive collection of figured flasks ever assembled, be it in a public museum or private collection. In many ways, the Vuono collection is like a museum, as they have opened their home and collection to countless collectors who have visited over the years.

In addition, for more than six years, Mark has consistently shared his extensive knowledge, wit and wisdom with collectors across the country and abroad. He has done so through the pages of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector magazine* via his well-received quarterly column "American Historical Flasks".

Mark Vuono, together with his late father Charles, have certainly demonstrated their dedication, tenure, love, and support of the hobby through action as well as deed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pastor

FOHBC Life Member

I fout met Charlie Vuono and his son Mark in the late 1960's at Bottle shows and Bot Skinners ovitions in Bolton, Mass. at the years were began talking more and more about the hobby. Charlie would talk about flasks he had added to his collection and I would tell him about Bingers that It had added to mine. He would always say he hoped of would get the Banana juice Bininger some day. We were both teacher so some of our conversations were about education. Charlie loved this hobby and he would answer all questions about flasks right away - Mark took over this great collection when his Dad passed away. In my opinion has has become the archarity on Historial flasher in the country. Wark has done many informative articles on these bottles. Mark has added many flashes to the Collection. Marks son Oudrew is collecting also. Immy 51 years of collecting autique bottles A cannot think of two mign more desiring of this great honor. The Hall of fame Jack Selletier





Robert A. Strickhart FOHBC Northeast Region Director 3 Harvest Drive Pennington, NJ 08534 609.818.1981 strickhartbob@aol.com

09 January 2017

Re: FOHBC Hall of Fame Nomination | Charles & Mark Vuono

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Dear FOHBC Board Members,

When contemplating the nomination of a new inductee into the FOHBC Hall of Fame, one must consider the caliber of those who have already been enrolled. As a life member of the Federation, I have been fortunate to enjoy the friendship of several Hall of Famers over many years and have been privileged to witness their fine character.

With that in mind, I have absolutely no reservation in nominating Mr. Mark Vuono to join the ranks of the FOHBC Hall of Fame. In fact, I believe his induction is somewhat overdue as he has been a fine ambassador and an excellent contributor to this hobby for most of his life, having started his journey with bottle collecting many years ago with his father Charles. While I did not know Charles Vuono personally, I can only assume that he is also a worthy candidate as his son Mark attests to his fatherly teachings by being the stand-up gentleman he is.

Mark's knowledge of and love for historical flasks is easily apparent. One simply must spend some time reading one of his many informative and well written articles or share an always cordial conversation with him. Better yet, when you visit Mark and his lovely family in Stamford, Ct., you will be treated to what I believe is the finest assemblage of American historical flasks and a visit you will never forget.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to call Mark my friend. Please understand that he is a friend in the truest sense of the word, not just an acquaintance. On several occasions Mark has supported my efforts with the local bottle show I chair as well as the 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention I currently am co-chairing. I know too, that if we didn't collect bottles, I could still count him as a friend to be trusted.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly nominate Mr. Mark Vuono to be inducted into the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Strickhart Life Member FOHBC

FOHBC Northeast Director, FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Co-Chair

File: FOHBC\_VuonoHOFReference\_Strickhart

#### Richard M Tucker 1627 Port Charles Place Newport Beach, CA 92660 Work (949) 900-4960 Mobile (949) 500-1611

January 26, 2017

A Letter Concerning: Charles Vuono and Mark Vuono

To the Board of Directors of the FOHBC:

I am very pleased to write a recommendation to honor Charles and Mark Vuono with induction into the FOHBC "Hall of Fame."

I first met Charles and Mark Vuono at the 1980 Expo Bottle Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. I met them at their sales table and later at the auction of bottles and flasks conducted by Skinner's Auction Company. At the time I was a new collector and Charles was introduced to me as an advanced collector. It was interesting to me that the collector was in fact two collectors as a father and son team. I soon learned that Charles and his son Mark were well known in the hobby and that they always traveled together around the country searching for flasks that they did not have and better examples of flasks that would upgrade their collection.

I also learned that Mark had his own collection of Blown Three Mold bottles, glass cup plates and free blown pieces. While Mark collected and acquired different objects, it was so he did not compete with his father. Yet as a team, Mark studied and helped nurture his father's collection as well as chase down important additions for the collection.

I heard about this great flask collection and assumed that Charles was a wealthy collector with what I imagined was a huge bank roll of endless amounts of money to amass such a large collection of key molds and colors of these wonderful and historical flasks. I was later informed that he was a man of modest means who assembled his collection through shear dedication and single minded determination.

After Charles passing, Mark stepped up to assume control of the collection within his family. To all observers it was so apparent that Mark was dedicated to the memory of his father and to the growing of a great collection of flasks.

These historical flasks have been collected since about 1900 when Edwin A Barber published his now iconic book about early American glass makers and the flasks and bottles they produced. Great collections and collectors came during the early teens and twenties of the last century. Even in the 1930's depression era great collections by such notables as George McKearin and Charles Gardener were assembled. But today those great flask collectors to not reach the height now achieved by the legacy that Mark Vuono inherited and has continued to expand upon so that today it reaches a size that is most impressive. It contains nearly every mold ever charted and many of the molds contain numerous examples of various colors and lip treatments. No collection of flasks ever assembled or presented in any museum is as complete or contains the quality and breadth of this marvelous collection.