

Lot 768: The Pigeon Ball

It is embossed **Agnew & Brown, Corner of 27th & Smallman Sts., Pittsburgh, Pa.** with an **embossed pigeon** on the reverse!

But not just any embossing; it represents the epitome of the mold-maker's skill: You can literally count the feathers on this bird!

Many collectors would put this ball at the top of their wish list. With the company name, the address, and the symbolic pigeon, could you ask for much more?

This is a tough ball to acquire, as are most balls referred to as "those Pittsburgh balls." Rare? 99.9 percent of all ball collectors have never even seen one, let alone held one.

After 40-plus years of charting balls, Ralph is aware of three. The first two were known for some time, but the third came up only a couple of years ago when a woman, fumbling through the attic of an abandoned home about to be demolished, uncovered it, thinking at first it was a Christmas ornament.

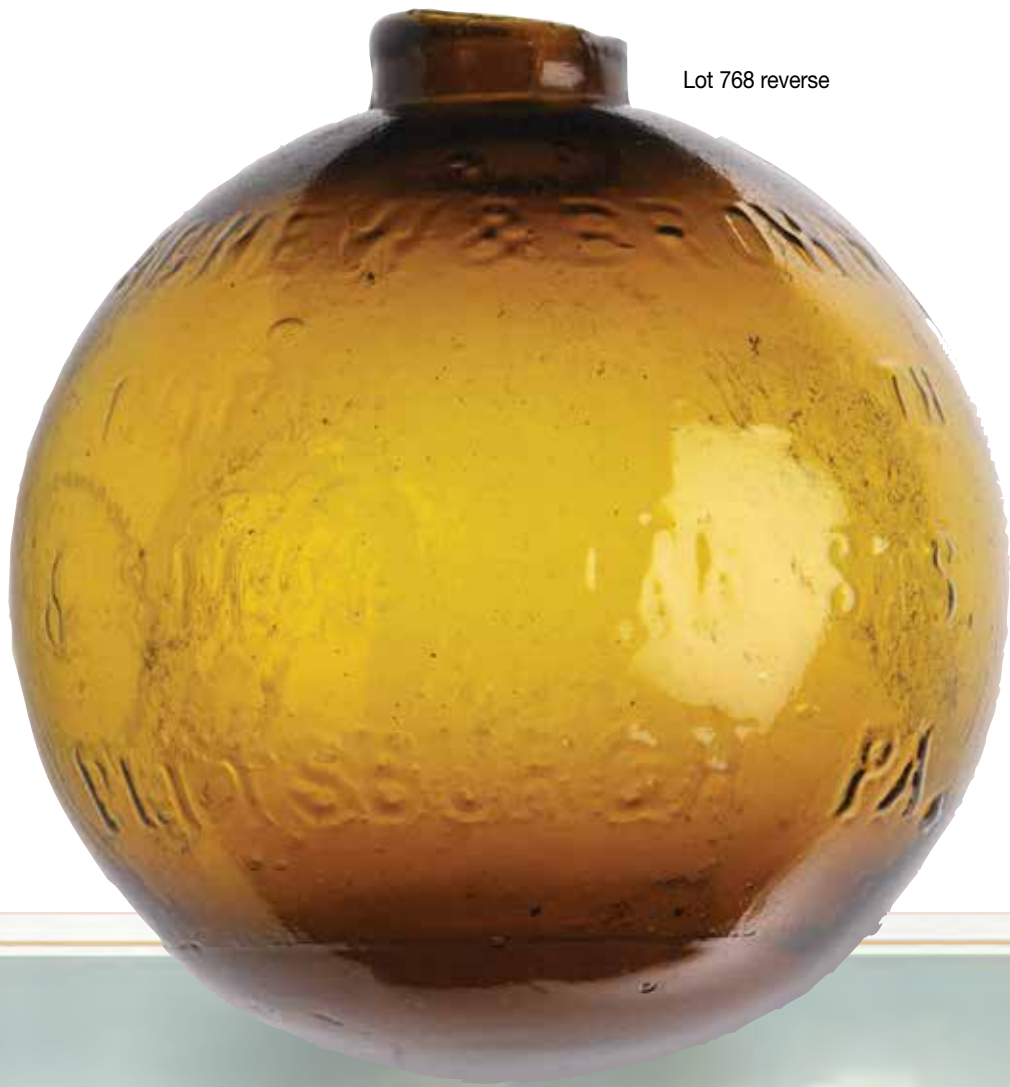
On May 5, 2007, in the Alex Kerr auction, a nice amber example sold for \$28,500 (with 12 percent buyer's premium). That same pigeon ball was resold in the Peter Frobouck auction for \$29,120 in July, 2010 (with a premium). The sale made headlines in antique publications across the country.

Ralph was the high bidder. He gained a great ball, but in doing so, wiped out much of the savings of his new bride.

Lot 768 front



Lot 768 reverse



VIEW OF PITTSBURGH & ALLEGHENY.