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Kentucky's Top 25 Rarest Bottles and Top 25 Bitters

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Compiling Top 25 lists is a favorite with sports fans, but there's no rule against doing the same for a state's antique bottles. So we got together and the following lists are what we came up with. Not all of them are bottles. Enjoy.

TOP 25 of Kentucky's Rarest Bottles:

1. Large olive green lady's leg, measuring approximately 12 by 3.5 inches and embossed **Universe Bitters / Manufactured by / Aug. Horstmann / Sole Agent / F.J. Schaefer / 231 Market St. / Louisville, Ky.**
2. Amber historical flask (GII-27), 2.5 quart size. Embossed on front is a large **American eagle**, head turned left, wings spread, embossed arrows in feet. On the reverse: **FARLEY & TAYLOR / RICHMOND, KY.** Corrugated sides, plain lip and pontil.
3. Cobalt blue pig-shaped bottle, **DUFFY'S CRESCENT SALOON / LOUISVILLE, KY.** Embossed rooster. Probably has a Jefferson Street address.
4. Large (one gallon) pottery pig bottle incised **JOHN BERLING / COLUMBUS, KY. POTTERY.** Here's what the owner had to say: "The Columbus pig is very reminiscent of an Anna (Pottery) pig with the Mississippi River, railroads and the streets of Columbus, Ky. On one side is BACK STREET (backs up to the river) and JOHN BERLING / COLUMBUS, KY. POTTERY with an incising of his house and kiln."
5. Cobalt blue ale or mineral water bottle shape embossed **METCALFE BREWERY / LOUISVILLE, KY.** Probably about a quart and with an iron pontil.
6. Aqua target ball embossed **LOUISVILLE, KY. GLASS WORKS.**
7. Olive amber whiskey barrel-shaped quart bottle embossed **BLAKE & HALL'S / OLD BOURBON / WHISKEY / GREENUP, KY.** Smooth base.
8. Aqua round bottle similar to a pickle with a smooth base and embossed **SHAKER PRESERVES.**
9. Green "John Bull Sarsaparilla-shaped bottle" embossed **GENUINE PHOENIX SARSAPARILLA / LOUISVILLE, KY.** Pontiled.
10. Amber whiskey tall and about a 5th in size, six-sided with an iron pontil and embossed **KEENE & CO. / FRANKFORT, KY.** Bottle is full of seed bubbles.
11. Open pontiled medicine, probably a small rectangular bottle embossed **AMERICAN OIL / BURKESVILLE, KY.** Color is lighter than cobalt and darker than cornflower blue.
12. Amber bitters-shaped barrel bottle with a smooth base. Embossed **J.A. CLARK / 219 THIRD ST. / LOUISVILLE, KY.**
13. Amber triangular-shaped bitters bottle with embossed ribs on the sides. Embossed **PASQUIER'S / FRENCH BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY.**
14. Olive green whiskey-shaped barrel bottle with smooth base. Embossed **NELSON'S / OLD BOURBON / MAYSVILLE, KY.** Another rare color is honey amber.
15. Amber octagonal lady's leg bitters bottle embossed **RIVAUD'S / COCKTAIL / BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY.** A related bottle is very rare and is an amber square bitters embossed **RIVAUD'S IMPERIAL BITTERS / VICTOR RIVAUD / LOUISVILLE, KY.**
16. Aqua smooth base (just missing pontil era) embossed **DR. BRUCE'S / INDIAN VEGETABLE / PANACEA / NEW CASTLE, KY.** It's similar in shape to a large John Bull Sarsaparilla-shaped bottle.
17. Deep emerald green bottle with iron pontil (slightly taller than most mineral waters) embossed **T.E. JENKINS / PAROQUET / WATER / LOUISVILLE, KY.** It has a tapered top with ring. Only one known in this color; one is known in teal.
18. Aqua umbrella ink with open pontil embossed **WALKER'S / LOUISVILLE, KY.**
19. Deep emerald green blob top soda embossed **CRYSTAL PALACE / LUPE & EVANS / LOUISVILLE, KY.** Base is smooth and bottle is loaded with tiny seed bubbles.
20. Green rectangular bitters bottle with smooth base, measuring approximately 9.5 x 3-3/8 x 2-3/8 inches and embossed **O'MARRAS / FENIAN BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY. / J.B. WILDER & CO.**
21. Half-pint deep green historical flask (GI-33) embossed **LOUISVILLE, L KY. / GLASS WORKS** on one side. The other side embossed with an American eagle with talons, five embossed stars.
22. Yellow to citron open pontil rectangular medicine embossed **S & S / MAYSVILLE, KY.**
23. Olive-green mineral water bottle with open pontil, embossed **ARTESIAN WATER / LOUISVILLE, KY.** On reverse is DuPONT lettered vertically. There is a series

of 1-1/2-inch panels which are rounded off and embossed all around the side at base. Another example exists in olive amber.

24. Tall black glass bottle with seal embossed **T. RUCKER / LOUISVILLE**. Seal is placed on top just below shoulder. Probably one of the oldest known Kentucky bottles, it was dug in Louisville during the early 1900s.

25. Very large aqua bottle (John Bull Sarsaparilla-shaped) with iron pontil. Embossed **J.T. RICKERSON'S / HOARHOPUND / & / SARSAPARILLA / CYNTHIANA, KY**. All four sides are embossed.

TOP 25 Kentucky Bitters Bottles

1. Green lady's leg embossed **UNIVERSE BITTERS / MANUFACTURED BY / AUG. HORSTMANN / SOLE AGENT / F.J. SCHAEFER / 231 MARKET ST. / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

2. Amber triangular bottle embossed **PASQUIER'S / FRENCH BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**. The sides have embossed ribs and there are two rings at the base of the neck.

3. Amber octagonal Lady's leg bottle embossed **RIVAUD'S / COCKTAIL / BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Smooth base.

4. Amber square bottle embossed **RIVAUD'S IMPERIAL BITTERS / VICTOR RIVAUD / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Smooth base.

5. Amber square bottle with roofed shoulder embossed **DR. M. SMITH'S / STOMACH / BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Smooth base.

6. Round amber seal bottle embossed on seal **BERNHEIM BROS. / & URI / LOUISVILLE / KY**. Embossed horizontally below seal **ULBRIGHT / RELIABLE / IMPORT CO. / TINCTURE / OF / CENTAURY / BITTERS**. Also, embossed vertically on sides: **BLOOD PURIFIER / STOMACH TONIC**.

7. Green rectangular bottle with smooth base approximately 9.5 x 3 3/8 x 2 3/8 inches. Embossed **O'MARRAS / FENIAN BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY. / J.B. WILDER & CO.**

8. Square aqua bottle embossed **DR. J.L. FLEECE'S / FEMALE BITTERS / LEBANON, KY**. Smooth base.

9. Square amber bottle embossed **COURTNEY'S / DIXIANA BITTERS / COURTNEY MEDICINE CO. / OWENSBORO, KY**. Smooth base.

10. Square amber bottle embossed **HAVIS' IRON BITTERS / THE WILLIAMSBURG DRUG CO. / WILLIAMSBURG, KY**. Smooth base.

11. Square clear bottle with hobnail corners embossed **WILDER'S BOURBON BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Roofed shoulders.

12. Amber lady's leg bottle approximately 11 5/16 by 3 3/8 inches and embossed **SCHROEDER'S / SPICE BITTERS**. Approximately 70 bottles were found in the wreck of the steamboat Bertrand.

13. Green square bottle with label: **SCHROEDER'S STOMACH BITTERS**. Bottle is embossed **J.H. SCHROEDER / 28 WALL STREET / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Measures approximately 10 x 3.25 inches, found on the wreck of the steamboat Bertrand.

14. Square bottle (green and amber examples) embossed **DR. JOHN BULL'S / COMPOUND / CEDRON BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

15. Square amber bottle 10.5 x 2 3/4 inches embossed **R.L. EGERTON'S / STOMACH BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

16. Aqua to very light green **E. CAMPBELL'S / STOMACH BITTERS / CREELSBORO, KY**.

17. Amber **DR. JAS. FOLEY'S TONIC BITTERS / J.T.S. BROWN / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

18. Square aqua bottle with roofed shoulders embossed **DR. JAS. GRAVES / TONIC BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

19. Square aqua bottle with roofed shoulders embossed **GRAVES & SON / TONIC BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**. Probably has an embossed star.

20. Square amber bottle with roofed shoulders embossed **A. HOFFELD'S / LIVER BITTERS / LOUISVILLE CHEMICAL / MANUFACTURING CO. / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

21. Square amber bottle embossed **THOMAS A. HURLEY'S / STOMACH BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**.

22. Clear rectangular bottle measuring approximately 8 by 2 7/8 by 1.25 inches and embossed **QUININE / TONIC BITTERS / MANF. BY / Q.T.B. CHEMICAL CO. / LOUISVILLE, KY. / U.S.A.** Has initials Q.T.B. on side panels.

23. Like **No. 22**, but shorter in size.

24. Amber sample-sized bottle with lady's leg measuring approximately 4 inches in height and embossed **SCHROEDER'S / BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY. / AND CINCINNATI**. Embossed rooster on bottle.

25. Amber bottle with bulged neck and four smooth sides embossed **E. BULL'S / LUXARY BITTERS / LOUISVILLE, KY**.