



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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I am sitting here catching my breath and gathering my thoughts on a flight from Houston to Chicago. I'll change planes at O'Hare for a smaller jet to Fort Wayne, Indiana so I can meet with my clients throughout the day tomorrow. Not all is business though, as I will spend one night in New Hudson, Michigan at one of our board members, John Pastor's and Liz Maxbauer's house and hopefully see and talk glass. Just have to drive about three hours to get there. John, as some of you know, is a passionate collector in many areas of antique bottles. He runs the successful American Glass Gallery auction house and if that is not enough, publishes Antique Bottle & Glass Collectors Magazine.

Next, I will be off to see Federation members and glass celebrities Ralph and Janet Finch the following day. Really looking forward to seeing Ralph's legendary Target Ball collection. I think my wife Elizabeth, just about flipped, when she heard I was adding an extra day to my trip for those reasons. She wanted to come so bad to see her friends too. You know, I have a pretty great wife. I would not trade her for a thing. She is my Indian Queen. I do not honestly know how she puts up with my glass passion (or insanity) and my travelling. Maybe if she reads this compliment, she will let me have that last window space in the dining room for my bottles. I mean, she already knows what is outside right? She can also look between the bottles.

If all goes as planned, you should be getting the first 2014, January-February Bottles and Extras issue of the new year, sometime around Christmas. At that time, many of you may be thinking of some New Year's resolutions and ways to ring in the New Year. With that in mind, I thought I might put together a 'Top-10' list of ways we, as bottle collectors, might make for a better New Year and of course, future.

1. We must target the next generation of bottle collectors as members of the FOHBC. Many of us Federation members are aging. There is a whole new generation of savvy collectors that gather, find, display and correspond online. We need this group to join the Federation.

2. Bring someone new and younger into our hobby. Give them a bottle, tell them a story, bring them to a bottle show and help them out.

3. We must adapt to the new world. Change is nothing to fear. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, 'There is nothing to fear, but fear itself'.

4. We must expand our horizons. Bottle collecting is so much more than bottle shows and a magazine. There are so many layers we can embrace and directions we can go. We just need a map and the spirit to explore.

5. Remembering our past is critical. As the legends move on and the sands of time erase our memories, we must recall, document and pass along the stories and characters that came before us. We must build upon this foundation.

6. Stand up and be counted. Volunteer, be constructive and give something back to the hobby you love so much. If you have a talent in a certain area, the Federation and our hobby can use you.

7. Tell us your bottle stories. Shine and be shined upon. Each and every one of us is special. Each of our bottles is special and has a story. Share on the blogs, at club meetings, bottle shows, web sites and within the magazines.

8. Find the missing link, the missing piece that you have been searching for, for so long. That is what we all, deep down, want. The excitement and thrill of finding or adding a piece that we have dreamed of, is so fulfilling...that is, until something else catches our fancy and replaces our target.

9. Do not be petty, mean or spiteful. Be constructive and positive. These are, without a doubt, tough and challenging times. Negativity is harmful and counter productive. As my mom and dad always said, "if you do not have something nice to say, don't say it".

10. Collect something new in glass. Find something interesting to collect and have fun looking for it at bottle shows, antique shops, yard and estate sales, online etc. Have fun displaying your new treasures along with your primary collecting interest.

Well, there you go. I have a few more ideas and suggested goals but I said top ten. If you have some ideas, PLEASE, send them to myself or any of our board members. We are all ears. Have a Happy New Year, be safe and don't forget to make plans to attend, sell, display and experience the Midwest Region's, 2014 National Antique Bottle Show in Lexington, Kentucky this coming August 1 - 3. There will be no other show like this in 2014 with 325 tables, museum like displays, exciting seminars, the 'Run for the Roses' bottle competition, 'Thoroughbred Auction' put on by Glass Works Auctions, the Banquet with keynote speaker, Michael Veach, also known as Mr. Bourbon and so much more.

This will be the bottle event of the year.