

SHOW REPORTS

Baltimore, Maryland - March 2, 2003



The Baltimore Antique Bottle Club's 23rd Show and Sale on March 2 lived up to its reputation for being the largest one-day bottle show in the world and one of the finest anywhere. It attracted many of the top bottle collectors and dealers in the country as well as dealers from the UK, Germany and Canada. For the 19th consecutive year the show sold out with a lengthy waiting list of dealers anxious to get in. Unfortunately, the facility cannot accommodate more than 310 tables and some dealers will have to perhaps wait until next year to participate.

Kudos to show chairman, Bob Ford, who once again did a terrific job in seeing that all the logistics in running such a large bottle show as this came together smoothly. Also to be commended are the many club members who volunteered and worked hard to help in the myriad areas needed to execute an efficiently operating show.

As always we had a huge turnout for a one-day show—1,268 paid admissions—and the crowd was constant throughout the entire day. The Baltimore show has a tradition of attracting legions of bottle enthusiasts from all over, with some attending from as far away as California and New Mexico. Many from the south ventured to the snowy north to attend this major bottle event. And this crowd came to buy! You can see that in the unbelievable amount of packages carried about and the broad smiles on the dealers' faces. The atmosphere was electric.

As part of the club's mission to educate the public about bottle collecting, we offered a free bottle appraisal service at the show. Approximately 75 participated. Two of the highest valued bottles appraised were the smallest sized cobalt skull poison and an early 1850s puce whiskey flask. The club traditionally provides complimentary tables to the FOHBC and the National Bottle Museum so that these worthy organizations can publicize their many ongoing activities and initiatives.

Our show was enhanced by some excellent displays featuring high quality items: American Stoneware by Arthur Dell, Rensselaer, NY (1st Place Ribbon and People's Choice Ribbon) [Fig. 1]; Insulators by Charles Irons, Milford, DE (Most Educational Ribbon and 2nd Place Ribbon) [Fig. 2]; Baltimore Corn For the World Flasks by Tom Lines, Birmingham, AL [Fig. 3]; Jug Poisons by Stan Hallett, Baltimore, MD [Fig. 4]; and Medicines into the Modern Age by Marge McGee, Baltimore, MD [Fig.6]. We are grateful to our display judges this year: Ken Previtali, Danbury, CT and FOHBC President Ralph Van Brocklin, Johnson City, TN.

Not only was our show a big hit, but it was the venue for an outstanding display of honesty. A dealer had inadvertently left two boxes containing historical flasks and other bottles as well as reference books outside the loading area in the snow during Saturday's set-up. The total value was estimated to be several thousand dollars. It was found by another dealer, Jess Westfall of Rushford, NY, and he turned them in to the BABC Club Table. Following Bob Ford's announcement on Sunday that some books were found, the dealer who misplaced the boxes came forward that afternoon to claim his property (after describing the contents fully). He had thought that he had



forgotten to bring them in the first place. Bottles and books were happily re-united with the owner. The honesty of Jess Westfall was refreshing, to say the least, and should be recognized.

We appreciate the support from all who participated in and attended our show, and we look forward to another great show in Bottletown, USA on March 7, 2004.

Steve Charing
President, Baltimore Antique Bottle Club

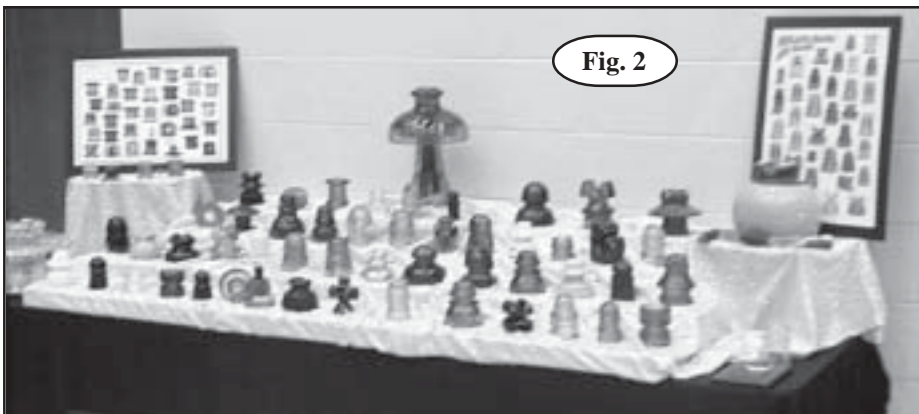


Fig. 2

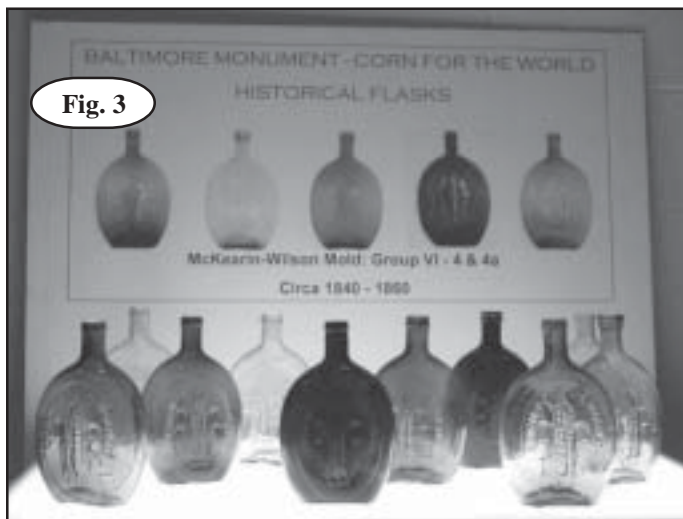


Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 4



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

[Fig. 5] Tom Lines and Reggie Lynch having a conversation in front of a table full of bottles and a room full of buyers.

[Fig. 7] More of the crowd and tables full of items to offer.

More photos on the next page.

More Baltimore, Maryland - March 2, 2003

from Fred Arwood

Despite the record breaking snows of late February and early March, the show went on. Some dealers were slow in setting up their merchandise, but the sell-out event went as planned. Buyers were lined up on Sunday morning in a line that reached the front street as the well advertised show opened at 8am. This was the 23rd annual bottle show and sale by the Baltimore Antique Bottle Club and it was held at the Essex Community College athletic center, which had plenty of parking space for dealers and buyers.



Roy "Skip" Wakefield, Winston-Salem, N.C., tending his table.



A blue and white Spatz is shown by Alex Caiola of Emerson, N.J.



A good selection of ACL sodas on the table of Dan Pauley from Middletown, N.Y.



Brian Wade of Huntington Station, N.Y. slipped in a few good ACLs with his embossed sodas, which are his favorite item.

If you are having an upcoming show -
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