

ABOUT ANTIQUES

Historic And Pictorial Flasks Rate High On Collectors Market

Collectors specializing in Historical and Pictorial Flasks can be doubly pleased by the fact that, as well as possessing prestige curios from the past, they are making a solid investment.

These blown-mold flasks are undoubtedly the most sought after bottles on today's antique market. Values have far outpaced our inflationary spiral.

Specially Decorated

First produced in North America about the mid-nineteenth century, these bottles have been favorites ever since. They were decorated with the busts of famous people, emblems, political figures, and popular themes of the times.

A bottle called 'Booz's Bottle,' put out by one Booz of Philadelphia, is the reason why the term 'booze' became

popular in North America. It is believed that the first flask manufactured on this side of

the Atlantic is one marked 'Jared Spencer' and produced by the Pitkin Glass Works of

East Manchester, Connecticut.

In Great Demand

Colors ranged from clear glass to tinted green, aqua, blue, amber, violet, purple and wine. Opaque varieties are scarce, but they do turn up.

Because of the demand, and resulting high prices for these Historical and Pictorial Flasks, contemporary glass makers have been invading the market with reproductions. A collector's market is developing for these imitations, and, as long as they are offered for what they are, there is nothing unethical about the practice. As many of the imitations are difficult to identify, however, a reputable dealer who will guarantee purchases is your best protection against fraud. (Copyright David Brown Features)

