

# The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors – Serving the National Capital

## March 2012

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## Meeting – March 27th at 8 PM

St. Mark's Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

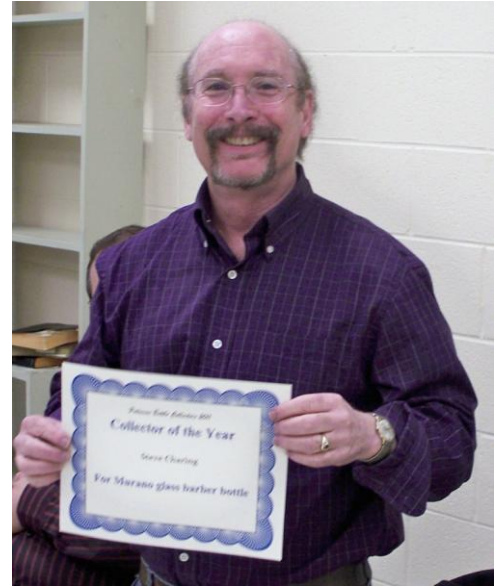
## Annual Club Contest Winners

Steve Charing won Collector of the Year with a colorful barber bottle.

Peter Rydquist won Digger of the Year with a Michell's bottle he unearthed during a trip to Michigan.

Lee Shipman's broken figural bottle is the Shard of the Year. A couple of Lee's bottles broke during a 2011 remodeling project, but her home now looks very nice.

Mike Cianciosi won Go-with of the Year with a metal Abner Drury's sign which may have hung on a beer keg.



Meetings: 8:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month January-June, October-November; picnic in September.

President: Andy Goldfrank

Vice President: Al Miller

Secretary: Jim Sears

Treasurer: Lee Shipman

Pontil: Jim Sears (email: searsjim@usa.net, PH: 609/472-5473) &

Andy Goldfrank (email: amg\_sticky@yahoo.com, PH: 202/588-0543)

Web Site: [www.potomacbottlecollectors.org](http://www.potomacbottlecollectors.org)

Maintained by Mike Cianciosi (chosi@cox.net)

# A Dandy Dozen Baltimore Shots

By Jack Sullivan  
[Special to the Potomac Pontil]

Way back in July of 2008, I wrote an article for the Pontil that made a stab at picking the ten best Baltimore pre-prohibition shot glasses. Bob Ford, a guru on Baltimore whiskey collectibles, indicated that he thought my choices were not far off from those that he might have made. In the ensuing months I have been sorting through images of other Baltimore shots and while they might not measure up to the ten best, make a “Dandy Dozen.”

The first two are from Records and Goldsborough, both advertising Melrose Rye. (Figs. 1 & 2) Either or both might have made the ten best list. They stand out because of the strength of their etching, their stylish designs and the elegance of their calligraphy. Both items feature elaborate floral designs in merchandising “Melrose Rye,” one of a dozen brands from this firm which was founded in 1885.



Fig. 1: Records & Goldsborough No. 1

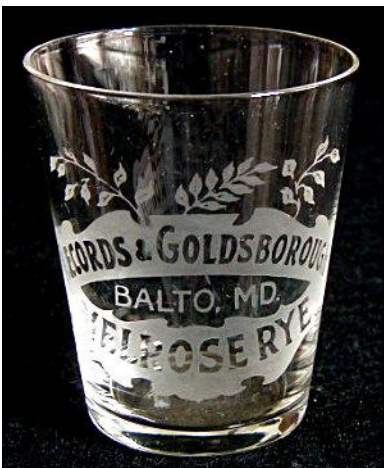


Fig. 2: Records & Goldsborough No. 2

Owner Paul Goldsborough is credited with blending whiskeys to reach the very popular “Melrose” taste. He named it after the road upon which his supposed ancestral home (Goldsborough Hall) sat in York County, England. The firm occupied at least four different Baltimore addresses during its 34 years in business, closing in 1919 with National Prohibition.

Henry Rosenheim & Son issued the shot glass for Spring Dale whiskey (Fig. 3), the flagship brand of a company founded in 1872. Although elaborate etching on the glass shows a rustic distillery, the Rosenheims were rectifiers, that is, blenders of whiskey, buying their supplies elsewhere. The company began business at 158 W. Pratt St. but moved to three addresses on W. Baltimore until closing in 1919.



Fig. 3: Spring Dale

George Gump & Sons used initials for its flagship brand, calling it G.P.R. which stands for Gump Pure Rye. It boasts G.P.R. as “Choice Mellow Whiskey (Fig. 4). It trademarked the name in 1902 and again for G.P.R. Rye in 1905. The firm, which closed in 1916, had four different Baltimore addresses, including N. Howard, E. Lombard, Frankford Av. and E. Pratt St.

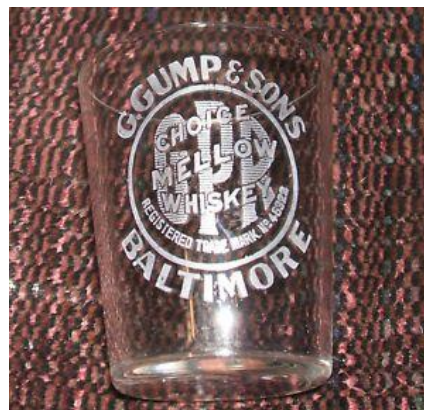


Fig. 4: Gump & Sons

The Over Lea glass was issued by a relatively short-lived Baltimore liquor house that bore the name Louis Strass (Fig. 5). This wholesaler first appeared in city directories in 1901, located at 217-219 Gay Street and disappeared after 1915. In the interim he produced a shot glass that has a relatively simple, yet strong, design. The next shot (Fig. 6) is more whimsical. Advertising Old Drum whiskey, the label shows a drawing of a drum and the legend: "It can't be beat." The Maryland Distilling Company of Relay, Maryland, was responsible for this (groan) punch line.



Fig. 5 Overlea/Strass

The Buena Vista Distributing Co., which was responsible for the next glass (Fig. 7), apparently was in business only a short time since it left little record of its existence. We know from the glass that the company was located at 201-203 N. Gay Street. By contrast, Geo. T. Gambrill & Co. that produced the famous Roxbury Rye (Fig. 8) has left a deep historical track about which I have written in the past. Gambrill, a convicted whiskey rogue who never served time, began his business at 37 S. Gay in 1895 but soon after moved to 115 W. Baltimore. Waldeck, named here, was his manager at this period but left to found his own whiskey business.

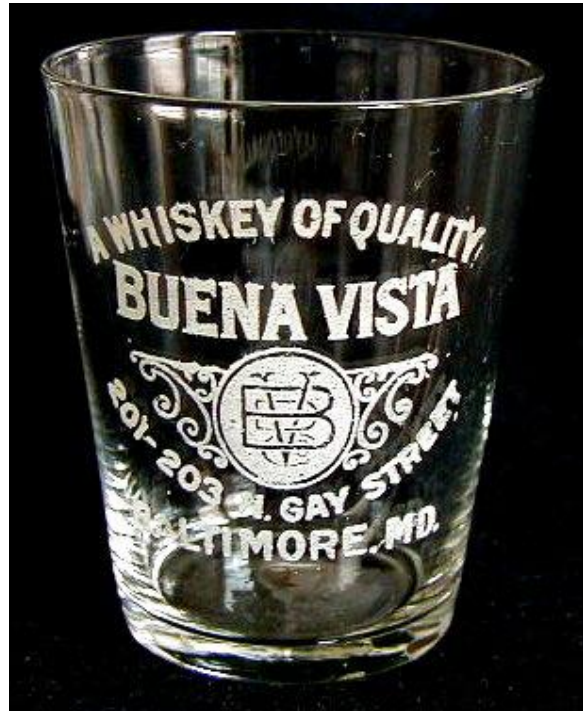


Fig. 7: Buena Vista



Fig. 6: Old Drum

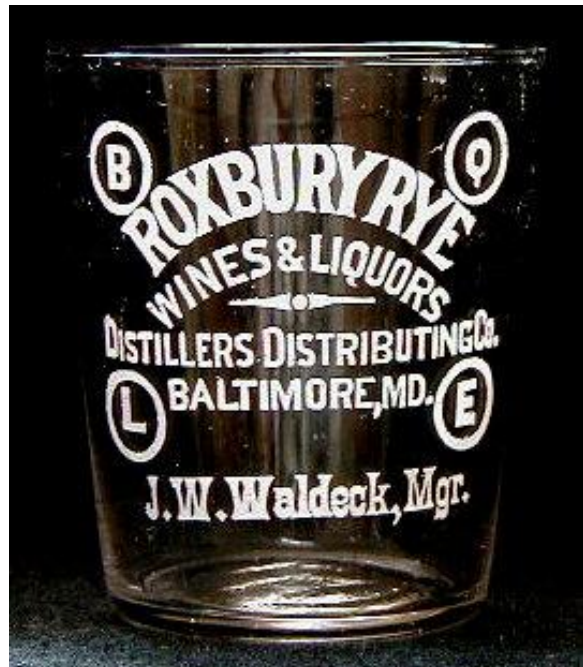


Fig. 8: Roxbury Rye

The Faultless Pure Rye shot glass stands out because of the elegant lettering used (Fig. 9). Simon Stansberg who founded his company in 1888 was noted for his interest fancy containers and giveaway items for his whiskey. Founded in 1888, the Stansberg firm was located at two addresses on W. Pratt, Nos. 2 and 201. It closed in 1919.

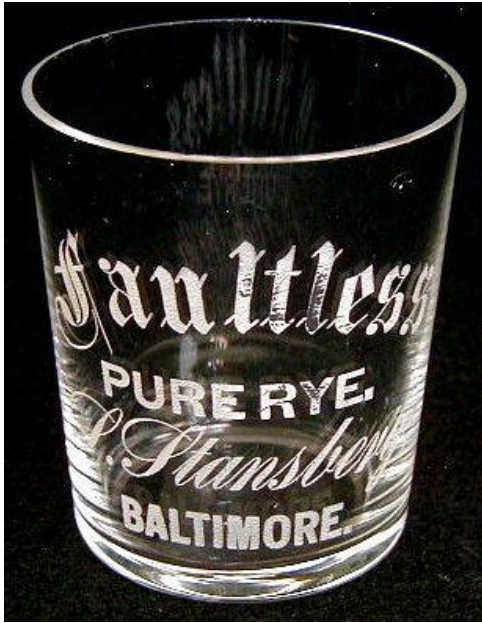


Fig. 9: Faultless

The Vonieff Bros. company, source of the next glass (Fig. 10) featured a number of brands, some blended in their own shop, others from Maryland distillers. These included "Allerton", "Clinton Club", "Family Nectar", "Green Spring Valley", "Old Janson", "Old Monongahela", "Quin Foust", and "Sherwood." Located initially (1880) at 10 N. Greene St. and after 1887 at 22 N. Greene, this Baltimore liquor wholesaler closed its door after 34 years in 1914.



Fig. 10: Vonieff Bros

Taking its name from its founder Marcello Triaca, sometimes spelled Triacca, the Triaca Company was one of Baltimore's most success liquor companies. It did a strong mail order business and its ceramic and glass containers are a common sight in internet auctions. In this case the firm issued an attractive shot glass to advertise its Colgate brand (Fig. 11), one of a number of blends it merchandised. Founded in 1882, the Triaca Company survived until National Prohibition and occupied several premises on Pratt and Light Streets.



Fig. 11: Colgate/Triaca

J. H. Friedenwald & Co. produced the final shot glass with its bold, eye-striking label (Fig. 12). This outfit is reported to have begun existence as Moses Westheimer & Co. When Friedenwald took over the business in 1898, he expanded the brand names to include "B. L. O. E.", "Friedenwald Baby Barrel", "Friedenwald's Maryland", "J. H. Friedenwald", "Legion Rye", "Purple Label", and "Triple Rye." He also sold a wine product laced with cocaine. In 1913 Friedenwald sold out to The Wingo Company and his name disappeared from Baltimore directories.

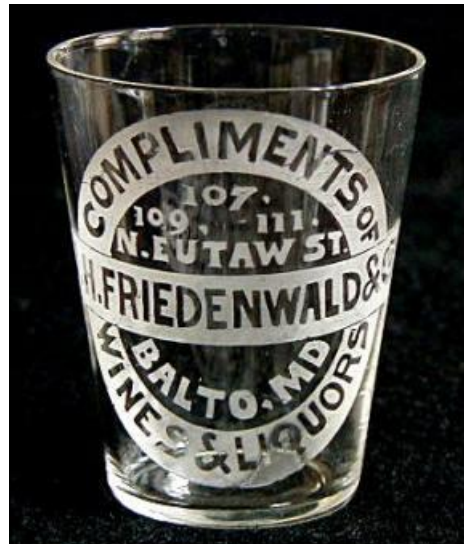


Fig. 12: Friedenwald

There they are, a Dandy Dozen of Baltimore shots, just a few of the thousands produced by Baltimore liquor companies. Why so many? My theory is that the hundreds of distillers, rectifiers, and wholesalers in the city had to compete vigorously for attention from saloon owners and the faces along the bar. A key merchandising strategy was providing customers with shot glasses that would catch the eye. Subsequent generations of collectors thereby have become the beneficiaries of that fierce competition.

Notes: Much of the information and images involved in this article were obtained from Robin Preston's website, [www.prepro.com](http://www.prepro.com). Robin's interest in and knowledge of the whiskey trade originated from his collection of shot glasses.

## Upcoming Area Bottle Shows

**15 April 2012 (Sunday) Tylersport, Pennsylvania The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bucks-Mont Bottle Show & Sale**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, early buyers at 8:00 am at the Tylersport Fire Company, 125 Ridge Road, Tylersport, Pennsylvania, Info: David Buck, Tele: 215.206.5878 or Greg Gifford, 215.699.5216



**22 April 2012 (Sunday) Harrisonburg, Virginia The 41st Historical Bottle Diggers of Virginia Bottle Show** at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, U.S. Route 11 South, Harrisonburg, Virginia, Sunday 22 April 2012, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, No early admission, Set up 22 April, 6:00 am to 9:00 am, Admission for show \$3.00 with children under 12 free, Contact: **Sonny Smiley**, Show Chairman, 540.434.1129, email: [lithiaman1@yahoo.com](mailto:lithiaman1@yahoo.com)

**06 May 2012 (Sunday) Brick, New Jersey Jersey Shore Bottle Club's 40th Antique Bottles, Post Cards and Local Memorabilia Show and Sale**, Brick Elks, 2491 Hooper Avenue, Brick, New Jersey 08723, Sunday, 06 May 2012, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, No early admission, Set-up 7:00 am Sunday, Admission: \$3.00, Contact: **Monte Boshko**, Show Chairman, 365 16th Avenue, Brick, New Jersey 08724, 732.887.2116, e-mail: [mjb142@comcast.net](mailto:mjb142@comcast.net)

**20 May 2012 (Sunday) Hammonton, New Jersey The New Jersey Antique Bottle Club presents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey Bottle Show** at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company #2, 51 N. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, New Jersey 08037, Sunday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, No early admission, 7:00 am set up, \$3.00 admission, [www.newjerseyantiquebottleclub.com](http://www.newjerseyantiquebottleclub.com), **Paul DelGuercio**, Show Chairman, 548 Spring Road, Hammonton, New Jersey 08037, Tele: 856.252.7730, [paulhavoc@comcast.net](mailto:paulhavoc@comcast.net)

**20 May 2012 (Sunday) Washington, Pennsylvania The Washington County Antique Bottle Club presents the 38th Annual Washington County Antique Bottle Show & Sale** at the Alpine Star Lodge, 735 Jefferson Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania 15312, Sunday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Set-up Sunday at 7:00 am, \$3.00 admission, Attn: **Russ Crupe**, President/Show Chairman, 52 Cherry Road, Avella, Pennsylvania 15312, 412.298.783, [heidirus@gmail.com](mailto:heidirus@gmail.com)

**09 June 2012 (Saturday) Atlanta, Georgia 42nd Annual Atlanta Antique Bottle Show and Sale**, Smyrna Community Center, 200 Village Green, Smyrna, Georgia 30080, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Early Admission: Saturday 6:00 am to 9:00 am, Set-up: Saturday 6:00 am to 9:00 am, Admission for show & early admission: \$3.00 and \$10.00 for early birds, Atlanta Bottle Club, Contact Name: Jack Hewitt, Co-Chairman, 1765 Potomac Court, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043, 770.963.0220, email: [Hewittja@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hewittja@bellsouth.net)

**06 October 2012 (Saturday) Richmond, Virginia Richmond 41st Antique Bottle Show and Sale**, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Admission: \$3.00, Early Admission: 7:30 am, \$10.00, Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, 10300 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832, Info: [RichBottleClub@comcast.net](mailto:RichBottleClub@comcast.net) or Marvin Croker 804.275.1101 or Ed Faulkner 804.739.2951

Mar 24 Daphne, AL  
Mar 25 Enfield, CT  
Apr 1 Hutchinson, KS  
Apr 1 St Clairsville, OH  
Apr 20-21 Antioch, CA  
Apr 21 Salisbury, NC  
May 5 Gray, TN  
May 6 Utica, NY  
May 12 Ballston Spa, NY  
May 19 Coventry, CT  
June 2 San Diego, CA  
June 9 Aurora, OR

Mar 25 Brewerton, NY  
Apr 1 Bloomington, MN  
Apr 1 Dover, NH  
Apr 15 Rochester, NY  
Apr 21 Kalamazoo, MI  
Apr 28 Aiken, SC  
May 6 Antioch, IL  
May 11-12 Mansfield, OH  
May 18 Columbia City, IN  
June 1-2 Butte, MT  
June 9 Atlanta, GA  
July 11-14 Muncie, IN



Phil Townsend displayed a variety of area bottles at our February meeting.