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Rare Double-Portrait Flask Takes \$52,650 At Norman Heckler

Auction Action In Woodstock, Conn.

WOODSTOCK, CONN. — A rare and historical portrait flask showing strong busts of George Washington and Henry Clay, made circa 1840–1860 by Bridgeton (N.J.) Glass Works, soared to \$52,650 in Norman C. Heckler & Company's Internet and catalog auction of Session III of the Thomas McCandless lifetime bottle collection. The sale ran online January 18–February 1.

The portrait flask was the top lot in a session that grossed around \$440,000. Combined, all three sessions (the first two were last fall) grossed a little over \$1 million. "For a single bottle collection to top the \$1 million mark is truly extraordinary," said Norman Heckler Sr.

"McCandless's lifetime collection represented one of the most diverse and colorful groupings of American bottles and glass to recently come to market," Heckler said. "The rare and unique historical flasks exceeded pre-sale estimates, as well as our expectations. Early American and European black glass was another category that did unbelievably well."

The Washington-Clay historical flask was the auction's star lot. A common bottle in mold design, in an unlisted and rare, vibrant light yellowish color with a topaz tone, the flask's

bold portrait busts complemented its crisp lettering and condition.

Only two lots of the 123 offered went unsold in an auction that had about 600 registered online bidders. Phone and absentee bidding was also brisk. About one-third of the lots sold exceeded their high estimates.

"The bottle and glass market remains very strong within the context of a broader antiques market that has softened over the past several years," Heckler said. "Glass as an antique collecting category has drawn interest from collectors who recognize the historical significance and beauty of antique bottles and glass. Many also feel, too, that it is a greatly undervalued category."

Black glass was highlighted by a very early English shaft and globe wine bottle, circa 1630–1665, that fetched \$12,870. "Like all the black glass, this bottle attracted strong attention from both American and international quarters," Heckler said.

Two other black glass examples worth noting are a traditional form and early English wine bottle, 1776, with a large seal and in fine condition. The "1776" date, which appeared on the bottle as well as in the seal,



Dyottville Glass Works made this Washington-Taylor portrait flask, circa 1840–1860, that fetched \$29,250.



The sale's top lot was this classical bust portrait flask showing George Washington and Henry Clay that attained \$52,650.

generated interest not only from American collectors but their English counterparts, too, owing to historical significance.

The other black glass piece was another early English wine bottle in a cylindrical pancake

form, circa 1680–1700, changing hands for \$6,435. The bottle boasted a dense yellow olive coloration with a bluish cast, a sheared mouth with strong rim and a pontil scar.

Stiegel bottles, always a hit with collectors, were also in the sale. A standout was a scarce, 225-year-old example in the Diamond Daisy pattern that soared to \$16,380. The bottle had a strong mold impression

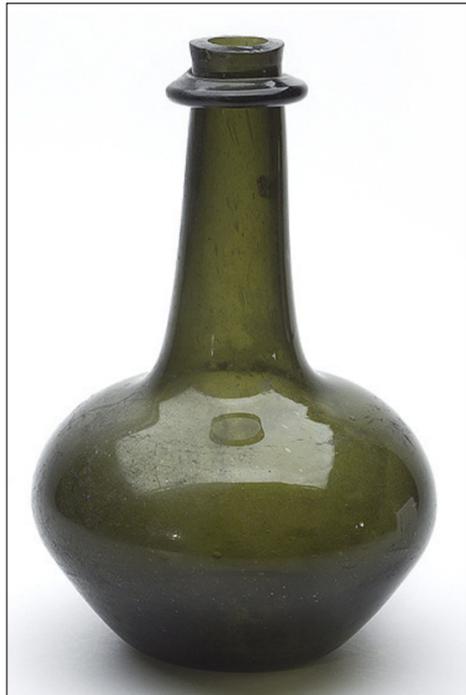
and crisp amethystine color that was more vibrant than most examples. The pattern molded pocket bottle is circa 1774.

Historical flasks dominated the top ten sales here and a pair of bottles posted identical selling prices of \$30,420. The first was a Washington portrait flask, Albany (N.Y.) Glass Works, circa 1848–1850. The half-pint flask had a rare light golden-yellow color, boldly embossed bust of Washington and lettering. The other was a Washington-Taylor portrait flask made by the Dyottville Glass Works of Philadelphia, circa 1840–1860. It was a common bottle mold in a most uncommon and quite beautiful medium-to-deep claret color. "The market today is all about color," Heckler said.

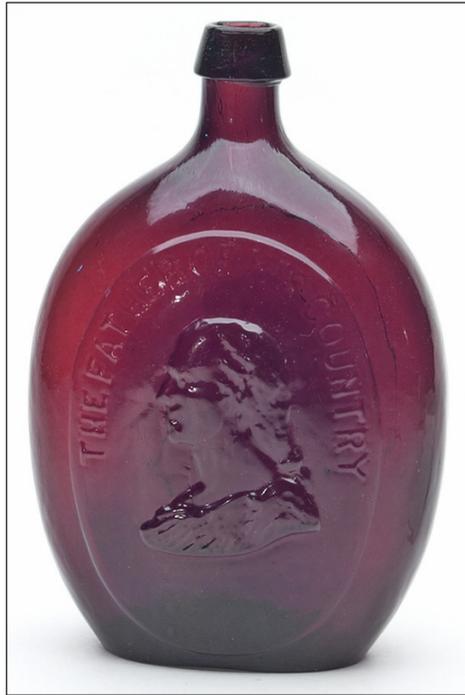
Rounding out the sale was another Washington-Taylor portrait flask, made by the same glassworks company at around the same time, that realized \$29,250. The quart flask was ginger ale-colored, with apricot striations. "The wild color striation on an otherwise common bottle became a much coveted lot for its obvious eye candy," Heckler said.

All prices reported include the buyer's premium.

For more information, 860-974-1634 or www.hecklerauction.com.



An English bulbous-form shaft and globe wine bottle with long neck, circa 1630–1665, sold for \$12,870.



This Washington-Taylor portrait flask made by Dyottville Glass Works in Philadelphia took \$30,420.



Brining \$30,420 was this George Washington portrait flask, circa 1848–1850, by Albany Glass Works.

Tiffany Window Restoration Topic At NY Metropolitan Glass Club Lecture

NEW YORK CITY — Donald Samick, president and owner of Lamb Stained Glass Studios, the oldest continuously operating glass studio in the country, will address the next meeting of the NY Metropolitan Glass Club on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 pm.

The focus of Samick's talk will be the restoration of three Tiffany stained glass windows titled "Dove of the Holy Spirit," "Angel of the Lord" and "Crown of Glory." These windows were

made in 1904, each measures 3 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches, and they are located at the Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church in Maplewood, N.J. Samick will demonstrate the process involved in the total restoration of one of these windows from removal through to reinstallation.

Lamb Studios was established in 1857, is located in Wyckoff, N.J., and Samick has been its president since 1964. He studied architecture at the Brooklyn

Institute of Design and Construction, obtained his MBA at Farleigh Dickinson University, and supplemented his education at the Centre for Social Development in Sussex, England.

Samick has been widely published, particularly in *Stained Glass Magazine*. He has given numerous lectures and workshops on the subject of stained glass, including talks at Adelphi University and the Library of Congress. He is a member of the

National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Appraisers Association of America, the American Glass Guild and the Stained Glass Association of America.

The New York Metropolitan Glass Club meets the first Tuesday of each month (from October through May), usually at St Michael's Church at Amsterdam Avenue and West 99th Street. Annual membership dues range from \$25 (student rate) to \$75 (for a family).

Attendance on a per meeting basis is \$10 per person. New members and visitors are welcome.

As usual, prior to the presentation at 7 pm, there will be a wine and cheese reception beginning at 6:30 pm. After the meeting, attendees may want to enjoy dinner with friends and fellow club members in one of the numerous restaurants in the neighborhood.

For information, email nyglassclub@gmail.com.

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