

I wish they could talk

“What is the fascination with collecting old bottles?” That is a question I get asked a lot when people find out I belong to an antique bottle club. Most do not understand the allure an old bottle has to us. It is understandable, we all have different interests and fascinations and whether it makes sense to anyone else is not important, but I tried to understand myself why I enjoy owning a bottle that 50, 100, 200 years old. There are several reasons members of the club collect. For some, it is the thrill of the hunt, to find that one rare bottle that completes a collection, or is so unusual you hardly ever see an example. For others, it is a treasure expedition. Finding a bottle at a garage sale that cost \$5 when it is really worth \$500. Any reason is fine and there are probably dozens more I haven't mentioned, but for me, it is a connection.

I have a couple bottles from the mid-1800s. None are valuable or really noteworthy in the bottle collection world, but none of that matters to me. When I hold an old bottle, I wonder who was the person using this when it was new. What were they doing with it? Obviously we can surmise from the contents they were drinking it, or using it to clean, or any number of other uses, but WHO were they? It is that connection that makes me treasure old bottles so much, I am holding something that another human held in their hands hundreds of years ago. I'll never know who that person was, and won't meet them (well, anytime soon I hope) but they were a real person, and today, I have something they used many years ago. Others may not find this interesting, but it is the fascination that fuels my collecting, the stories that bottle could tell. I wish they could talk