

IPBA Solves a Mystery

A Hole in One, Amazon international bestselling author Judy Penz Sheluk's latest release in her Glass Dolphin Mystery series, not only includes mention of a Herman Tappan perfume bottle, Sheluk credits Helen Farnsworth, a longtime member of IPBA, in the book's acknowledgments.

A Hole in One



A
GLASS
DOLPHIN
MYSTERY



JUDY PENZ SHELUK

"I was familiar with the International Perfume Bottle Association as the Senior Editor of New

England Antiques Journal, and I've always admired the decorative beauty of vintage and antique perfume bottles," said Sheluk. "When I had to conjure up a perfect item for a charity silent auction, donated by Arabella Carpenter, the owner of the Glass Dolphin antiques shop, something valued in \$100-\$150 range, I immediately thought of a perfume bottle as something different.

I went to the IPBA website and started checking out the virtual museum. When it became quickly apparent that I had no clue what to select, I contacted Teri Wirth. She suggested I contact Helen Farnsworth. I did so, explaining my mission, and Helen came to the rescue with suggestions and photographs.



***A Tappan collection
Photo courtesy of Helen Farnsworth***

Here's a bit of Helen's email to me:

Judy, I do family group shots for certain perfume companies and one of them is for Herman Tappan, a very innovative American perfumer of the 1880 or so era. These bottles can be found today in box lots at auction

upon occasion. His handkerchief perfume in the tiny little lantern is ubiquitous in American antique venues.

Most shown here are in the \$100-\$150 or so range.

Below is my latest Tappan perfume that is still being researched by me. A small girl wrapped in a wolf skin fur. She is not documented in perfume bottle histories and hence a likely object for someone knowledgeable about perfumes to pick up at a reasonable price.

Your premise is a sleeper in a box lot at an auction and the person who is buying that box lot has to be able to spot something that might be of value. Any early glass bottle that is small-say under 6"-and a figural is a good buy for a collector. Helen.



Finally, here's an excerpt from Chapter 2, A Hole In One:

Arabella smiled when she thought about the perfume bottle they were donating to the tournament's silent auction. Valued in the \$100 to \$150 range, it was part of one of the ten-dollar estate sale box lots she'd bought in Pottageville.

In amongst the glass doorknobs, embroidered doilies, and an assortment of what looked like polished rocks but might have been semi-precious stones or crystals, were a half dozen Herman Tappan clear glass figural perfume bottles, circa 1890s. Unmarked, yes, the labels long removed, but definitely signature Tappan if you knew your stuff, which thankfully, the estate sellers had not.

To be fair, the Herman Tappan Perfume Company wasn't a household name in the same way Lalique was. Nonetheless, Tappan had been one of the major American perfume companies during the Victorian era, producing glass novelty perfume bottles that included everything from street lamps and ladies' slippers, to baseball bats and birds.

Arabella thought donating one of the bottles to a worthy cause would bring more good luck, not to

mention the interest it might bring to the Glass Dolphin-so much more on point than a jet ski. She'd studied each of the six bottles in the lot and finally selected a figural bottle of a small girl wrapped in wolf skin fur for the auction.

Find out more about Judy and her books at www.judypenzsheluk.com

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