

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

<p>In the Matter of Trademark Application Serial No.: 78/229,875 Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE</p> <p>GOLD SHELLS, INC., a California corporation, Opposer, v.</p> <p>KEITH CANGIARELLA, Applicant.</p>	<p>Opposition No. 91162780</p> <p>Cancellation No. _____</p> <p>PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT</p>
<p>In the Matter of Trademark Registration No.: 2,243,269 Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE</p> <p>KEITH CANGIARELLA, Petitioner, v.</p> <p>Gold Shells, Inc, Assignee</p>	

PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGEMENT
"IN PRO PER"

Petitioner, Keith Cangiarella, (hereinafter "Petitioner") moves for summary judgment as the mark(Message in a Bottle) is generic and fraud on the grounds that Registrant/Opposer/Assignor/Assignee, Gold Shells, Inc., (hereinafter Assignee) filed a fraudulent statement of use.

The discovery period in this opposition opened on March 30, 2005 and closed on September 30, 2005. The parties conducted extensive discovery throughout that period. The first testimony period in the opposition is set to commence on August 21, 2007. This Motion for Summary Judgment, having been filed prior to commencement of the first testimony period is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 2.127(e).



08-20-2007

U.S. Patent & TMO/TM Mail Rpt Dt. #30

SUMMARY OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Applicant's motion is supported by the following:

1. The pleading of record to date; including but not limited to, Assignee's Notice of Opposition dated October 21, 2004;
2. Trademark Application Serial No. 78/229,875, which is the subject of this opposition action;
3. Registration No. 2,243,269 relied upon by Assignee as the basis for this opposition;
4. Exhibit A: Newspaper article from Los Angeles Times – June 6, 1903.
5. Exhibit B: Webpage print out from Newsbank.com;
6. Exhibit C: Multiple articles from Newsbank,Inc/newsbank.com;
7. Exhibit D: Search results from Google.com for Message in a Bottle search;
8. Exhibit E: Assignee's trademark application filed Nov, 3, 2003, serial #76/556304;
9. Exhibit G: Assignee's Response to Applicant's First Set of Interrogatories;
10. Exhibit H: Office Action response to Serial No. 76/556304;
11. Exhibit I: Notice of Allowance/Statement of Use Serial No. 75/226521, Roger Rojas – Message in a Bottle ;
12. Exhibit J: Submission of Combined Affidavit of Use and Incontestability, Service Mark Registration No. 2,243,269;
13. Exhibit K: Printout of homepage of messageinabottle.com;
14. Exhibit L: Printouts of Opposer's website provided as evidence in discovery and to Response to Applicant's Interrogatory No. 18;
15. Exhibit M: Printout of Alexa.com website with information regarding messageinabottle.com, Opposer's website, provided by Opposer during discovery;
16. Exhibit N: The Twelve Million Dollar Note by Robert Kraske, ©1977, copy of cover, inside cover and pertinent pages;
17. Exhibit O: Reader's Digest Strange Stories and Amazing Facts, ©1977, copy of cover, inside cover and pertinent pages

STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED FACTS

The following facts are undisputed:

1. Trademark Registration No. 2,243,269 issued from trademark application, serial no. 76/326,255 filed on January 6, 1997 (the "application").
2. Registrant filed statement of use on January 26, 1999
3. Trademark Registration No. 2, 243,269 was registered on May 4, 1999
4. Interrogatory No. 7 and Assignee's response thereto are set forth below (see also Exhibit G):

INTERROGATORY NO.7

Identify the date of first use in commerce for each product on which Opposer has used them term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: Registrant's date of first use in commerce of the mark Message in a Bottle for **Registrant's products and services was January 16, 1999.**(emphasis added)

5. Interrogatory No. 8 and Assignee's response thereto are set forth below (see also Exhibit G):

INTERROGATORY NO.8

Identify the date of first use in commerce for each service that Opposer has used the MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE mark.

Response: Registrant's date of first use in commerce of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for the **Registrant's products and services was January 16, 1999**(emphasis added). Opposer's date of first use in commerce was on or about August 1, 2003, and no earlier than the date of its incorporation, July 7, 2003.

6. Interrogatory No. 11 and Assignee's response thereto are set forth below (see also Exhibit G):

INTERROGATORY NO.11

Identify each third party use, former use, or claim of use of any term consisting of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE known to Opposer and each person with knowledge of such use, former use or claim of use.

Response: See Exhibit A attached hereto. In addition to the persons named in the Exhibit A, Roger Rojas, and Peter H. Smith are persons with knowledge of such use, former use or claim of use.

7. Interrogatory No. 12 and Assignee's response thereto are set forth below (see also Exhibit G):

INTERROGATORY NO.12

Identify each investigation which has been conducted relating to any term consisting of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE and each person having knowledge relating to.

Response: (1) Trademark search through Thomson & Thomson, with Roger Rojas and Peter H. Smith being persons having knowledge relating thereto, and **(2) Internet searches, with Roger Rojas being the person having knowledge relating thereto.**(emphasis added)

8. Interrogatory No. 19 and Assignee's response thereto are set forth below (see also Exhibit G):

INTERROGATORY NO.19

Identify all documents that support YOUR contention stated in your tenth affirmative defense in the Respondent's Answer to Applicant's Counterclaim for Cancellation that "Respondent has continuously used the registered mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE in commerce, for services in connection with which it was registered, for over five consecutive years subsequent to the date of such registration."

Response: **Copies of the website messageinabottle.com for the years 1999 through 2004; affidavit of continuing use signed by Registrant October 1, 2004, and filed with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; notice of acceptance of same from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office dated December 9, 2004**(emphasis added)
unneded text removed.

9. The domain messageinabottle.com was registered on **January 17, 1997**(emphasis added)

ARGUMENT

Summary judgment is appropriate in a trademark cancellation proceeding where, as in this case, there are no genuine issues of material fact and movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Rule 56(c), Fed. R. Civ. P.; Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1987).

**A. The Registration Should Be Cancelled because
the term "MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE" is generic.**

The term Message in a Bottle is merely descriptive and has been known for centuries to be a communication device, received by others, recording communication in printed or written form and transmitting to others. The United States Patent and Trademark Office(USPTO) Office Action for Serial No. 76/556304 was refused for Section 2(e)(1) Descriptive Refusal - "The examining attorney refuses registration on the Principal Register because the proposed mark merely describes the goods. Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1), 15 U.S.C. § 1052(e)(1); TMEP §§1209 et seq.

A mark is merely descriptive under the Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1), 15 U.S.C. § 1052(e)(1), if it describes an ingredient, quality characteristic, function feature, purpose or use of the relevant goods. *In re Gyulay*, 820 F.2d 1216, 3 USPQ2d 1009(Fed Cir.1987)... TMEP Section 1209.1(b)

The examining attorney must consider whether a mark is merely descriptive in relation to the identified goods, not in the abstract. *In re Omaha National Corp.*,...*In re Venture Lending Associates*, 226 USPQ 285 (TTAB 1985)

The applicant's MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE immediately tells something about the goods – a message in the form of "text or graphic image printed on paper," enclosed into a container, presumably a "bottle"(per the applicant's identification of goods). No imagination, thought or perception is required to determine the nature of the goods from the terminology.

The applicant is advised that it is not necessary that a term describe all the purposes, functions, characteristics or features of the goods to be merely descriptive. It is enough if the term describes one attribute of the goods. *In re H.U.D.D.L.E.* 216 USPQ 358 (TTAB 1982) *In Re MBAassociates*, 180 USPQ 338 (TTAB 1973)"(Exhibit H)

The term "MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE" is generic for all goods related to a bottle housing a message, as a communication device and receiving communications from others, recording them in printed or written form, and transmitting them to others.

A Los Angeles Times News article dated June 6, 1903 is readily available via the Internet or at any local library, clearly demonstrates the receiving of a communication in a bottle, printing of the communication and transmitting of that message to others.
(Exhibit A)

A webpage printout from Newsbank Inc, a service providing newspaper articles for 35 years to all libraries across the US. Countless news articles from 1988 – 1997, the first article dates a message in a bottle from 1956 and published the message as well. Each of these articles demonstrates the generic nature of the term “MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE” as a communication device, and the receiving of communications from others, recording such communications in printed or written form and transmitting such communications to others. (Exhibits B and C)

Google.com the world renowned internet search engine posts 7,480,000 uses of the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE on the world wide web. (Exhibit D)

Robert Kraske published a book entitled The Twelve Million Dollar Note, in 1977, which was available at public libraries, bookstores and school library from 1977 to present day. A compilation of Message in a Bottle stories, The Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Date states “ Kraske, Robert, The twelve million note. SUMMARY: a collection of true stories about notes found in bottles that were put in the ocean.”
(Exhibit N Pages 21-67)

Reader’s Digest Strange Stories, Amazing Facts ©1976, available in libraries from 1977 to present day, pages 224 – 225 SEND IT BY BOTTLE, charts the history of Messages in Bottles with an actual publication of an original message and a story dated to 1784.
(Exhibit O)

The term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE has been known since the earliest of time to mean receiving of communications from others, recording such communications in printed or written form and transmitting such communications to others.

The above facts clearly demonstrate the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE has been and is generic as a communication device and the receiving of communications from others, recording such communications in printed or written form and transmitting such communications to others.

**B. The Registration Should Be Cancelled because
the statement of use contains Fraud.**

On January 17, 1997, Roger Rojas, registered the domain name messageinabottle.com on this date the trademark became active and readily accessible to any person with access to the internet. The services in the recitation are clearly demonstrated by using just the domain name; (a) receiving communications from others; logging onto the internet, one receives communication from others, (b) recording such communications in printed form; images and text appear in web browser, (c) transmitting such communications to others; emailing others to visit this website or domain name, posting to newsgroups, and or bulletin boards.

(Exhibit M)

Opposer files Statement of Use January 26, 1999, stating " Date of first use of mark anywhere was January 16, 1999.

The manner or mode of use the mark in connection with the service is on advertising flyers, letterheads, business cards, **computer screens displays in electronic commerce**(emphasis added) and labels and containers used carrying out services"

(Exhibit I)

Opposer files Combined Affidavit of Use and Incontestability on October 5, 2004. States "A specimen of the mark as currently used in connection with the registrant's services, **consists of the registrant's home page from his website on the global communication network**,(emphasis added) is attached Exhibit I." The Opposer's Affidavit states and has been marked Petitioner's Exhibit J, "**messageinabottle.com Official Site of Message in a Bottle® serving online customers since 1997**"(emphasis added) printed 10/4/2004

Opposer provided Petitioner with printouts of entire website dated 9/14/2005 and 9/15/2005 32 pages in 2005 state **“Serving Our Online Customers Since 1997”**

Opposer’s website as of today 8/15/2007 as shown in Exhibit K, now displays **“Serving our Online Customers Since 1997”** on every webpage of its site 100+ web pages

Clearly the Opposer is convincing the general public that the mark has been in use as early as 1997 online, and as stated has been in use prior to 1997 offline, either through direct order, mail order or catalogs. The Opposer submitted an authenticated statement of use stating use as early as January 16, 1999, when in fact the Exhibit J of Affidavit of Use, shows concretely that the Opposer wishes the general public to believe the use began in 1997. The Opposer has committed fraud before the USPTO and continues to deceive the general public.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Petitioner’s motion for summary judgment should be granted and the Registration No. 2,243,269 should be cancelled in its entirety.



Keith Cangiarella
“In Pro Per”
331 N. Harrington Dr
Fullerton, CA. 92831

Date August 17, 2007
DreamWeaver Studios
Keith Cangiarella
331 N. Harrington Dr
Fullerton, CA. 92831
714-441-3442 phone
714-464-4112 fax
1mib@dreamweaverstudios.com

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US postal service as Priority mail in an envelope addressed to: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Trademark Trial and Appeal Board P.O. Box 1451 Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify a copy of the foregoing **MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGEMENT** was priority mailed to Mr. Peter H. Smith Attorney at law, 1535 J Street, Suite A, PO Box 1867, Modesto, CA. 95353.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Cangiarella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Keith Cangiarella
August 17, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the Matter of Trademark Application
Serial No.: 78/229,875
Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

GOLD SHELLS, INC.,
a California corporation,
Opposer,

v.

KEITH CANGIARELLA,
Applicant.

In the Matter of Trademark
Registration No.: 2,243,269
Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

KEITH CANGIARELLA,
Petitioner,

v.

Gold Shells, Inc,
Opposer

Opposition No. 91162780

Cancellation No. _____

**DECLARATION OF KEITH
CANGIARELLA IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

**DECLARATION OF KETH CANGIARELLA IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**
“IN PRO PER”

Keith Cangiarella, declares:

1. I am the Applicant and owner of Trademark Application Serial No. 78/229875 for the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE. I am over the age of 18 and, if called, I would competently testify to the following:
2. Since at least as early as March 10, 1998, I have used the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE in United States commerce as related to my goods and services, particularly including, without limitation: novelty, favor, and souvenir bottle containing messages and greetings, invitations, promotional materials of others, and advertising materials of others; kits comprised of bottles, paper for creating promotional messages, advertising messages, greetings, messages and invitations and packaging and boxes for mailing in International Trademark Class 016.

3. I attest that each Exhibits A - O is a true and correct copy from the United States Patent Office, Newsbank.com, bookstores, libraries and world wide web, each document from the world wide web has a date when printed.
4. I hereby attest under penalty of perjury as to the foregoing.

Dated August 17, 2007



Keith Cangiarella
"In Pro Per"
331 N. Harrington Dr
Fullerton, CA. 92831

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify a copy of the foregoing **DECLARATION OF KEITH CANGIARELLA IN SUPPORT OF MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT** was Priority mailed to Mr. Peter H. Smith Attorney at law, 1535 J Street, Suite A, PO Box 1867, Modesto, CA. 95353.



Keith Cangiarella
August 17, 2007

Exhibit A

FAREWELL MESSAGE OF SHIP-WRECKED MEN.
Los Angeles Times 1886-Current, Jun 6, 1903; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1985)
pg. 10

MEXICO.

FAREWELL MESSAGE OF SHIP-WRECKED MEN.

FOUND IN A BOTTLE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Diare Expects Repudiation of Alleged
Interviews With Finance Minister
Limantour Printed in New York
Times—Purchase Money for Cigarette
Factories.

(BY DIRECT WIRE TO THE TIMES.)

CITY OF MEXICO (Mex.) June 5.—
[Exclusive Dispatch.]—The War Department has just ordered the publication of a message enclosed in a bottle found floating in the Rio de Cana river mouth, 30 miles from Alvarado, Gulf of Mexico. The message reads: "On board the ship Virginia, a group of shipwrecked men in the Caribbean Sea take leave of friends," signed by "Carlos Romero and Antonio Quintanilla."

The Diare, the official governmental daily organ, says the interviews with Limantour and Creel of the New York Times are unwarranted. While it cannot state just what the Finance Minister and Creel said, knowing the circumspection and tact of Limantour, he cannot have stated what the interview sets forth. The monetary question was referred to a commission by the government some time since, which has not yet submitted a report; therefore the government has made no decision, and Limantour could not inform the American press thereof.

Moreover, the commission appointed by the government to enter into negotiations abroad in the same matter composed of Messrs. Creel and Camacho, the latter financial agent of Mexico in London, has not reported, and any interview is immature and entirely unwarranted.

F. S. Heath, agent of New York parties in the purchase of the big tobacco factories in this capital, has gone north to make arrangements for payment of the purchase money on the three cigarette companies to be merged.

The Mexican Petroleum Company at Ebano, in Tamaulipas, has just placed an order with the Ethinghouse Church Kerr Company, New York, for an oil-burning engine for its local lines.

Marius DeZayas Enriquez, son of the new Mexican Consul-General to San Francisco, left yesterday with the rest of the family to join the father.

Mrs. C. H. Ward of this city left Wednesday for Los Angeles to spend the summer.

Exhibit B



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Exhibit C



Paper: Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities
Title: 1956 message in a bottle catches up with its sender
Date: August 20, 1987

The note in the ketchup bottle was dated April 2, 1956. It read: "My age is eight years old and one half. I weigh 65 pounds. I am four feet and five inches high. The writer of this note is Joel G . . ."

The rest of the last name was undecipherable, but it came with an address in Mound.

Duane Froh of Genoa, Wis., pulled the bottle out of the Mississippi River last Oct. 31, took it home and showed it to his wife, Diane. Ever since, she said Wednesday, "It's been really on my mind: Whatever happened to that little boy?"

Yesterday she found out. Joel Gruhn, 39, is a physicist and director of product engineering for a company in Rhode Island. His note in the bottle, dropped by his father from the Washington Av. Bridge in Minneapolis while Gruhn was hospitalized with polio, has been the butt of a family joke for decades.

"Every time we'd get together we'd say to Joel, 'Gee, nobody ever found your bottle yet,'" his mother, Eleanor Gruhn of Minnetrista, said yesterday.

After the bottle surfaced in Genoa, 175 miles south of Minneapolis, Diane Froh tried to find its sender. She contacted the Mound school system to no avail. Then the La Crosse Tribune ran an article Sunday on her search, the Associated Press picked up the story and a Twin Cities radio station broadcast it Monday.

John Lewis of Mound, a schoolmate of Joel Gruhn, heard the report and called the radio station, and the mystery was solved. Gruhn said that he is happy and surprised that the note was found but that he wishes it had traveled farther.

Diane Froh theorized that the bottle must have lain embedded in the river bank for years before being dislodged by recent high water. She said the note was in good condition when it was found, but soon began to crumble. She has put it in a picture holder in an effort to preserve it.

Gruhn said he plans to contact the Frohs in hopes of getting a copy of the note.

Copyright (c) 1987, 2001 Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities

Author: Conrad deFiebre; Staff Writer

Section: NEWS

Page: 12M

Copyright (c) 1987, 2001 Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities



Paper: The Record (New Jersey)
Title: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE DELIVERS A PEN PAL
Date: August 20, 1987

When 9-year-old Adreanne Hoyer persuaded a fisherman to toss a note in a bottle into the Atlantic Ocean, she expected it to drift back to the U.S. shoreline.

But the bottle floated to the coast of France, where it was discovered by a German family on vacation. As a result, the Perry Township girl has acquired a pen pal from Berlin.

The bottle's journey began a year ago, on a trip to Cape Hatteras, N.C., by the Hoyer family. Charley and Susan Hoyer took the vacation with their two daughters, Alendria and Adreanne.

"Just before that, we had read an article about a little girl and her father who took cruises and set messages adrift," Mrs. Hoyer said this week. "Adreanne said, 'Can we try that when we go to the ocean?'"

Adreanne and her father put a postcard in a Coca-Cola bottle that included the girl's name, address, and the request, "Please write back if you find this." Father and daughter contacted a fisherman, who agreed to take the bottle and note 30 to 50 miles out to sea and set it adrift.

The Berlin family found the bottle on July 21, 10 days short of a year after the message was thrown into the Atlantic.

"Hello Adreanne!" was the greeting the Hoyer girl received in a letter from Germany.

"My name is Christine and I am 18 years old. I come from Berlin. I spend my holidays with my parents and my sister in a small town at the coast of Bretagne in France. There at the coast found my father at the 21st of July your bottle with the postcard and the desire of sending you the postcard back.

"Please write me back, too."

Adreanne feels somewhat obligated to write back because she had offered a small reward for returning the postcard. What does she intend to send?

"I haven't figured out yet," Adreanne said.

Caption:
AP PHOTO - Adreanne Hoyer with letter answering her message in a bottle.

Copyright 1987 Bergen Record Corp.

Author: The Associated Press
Section: NEWS
Page: a14
Dateline: CANTON, Ohio
Copyright 1987 Bergen Record Corp.



Paper: Sun-Sentinel

Title: WOMAN GETS MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE, BUT IT ISN'T FROM A FARAWAY LAND

Date: May 1, 1988

When she was a child, Shawnee Biemat was captivated by the romance and mystery of the sea that she found in adventure novels.

For 10 years, she has watched the waters, waiting for a bottle to wash ashore with an exotic message from a faraway land.

Finally, in the Gulf Stream off of Islamorada, the Wilton Manors resident found her bottle.

But it wasn't from a faraway land.

It was from a Broward County high school student.

No matter.

"Isn't this just great?" Biemat, 31, said. "It's like finding a pen pal through the sea. I just think it's so exciting. You never know what you will find."

The bottle was tossed into the water in March by Patrice Major, a senior at Deerfield Beach High School. The message wasn't quite exotic: It asked only that the finder contact Major.

Students from the school released 57 bottles into the water while on a weeklong cruise to Mexico in March, English teacher Marda Wood said. So far, two have been found.

Wood said the activity was partly for fun and partly to comply with a state law requiring high school students to complete one writing assignment weekly.

"It was kind of like a game," said Amy Schiling, another student whose bottle was found by a fisherman. "No one expected anything to come from it, so it's really weird that something did."

Biemat, who goes fishing most weekends with her husband, said she will keep watching the waters, especially if there are 55 more bottles from Deerfield High students floating around.

"I'm always looking for bottles," Biemat said. "I know it's a little crazy, but I've always been watching for messages in the water."

1988 News and Sun-Sentinel Company

Author: By KIKI BOCHI, Education Writer

Section: LOCAL

Page: 7B

1988 News and Sun-Sentinel Company



Paper: St. Petersburg Times
Title: Message in a bottle gets Welsh reply
Date: August 1, 1988

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH - Five years ago, while vacationing with his family on an island near Nassau, Nick Biddle stuffed a note in a champagne bottle and dropped it in the Atlantic Ocean.

Only 5 at the time, Nick knew that messages in bottles were merely the stuff of kids' dreams. But he never forgot the bottle or the note, which contained his name, address, and a short message: "Please, when you find this, could you write me back?"

Last week Nick's dream arrived in the mail.

"Dear Sir (Nick)," it began. "Whilst walking on the beach one morning I saw in a rock pool an old champagne bottle which, I imagine, must have been five or six years old judging by the marine growth it had collected.

"I can only assume that it was possibly a young boy's treasure bottle, so I am writing to let you know it has been found after all this time even though sadly it had to be broken. Yours truly, A. Bennett."

Alan Bennett said he found the bottle while vacationing near The Mumbles, a coastal town in southern Wales about 60 miles west of Bristol, England. That's a straight-line distance of more than 4,400 miles.

"I was very surprised to find the bottle had traveled such a long way," the 60-year-old retired British Airways employee said in a telephone interview Sunday. "I thought the least that I could do was write this gentleman back."

"I always had it on my mind, but when I heard about the letter, I got really excited," said Nick, now 10 and a fifth-grader at Gulf Beaches Elementary School. When he tossed the bottle in the ocean, "I thought it would be brought back to shore and broken."

Nick plans to write back his new-found pen pal, who lives in the Welsh town of Treharris. "I want to thank him for writing back and ask him more questions about where he found the bottle," he said.

Bennett's letter has made at least one grown-up believe that wishes sometimes come true.

"I didn't believe it when I first saw" the letter, said Nick's mother, Nancy. "If it didn't have the foreign postmark and stamp, I would have thought it was some kind of joke. The 'whilst' really gave it away."

Caption:

Map of Atlantic Ocean showing point in Bahamas where Nick Biddle tossed his bottle into the ocean and point in Wales where Alan Bennett found it

Caption:

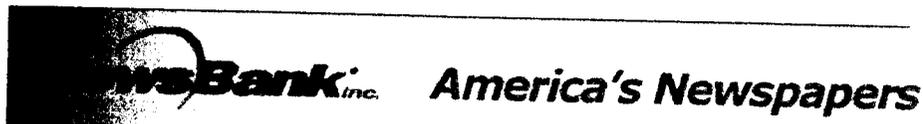
COLOR MAP, Anne Hand

Author: JOSEPH GALARNEAU

Section: TAMPA BAY AND STATE

Page: 1B

Dateline: ST. PETERSBURG BEACH



Paper: THE ORLANDO SENTINEL
Title: MESSAGE IN BOTTLE TAKES A 34-YEAR OCEAN VOYAGE
Date: January 31, 1990

A barnacle-covered bottle with a message inside apparently survived a journey from South Africa to England - 34 years after it was tossed into the sea.

Anna Alexander of the Cornish town of New Polzeath said that while walking along a beach Sunday in southwestern England, she found the bottle.

"I could hardly believe my eyes, and I still can't, that this fragile bottle had been in the water all that time," Alexander said.

She said she broke the bottle to get to the contents: a 1956 South African shilling and a piece of paper with the name Ryan Smith and an address near Durban, South Africa, written on it.

"This bottle in all probability has been on the most incredible journey," Alexander said Tuesday.

"It couldn't have come direct. We think really that this bottle has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles."

Alexander said she has begun looking for Smith.

Copyright 1990 Sentinel Communications Co.

Author: Associated Press
Section: A SECTION
Page: A4
Dateline: LONDON
Copyright 1990 Sentinel Communications Co.



Paper: Tulsa World
Title: Message in a Bottle Found 34 Years Later
Date: January 31, 1990

LONDON (AP) - A woman said Tuesday that while walking along a beach in southwestern England, she found a barnacle-covered bottle with a message inside that apparently was tossed

into the sea 34 years ago in South Africa.

"I could hardly believe my eyes, and I still can't, that this fragile bottle had been in the water all that time," Anna Alexander of the Cornish town of New Polzeath said.

Ms. Alexander claims to have picked up the bottle Sunday while beachcombing.

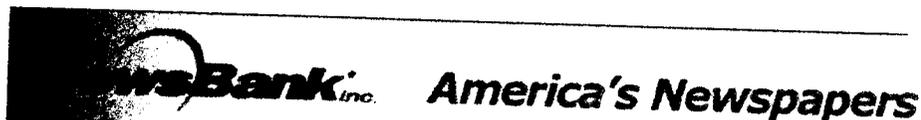
She said she broke the bottle to get to the contents: a 1956 South African shilling and a piece of paper with the name Ryan Smith and an address near Durban, South Africa, written on it.

"This bottle in all probability has been on the most incredible journey," Ms. Alexander said. "It couldn't have come direct. We think really that this bottle has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles."

Ms. Alexander said she has begun looking for Ryan Smith.

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Author: AP
Section: NEWS
Page: A15
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Paper: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)

Title: TIME IN A BOTTLE / AFTER 15 YEARS, OCEAN CITY MAN'S MESSAGE IN BOTTLE REACHES BAHAMAS

Date: February 28, 1990

About 15 years ago, back when he was a boy, Ocean City resident Tom Oves Jr. wrote a brief message, sealed it in an empty bottle, and then tossed the bottle off a local jetty into the ocean.

The 26-year-old science teacher says he never expected his message to raise an answer - least of all after so many years and from so far away.

But, about two weeks ago, Oves got a letter from a Michael McCormick of Dallas. Oves' note from the bottle had been sent with the letter.

McCormick reported that, while vacationing with his family last year on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas, he found a Coca-Cola bottle washed up on the beach.

The bottle's cap had all but eroded away, but a back-up cork was still functional. Inside, Oves' note was all rolled up in a sandwich bag, wrapped with deteriorating rubber bands and written in childish scrawl on a dingy piece of paper.

McCormick apparently didn't have to break the glass to get at the note, but he left the bottle back on the beach. He sent the tattered note, though, and Oves intends to frame it.

"The message didn't say much. It just said, 'Whoever finds this note, please send it to my address in Ocean City and say when and where you found it.' Luckily, my mom and dad still live at the same address," laughs Oves, a faculty member at Wildwood High School, where he also coaches freshman basketball.

"We used to do that kind of thing a lot when we were kids," he explains of the message in the bottle. "I guess because of living in Ocean City, we were right by the beach, and there really wasn't much else to do during the winter."

Bad grammar

Although he hadn't inscribed the message with a date, Oves says he can tell the time period because of his bad handwriting and equally bad grammar. "It was a time in my life when I wasn't using commas," he recalls.

The bachelor says he was "extremely surprised" not only by the response to his message, but also by the location of the bottle's discovery.

Eleuthera is approximately 1,400 miles away from Ocean City, and while that seems far, it probably wouldn't take a bottle nearly 16 years to float there, according to Oves.

"The Gulf stream comes up from the Bahamas, so it couldn't have traveled straight down there," explains the science teacher. "It probably went around the whole ocean before it landed there, traveling with the current - first north, then south and finally west."

But that round-about route still would not take nearly 16 years.

Oves theorizes that, judging by McCormick's report about the worn ridges in the bottle, the missile probably washed up on many shores before finally winding up in Eleuthera.

He said he explained all that to his students, many of whom were as excited as their teacher over the bottle's discovery.

Beyond that, though, the only lesson the message-in-a-bottle adventure offers in these harried, modern times, says Oves, is that such adventures should occur no more.

"I don't think it's responsible to throw bottles out into the ocean," says the teacher. "The ocean is filled with enough garbage as it is."

The bottle teacher Tom Oves Jr. tossed in the water eventually was found in the Bahamas. Staff color photo by Tom Kinnemand

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Author: RICHARD MURRAY Staff Writer

Section: Regional

Page: C1

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Paper: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)

Title: GIRL'S MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE TRAVELS AN ENTIRE ... 5 MILES

Date: December 16, 1990

She may have had more exotic hopes, thinking she'd be communicating with someone in Africa, or Asia, or Europe.

Instead her message landed in Sea Isle City, about five miles from where it started.

"When I found it and read it I said, 'This kid's going to be so disappointed it ended up in Sea Isle,'" said local resident Irene Jameson.

What Jameson found was a sealed plastic bottle that had washed up on the 17th Street beach at low tide.

Inside was a message from a Pennsylvania third-grader, asking two colorfully-illustrated questions: "Is the whale extinct yet? Is the leopard extinct yet?"

Alongside the questions posed by Bridget Sullivan, aged 8, were drawings of a whale and a leopard.

And at the bottom of the letter Bridget wrote, "Country: United States."

Knowing that the third-grader might be disappointed that her letter hadn't crossed the Atlantic, Jameson decided to make the best of the situation: she's written back to Bridget and invited her entire Penn Wood School third-grade class to Sea Isle City in May or June.

If the class accepts, the children will be bused in at the expense of the Sea Isle City Environmental Commission, given a walk on the beach and an environmental pep talk, and treated to a pizza lunch.

"We thought it was an opportunity to turn something that really wasn't a good thing to do, into a good chance to bring them down and tell them about pollution," she said. "We just want them to be aware of how harmful this can be (when whales and dolphins ingest plastic and die)."

Jameson also sent Bridget a coloring book and a t-shirt featuring Sea Isle City's efforts to save the diamondback terrapin turtles, which get killed by cars each year as they cross the roadways to lay eggs.

"I just thought it was exciting!" said Bridget, who tossed the message into the water in Ocean City at Thanksgiving as part of a class project. "We just wanted to find out who would find it and where it would end up."

"The idea was for it to go a million miles away and be found in the year 2075. It was supposed to be a time-capsule type thing," said Bridget mother, Barbara Sullivan. "And it was found in Sea Isle."

"But (Bridget) read the letter to the children and she wore the t-shirt to school the next day," she added. "It's really a nice thing and she was all smiles from ear-to-ear."

That it was Jameson who found the bottle and picked it up can't really be called a coincidence; she's on the beach most days out of the year.

In the summer she combs the beach with about 50 others, picking up shells and starfish and seaweed.

As one of the Sea Isle City Environmental Commission's Beachcomber Walk guides, she takes groups of residents and tourists along the beach, pointing out the abundant marine life that often gets overlooked.

During the colder months when most people are off the beach, Jameson is often alone - the only person on a wide stretch of sand - and she's picking up bags, cans and bottles from 1st Street to 30th Street.

She has "adopted" that stretch of beach, and takes part of the responsibility for keeping it clean.

Jameson, however, said that the volume of this year's trash doesn't compare to previous years.'

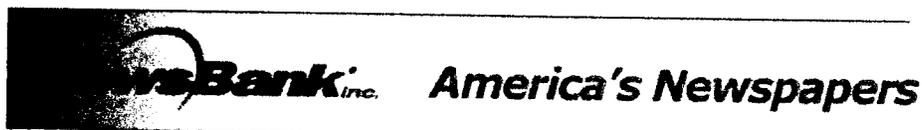
This season she only picks up half a bag of trash each day. In winters past, two 20-gallon bags a day would be weighed down with cans and bottles.

"I call myself the bag lady of Sea Isle," she said. "Mostly I just want to encourage people when they are walking on the beach, if they see something that's dangerous ... pick it up," she said.

Irene Jameson displays the message and its bottle. Press photo
by Dale Gerhard

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Author: CHRIS LAPUSHESKI Staff Writer
Section: Regional
Page: B1
Dateline: SEA ISLE CITY
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Paper: St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Title: Message In A Bottle Travels 9,400 Miles
Date: December 27, 1991

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - Three years ago, Patrick Fiddler, then 9, put a message and his address in a bottle and dropped it into the Atlantic Ocean at a beach in North Carolina.

Last week, he got a reply - from the island nation of Mauritius, about 9,400 miles away in the Indian Ocean.

The note to Patrick said, "On holidays in Mauritius, I found your message on the seashore at Tron aux biches." The vacationer's name was illegible.

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Author: By The Associated Press
Page: 9A
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Paper: The News & Observer
Title: Message in a bottle floats 9,400 miles
Date: December 27, 1991

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Three years ago, Patrick Fiddler put a message in a bottle and dropped it into the Atlantic off the North Carolina coast.

Last week, the 12-year-old Charleston boy received a reply – from the island nation of Mauritius, about 9,400 miles away in the Indian Ocean.

The note in the soda bottle, which Patrick dropped into the water on a visit to Avon, said simply, "Hi!" and included his address.

"I expected it to wash down the beach or in America somewhere," Patrick said Wednesday.

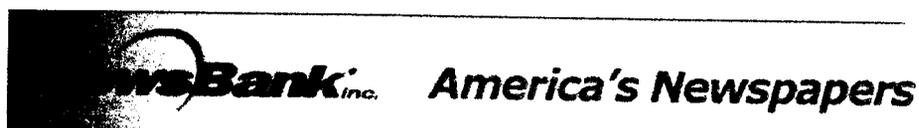
But ocean currents apparently carried the bottle around the tip of Africa to Mauritius, about 500 miles east of Madagascar.

A vacationer found the bottle on a beach and wrote to "Monsieur Patrick Fiddler."

"On holidays in Mauritius, I found your message on the seashore at Tron aux biches," the vacationer wrote. "It pleases me to send it back to you."
c; map; world; staff

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Author: The Associated Press
Section: NEWS
Page: A1
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Paper: New Haven Register (CT)
Title: Message in bottle remains a mystery
Date: March 18, 1994

Fallon and Nicole Stephens' daily walks on Laurel Beach are usually routine affairs.

Then they spotted the old bottle Monday afternoon, half-buried in the sand.

Peering inside, the sisters, ages 12 and 14, saw a note.

They unfolded the brown paper and read the handwritten words. Suddenly, it was like a Nancy Drew mystery book had come to life.

"Please help me. I have been kidnapped by two white men. We are staying in the woods by the water. Carol Coleman. Please help me," the note read.

The sisters hurried straight home and showed the note to their parents.

"You never know if it's a hoax or not. We felt better bringing it to the police," said Mary Stephens, the girls' mother.

Officer James Garfield examined the note and listened to the girls' story. He used a teletype machine to send information about the note to police agencies throughout the country.

Records of missing persons were checked but no "Carol Coleman" had been reported missing.

The mystery deepened, however, when Waterbury police officials spotted the bulletin and called Garfield.

A Waterbury officer said two bottles were found on the banks of the Naugatuck River last summer. Similar notes were found in each bottle bearing the same name, but no one named "Carol Coleman" had been reported missing.

The Naugatuck River flows into the Housatonic River. The note found by the Stephens girls was found near the mouth of the Housatonic.

Police spokesman Officer Edward Kelly said there is no way to tell yet whether the note is real or a hoax.

"We've lived here for years and we always take walks on the beach. We've never found anything like this," said Mary Stephens. "My kids have put notes in bottles before, but this is a real mystery."

The message-in-a-bottle theme is apparently a family trait.

"My brother-in-law threw a bottle with a note in it and got a message back," she said.

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Author: Michael Foley
Section: LOCAL NEWS
Page: d1
Dateline: Milford
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Paper: THE ORLANDO SENTINEL
Title: MESSAGE IN BOTTLE HOLDS A WOMAN'S PLEA FOR HELP
Date: March 19, 1994

Two girls looking for seashells found a bottle containing a plea for help from a woman claiming she was kidnapped - the third such find in a year. The bottle washed ashore earlier this week. It read: "Please help me. I have been kidnapped by two white men. We are staying in the woods by the water. Carol Coleman. Please help me." Milford police spokesman Edward Kelly said Waterbury police investigated two bottles found last summer, but could not find a Carol Coleman. "We're looking at this seriously at this point," Kelly said. Fallon Stephens, 12, and her sister, Nicole, 14, found the bottle on Laurel Beach. The girls said they thought it would be from a writer looking for a pen pal. They said they were shocked when they read the note.

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Section: A SECTION
Page: A14
Column: OTHER NEWS TO NOTENORTHEAST
Dateline: MILFORD, CONN.
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Paper: Star-News (Wilmington, NC)
Title: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE - AND
SENDER - WIND UP IN SPAIN;
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH
Date: June 29, 1994

I hope that someone gets my, I hope that someone gets my, I hope that someone gets my, message in a bottle. - The rock band The Police

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - Two years ago, someone did get 17-year-old Beverly Laing's message in a bottle - the one she tossed into the ocean in June 1986 while cruising on a sailboat somewhere between The Bahamas and the Berry Islands.

Mario Dominguez Aguilar, then an 18-year-old student, found the message while walking on the beach near La Coruna, a city in northwest Spain.

When Mr. Aguilar opened the bottle he found on the beach, which had been sealed in a plastic bag, he found the following message:

"No matter how young or old, great or small, to send such a message is a fantasy for all." Following the rhyme, on paper from a small spiral notebook, was written "Overboard: 6-30-86. 10:15 p.m. Please return to sender." Ms. Laing's name and address were at the bottom.

Maybe it was fate. That message was the beginning of a two-year correspondence that wound up when Ms. Laing met her pen-pal during the year she spent in Spain as a foreign exchange student.

"It was really neat to finally meet him," said Ms. Laing, who returned home last week and will be a senior at Laney High School in the fall.

"I've always wanted to learn Spanish and become fluent," Ms. Laing said. When her older sister went to Ecuador and Costa Rica with two different programs at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, that fueled Ms. Laing's curiosity. The letter from Spain was the clincher.

"I chose Spain because I wanted to learn pure Spanish," Ms. Laing said. "And after that guy wrote me, I thought maybe I could see him.

Mr. Aguilar was an engineering student at a college in Madrid, about 15 minutes by bus from Moncloa, where Ms. Laing was staying. He was finishing his final semester of summer school when she arrived with Youth For Understanding's foreign exchange program. The two only managed to meet once before he returned to his home, she said.

She spent her year with a Spanish family, including an older brother and an 11-year-old sister with whom she shared a room.

It took a while to adjust to the high-speed Spanish the natives speak, Ms. Laing said.

"The worst thing about it was when I got there I had no clue of Spanish whatsoever," she said. "I learned how to say 'slow down' very early."

By the time she left, Ms. Laing was writing term papers in Spanish and finished with two A-pluses and three As in courses such as Spanish history and Spanish literature.

The trip overseas has shaped her career goals.

"I would like to teach Spanish here in the States or teach English as a second language in Spain or another Spanish-speaking country," Ms. Laing said.

While she's waiting, she will continue to check the mail.

During her Christmas vacation in 1992, on another sailing trip to the islands, she dropped two more messages overboard.

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Author: RICHARD MYERS, Star-News Correspondent
Section: Local/Regional
Page: 2B
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Paper: The Tampa Tribune

Title: Message in a bottle reaches Hawaii after 10 years afloat

Date: March 3, 1995

HONOLULU – A message in a bottle tossed into the ocean off Japan by students floated and bobbed around the Pacific Ocean for 10 years before washing ashore in Hawaii.

Sandra and Edward Kitaoka and their neighbor, Windy Kanehailua, found the brown bottle Sunday on a beach north of Honolulu.

"This bottle was thrown into the sea off the coast of Togane, Japan, in August 1985," a note inside the bottle says. It also contained versions in Japanese and Spanish.

The note, from members of the Togane High School Earth Science Club, asks the finder to send back to the club a note about who found it and where it washed ashore. The students, however, have long since graduated.

Roger Lucas, University of Hawaii oceanography professor, said the bottle probably got caught in a series of clockwise currents.

Lucas said it takes three to four years to make the journey around the Pacific, which suggests the bottle may have circled three times before it was found.

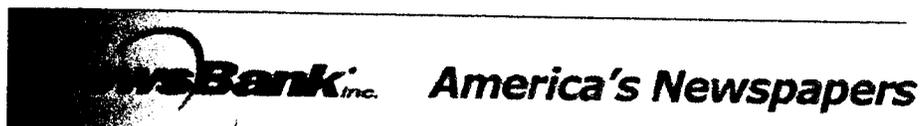
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Author: An Associated Press Report

Section: NATION/WORLD

Page: 12

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Paper: York Daily Record (PA)

Title: MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE LINKS LOVERS 13 YEARS LATER A MARYLAND FAMILY FOUND A BOTTLE WITH A MESSAGE FROM A LONELY ITALIAN SEAMAN, WHO HAD WRITTEN TO HIS WIFE.

Date: September 26, 1995

"At this place, at this moment, my heart is filled with love for you, my sweet Vera."

And so begins the love letter Italian seaman Vito Marie D'Abundeo tucked into a glass bottle some 13 years ago and, with hope and heart, tossed into the white-capped waters off the coast of Spain.

The letter was scripted to Vera, Vito's wife back home in Sorrento, Italy. Because there was no way the lovesick and lonely D'Abundeo, traveling on an Italian merchant ship from Liverpool, England, to New Orleans, La., could communicate with his true love, a heartfelt message in a bottle was his only hope.

Written at the end of Vito's bottled correspondence was Vera's address and a request that the finder of the bottle complete the final leg of the letter's journey.

Thirteen years later, D'Abundeo got his wish.

During a week-long stay in Bermuda this summer, the Hudson family from Freeland, Md., stumbled upon a romantic mystery.

With her parents, Laura and Thomas, heading back to the hotel for some rest, Erin Hudson, 10, decided to explore her tropical surroundings and headed to the beach.

There, washed ashore by a recent storm, Erin found a large French water bottle, with a message inside.

Artifact in hand, an excited Erin sprinted back to the hotel and presented the find to her parents, who were relaxing on the balcony.

After getting pliers from the hotel to unscrew the rusted bottle cap, Thomas, aided by two knitting needles and a lot of patience, spent nearly two hours extracting the brittle message from the bottle.

It could have been a grocery receipt. It could have been a scrap of trash. But whatever the piece of paper was, the Hudsons were determined to find out.

The hand-written letter was written in Italian, so Thomas faxed it back to his office in Timonium. His office just happens to be an international business.

"The letter had deteriorated somewhat, but the writing was still readable," Laura said. "It was dated 13 years ago and had the longitude and latitude coordinates from where it was thrown into the ocean."

In order to find a beach in Bermuda, the bottle had to travel 2,500 miles, enough of a journey that Bermuda's major newspaper, the Royal Gazette, wrote a major feature about the event.

The Hudsons abided by the letter's request and forwarded the letter to its intended destination.

Since that eventful trip, the Hudsons and the D'Abundeos, now married for 20 years and with two children, have corresponded several times. There is even talk of Thomas, Laura and Erin heading to Italy to visit their new friends.

On a final note, Thomas Hudson, when asked if his family has now taken up the message-in-a-bottle habit, replied, "As many times as we can."

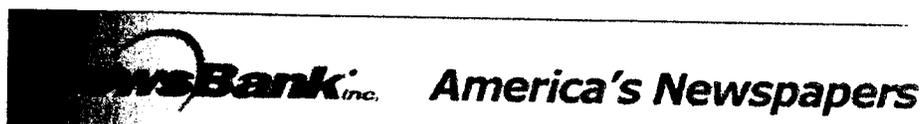
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Author: SEAN S. DALY Record correspondent

Section: A

Page: 01

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Paper: San Diego Union-Tribune, The (CA)
Title: Message in a bottle
San Diegan's free-fishing offer washes up on Indonesian beach
Date: February 27, 1996

As the two couples walked along the beach of the small Indonesian island of Bintan on Valentine's Day, they noticed a barnacle-encrusted wine bottle on the beach.

What happened next is a story as old as bottles and paper and ink pens, as time-honored as island adventures and boats and people oozing with faith. How many times have bottles with messages been thrown into the sea and been found?

In an era of cyberspace communication, this is about a wine bottle that traveled thousands of ocean miles for more than two years to deliver its message.

As the two couples peered inside the crusty bottle, they barely could see a piece of paper. It was a handwritten note on a sport boat's advertising brochure. It said: "Good for one free trip. Good luck to the finder."

It was signed, "Shiner."

The Singapore couple, Dr. Alwyn and Jackie Ko, and Jackie's sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Wing Luk Seto, were so thrilled it was as though they had rubbed the bottle and a genie appeared.

"My brother-in-law is a journalist, so he wrote a letter as soon as we returned to Singapore from Bintan," Jackie Ko said today when reached at the couple's home in Singapore.

Bintan is a 45-minute ferry ride from Singapore.

"We were very excited because how often do you go walking on the beach and find a message in a bottle like that?" Jackie Ko said.

They traced the phone and fax numbers on the boat's brochure, the 1994 Sportfishing Schedule from the American Angler, based in Point Loma.

"We are bursting with questions," Wing Luk Seto wrote in their Feb. 15 fax to "Whom it may concern or Mr. Shiner at the American Angler." "Where was the bottle actually put to sea? When? Who is Shiner? What does the handwritten message mean?"

The American Angler is berthed at Point Loma Sportfishing. The boat and the landing are owned by Dan Sansome, whose younger brother is Dennis, also known as "Shiner."

As Dennis "Shiner" Sansome remembers it, he was fishing on a friend's boat in the winter of 1994 one mile off Mission Bay. Dennis noticed a clear, corked wine bottle floating in the water. After fishing it out, he looked for something to put inside before re-launching it. His friend had some American Angler brochures on board his boat, so Dennis uncorked the bottle, wrote his message on the brochure and stuffed it back in the bottle.

"I just put the cork back, threw it out and said, 'Let's see what happens,'" Dennis Sansome said. "I told my brother (Dan Sansome) about it a couple weeks later. We laughed and joked about it, but I never dreamed it would show up. I forgot all about it."

The two couples were amazed that a bottle could make its way from San Diego, across the Pacific, weaving through thousands of islands in Micronesia and the maze of islands that make up Hawaii, the Philippines, New Guinea, Borneo and Indonesia.

"The bottle could have landed on one of the thousands of uninhabited islands along the way," Seto wrote. "Tanjong Said is a sandy bay (on Bintan) flanked by rocks, and the bottle could have ended its journey smashed among the rocks. And the locals told us that strong incoming currents occur only for several months of the year."

Jackie Ko said Bintan is a newly developed island with a new hotel, health spa and resort. She said they were there for a short holiday.

"If anyone would have found the bottle a few months earlier, it likely would have been thrown out," Jackie Ko said. "The people there wouldn't have been able to read the message to make sense of it."

Said Dennis Sansome: "I figure that thing traveled 10,000 miles when you consider all the islands it had to go around to get there. At first I thought I was in deep trouble, but my brother is actually stoked about it."

Judy Collins, who is the American Angler's secretary, said Dennis, 40, is always pulling pranks. He's been known to put fish heads in people's drinks and stinky tennis shoes in people's bunks on fishing trips. But this one tops them all for the man they call "Shiner."

"If I would have done something like that, it would have rolled back to Pacific Beach the next day, and somebody there would be here demanding a free fishing trip," Collins said.

Dan Sansome, who was at a Los Angeles fishing hole trying for the world-record largemouth bass yesterday, is going to honor the bottle's message.

The Kos and Setos are planning a trip to San Diego this summer for a multiday fishing trip on the American Angler. Jackie Ko said their bottled message on the 1994 American Angler's brochure is locked in a safe. And, of course, they have kept the bottle, though some of the colorful barnacles have fallen off.

"It's still a very pretty bottle," Jackie said.

Collins said she's unsure what kind of fishing trip Sansome is going to give them, but it likely will be when the fishing is good. Jackie Ko said no one in the group has been deep-sea fishing.

"All four of us made the discovery," Jackie Ko said. "We want to come to San Diego together. That will fulfill the whole experience for us."

Caption:

1 MAP

Caption:

A journey of 10,000 miles, On Feb. 14, a bottle was found washed ashore on the island of Bitan, Indonesia. The bottle was thrown into the ocean off San Diego in the winter of 1994.

Union-Tribune / PAUL HORN

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Author: ED ZIERALSKI

Section: SPORTS

Page: D-1

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Paper: San Diego Union-Tribune, The (CA)

Title: Catching lightning in a bottle? Second message washes ashore

Date: February 28, 1996

Deja vu, in a bottle.

As unbelievable as it seems, another wine bottle message with ties to the sport boat American Angler has washed up on a Western Pacific island.

If this keeps up, littering charges may follow.

Charlie Cowen, the cook on the American Angler berthed at Point Loma Sportfishing, received a letter Monday afternoon from Berlina Talikas, a young Filipina. She told Cowen she found the bottle while looking for seashells. Inside the bottle she discovered Cowen's name and address and a \$1 bill. Her letter was dated Feb. 14.

If this story sounds familiar, it should. In yesterday's editions of the Union-Tribune, Dennis "Shiner" Sansome told how two couples, on holiday on the island of Bintan off the coast of Singapore on Feb. 14, found a message in a bottle Sansome had launched while fishing a mile off Mission Bay two years ago.

Sansome had stuffed an American Angler fishing trip schedule in the bottle and offered the finder a free trip. His brother, Dan, owns the American Angler and now must come through with a trip.

Cowen said he wasn't aware of Dennis Sansome's story until yesterday when he picked up the Union-Tribune. Cowen figures he set his bottle out from below Cabo San Lucas more than two years ago because the girl's letter was addressed to his old address in Vista. Cowen produced the letter, which shows it had been rerouted to his new address in Jamul. He said he's been updating his change of address.

"I've probably put over 100 bottles out like that," said Cowen, 48. "It's something I do fairly religiously. It's just so exciting to get a return. I can't believe it."

Cowen plans to correspond with the girl and send her a box of seashells he gathered in Mexico.

"I know I've been upstaged by Shiner," Cowen said. "But this is something I've hoped for since I was a kid. After putting hundreds of those bottles out, I finally got a reply."

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Author: ED ZIERALSKI

Section: SPORTS

Page: D-2

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Paper: Redding Record Searchlight (CA)

Title: 18 YEARS LATER, SENDER RECEIVES ANSWER TO HIS MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Date: June 14, 1996

The 27-year-old said he just hoped his bottle would make it across the lake. Under the right conditions a bottle could float that far, an oceanographer claims.

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) - At age 9, on a humdrum summer's day at his grandparents' cottage, Kevin Reeder thought it might be neat to have a pen pal. He put his wish in a bottle and tossed it into Cayuga Lake.

His note, brittle and slightly faded, was mailed back recently from San Diego - 18 years later. Reeder figures the bottle floated down the canals, picked up the ocean current and journeyed 25,000-plus miles around the world.

"For a little childhood gesture to have turned into this!" the amazed 27-year-old restaurant manager said Thursday. "It's like writing a letter to Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny and hoping to get a response."

It was really his mother's idea. On summer getaways at the lakeside cottage in Ovid in the Finger Lakes, she was always dreaming up stuff to keep the kids busy.

She wrote the note. It said, "Hello, today is July 16, 1978. If you find this, please drop me a line." Included were Kevin's name, phone number and address.

At best, the boy hoped someone down shore or across the lake would find the green bottle with the screwed-on cap later that week or that summer.

The note came back in a letter in February via his childhood home in Geneva, 38 miles southeast of Rochester. Inside was a similar request.

"Hello Kevin. I found your message in a bottle at the beach in San Diego, California. I thought it would be funny to write back. Pretty cool! Bye now, Rosa & Bruce. - P.S. Where the heck is Ovid?"

Oceanographer Joseph Reid of the Scripps Institute in San Diego doesn't doubt that a floating object could drift that far if it were "perfectly sealed and did not do the common thing - amass so much marine vegetation to it that it becomes too heavy and sinks."

The bottle could have exited Cayuga Lake through a canal at its northern tip and floated either down the Erie Canal toward New York City or into Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean.

"I have a tough time believing it," Reeder said. "I'm perhaps the biggest skeptic of all. But how else could it have gotten there?"

Rosa and Bruce put no return address on their letter.

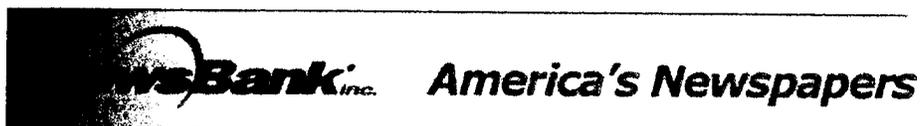
Copyright (c) 1996, Redding Record Searchlight (CA)

Author: RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

Section: News

Page: A1

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Paper: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Title: Message in a bottle 18 years later, writer gets an answer

Date: June 16, 1996

On a humdrum summer day at his grandparents' cottage, 9-year-old Kevin Reeder thought it might be neat to have a pen pal. He put his wish in a bottle and tossed it into Cayuga Lake.

His note, brittle and slightly faded, was mailed back recently from San Diego 18 years later. Reeder figures the bottle floated down New York's canals, picked up the ocean current and journeyed 25,000-plus miles around the world.

"For a little childhood gesture to have turned into this!" said the amazed Reeder, now a 27-year-old restaurant manager. "It's like writing a letter to Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny and hoping to get a response."

It was really his mother's idea she was always dreaming up stuff to keep him busy. She wrote the note while the family was vacationing at the lakeside cottage in Ovid at the Finger Lakes.

It said, "Hello, today is July 16, 1978. If you find this, please drop me a line." Included were Kevin's name and address.

The note came back in a letter in February via his childhood home in Geneva, 38 miles southeast of Rochester.

"Hello Kevin. I found your message in a bottle at the beach in San Diego, California. I thought it would be funny to write back. Pretty cool! Bye now, Rosa & Bruce. P.S. Where the heck is Ovid?" The senders remain unknown.

Caption:

Photo

Caption: Reeder

Copyright 1996 Journal Sentinel Inc.

Author: BEN DOBBIN

Section: News

Page: 6

Dateline: Rochester, N.Y.

Copyright 1996 Journal Sentinel Inc.



Paper: The Florida Times-Union
Title: Time in a bottle Carpenter's message travels 110 years
Date: August 9, 1997

A 110-year-old message in a bottle discovered underneath the floor of St. Andrews Church is keeping Jas S. Alexander's name alive.

The corked pill bottle recently fell and bounced off the hard hat of a carpenter who is restoring the gothic revival church at the intersection of Duval Street and A. Philip Randolph.

"It was hidden pretty good," said Bill Ashley, the restoration project supervisor who was removing insulation under the Jacksonville church when the bottle hit his apprentice. "We were like a bunch of kids two weeks before Christmas."

They wanted to bust it open and read the note right away, Ashley said. But they waited until the president of the Jacksonville Historical Society returned to town.

The brittle message states Alexander was a carpenter born in 1846 and that he wanted the message returned to its secret place so he would be remembered long after his death.

It's not uncommon for carpenters to find messages or initials carved inside old buildings, Ashley said.

"Whenever you build something you leave your name," he said. "You're leaving a legacy that you were there."

Larry LaFollette, preservation officer with the state archives in Tallahassee, examined the note and bottle but said he lacked the scientific expertise to authenticate it. That would require a licensed document appraiser, he said.

However, there was nothing about the letter to make it suspect. The paper, which was of fairly good quality, disintegrated and lost its sizing from condensation in the bottle and the ink faded underneath the spreading mold.

LaFollette restored the note and placed it inside a clear, protective cover that will prevent further deterioration.

Little is known about Alexander, who was about 42 years old when he wrote the note in 1888. He lived a few blocks away from the church on Florida Avenue. The houses in that neighborhood were torn down decades ago when the neighborhood gave way to stadiums and amphitheaters.

Alexander died Sept. 23, 1923, leaving behind a wife and brother but no children, according to a brief obituary in The Florida Times-Union.

The church, and the bottle under its floor, survived the great fire of 1901, which burned 466 acres and left thousands homeless. Nearby Hogan's Creek protected St. Andrews Church from the flames, making it one of the oldest religious edifices in the city.

The note states that Alexander was born in "Cuba Shelby." But according to his death certificate, he was born in North Carolina. Contemporary maps show a Shelby County in North Carolina, but no towns called Cuba.

The note struck LaFollette as a romantic way to fulfill a very basic human instinct.

"We all want to be remembered," he said.

Caption:

Photo Ricardo Romagosa/staff 1. Photo: (c) THE LETTER: "To whom it may concern: I know not when this may come in light nor whose lot it may fall to but when you have scrutinised please secret it again in hiding place and I go down through future if possible. I am only a carpenter and my name is Jas. S. Alexander born at Cuba Shelby Aug. 22, 1846. Job was built under the supervision of Hall. Finished year 1888. Cost about 67,000. Respectfully JS Alexander. Please seal this up again and secret it in this ah ? that it may live when my existences long and forgotten and greet of those who are senturies to come years as a resident of Jacksonville and will live through out here." 2. Photo: (c) Bill Ashley, project superintendent for the St. Andrews restoration, holds a note and bottle found in the church.

Copyright 1997, 1999 The Florida Times-Union

Author: Caren Burmeister, Times-Union staff writer
Section: Metro
Page: B-1
Copyright 1997, 1999 The Florida Times-Union

Exhibit X D

Web Images Video News Maps Gmail more ▾

Sign in

Google

message in a bottle

Search

Advanced Search
Preferences

New! View and manage your web history

Web Video

Results 1 - 10 of about 7,480,000 for message in a bottle. (0.09 seconds)

Message in a Bottle (1999)

Message in a Bottle on IMDb: Movies, TV, Celebs, and more...
www.imdb.com/title/tt0139462/ - 46k - Cached - Similar pages

Message In A Bottle

Official site with synopsis, information about the book, multimedia, E-cards, filmmaker details, **message** board, and links.
message-bottle.warnerbros.com/ - 21k - Cached - Similar pages

Message in a bottle. Oceangram. The free message in a bottle website.

message in a bottle. Send and receive **message in a bottle** oceangram free. Best greeting for all occasions.
www.oceangram.com/ - 18k - Cached - Similar pages

Message in a Bottle - Bottled Water - Luxury Water - Mineral Water

Americans spent more money last year on bottled water than on ipods or movie tickets: \$15 Billion. A journey into the economics—and psychology—of an ...
www.fastcompany.com/magazine/117/features-message-in-a-bottle.html - 60k - Cached - Similar pages

Sting & Police | Message In A Bottle lyrics

Message In A Bottle lyrics by Sting & Police. ... **Message in a bottle**, yeah Walked out this morning, dont believe what I saw Hundred billion bottles washed ...
www.lyricsfreak.com/s/sting+&+police/message+in+a+bottle_20132294.html - 15k - Cached - Similar pages

Message In A Bottle - Authentic Messages Romantic Message In A ...

If you are looking for a unique, meaningful and inspiring gift then a **message in a bottle** is just the right thing for you. Let Authentic Messages help you ...
www.authenticmessages.com/ - 25k - Cached - Similar pages

Message in a Bottle (song) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The song is ostensibly about a castaway on an island, who sends out a **message in a bottle** to seek help. A year later, he feels that there is no need for ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Message_in_a_Bottle_(song) - 25k - Cached - Similar pages

Message in a Bottle ® - Official Site - Message in a Bottle

Message in a Bottle offers personalized **message in a bottle** gifts for all occasions including weddings, birthdays, love and friendship, holidays and all ...
www.messageinabottle.com/ - 33k - Cached - Similar pages

Sponsored Links

Message in a Bottle

The **Message in a Bottle**
Standing Alone in Quality
www.timelessmessage.com

Message in a Bottle ®.com

Official Site of Genuine **Message in a Bottle** ® Gift & Invite Bottles!
www.MessageInABottle.com/

Send Messages In A Bottle

Fun and Affordable Invitations!
Pick Your **Message**, Custom or Kits.
www.InvitationInABottle.com

Message In A Bottle

Sentimental **Message in a bottle**.
Treasured keepsakes and more.
www.onepassionplace.com

Message in a Bottle

Great for invitations.
Plastic or Glass. Compare prices.
www.sandartsupplies.com

Message Bottles w/ Corks

Glass/Plastic-Great for Invitations
No Minimum. Incredibly Low Prices!
www.ebottles.com

Message in a Bottle

The perfect romantic gift,
beautifully wrapped for free.
www.forgetUnot.com

Message In A Bottle

Custom Wedding Invitations
Personalized Wedding Products
www.capeimages.com

Amazon.com: Message in a Bottle: DVD: Kevin Costner, Robin Wright ...

Amazon.com: **Message in a Bottle: DVD: Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn, Paul Newman, John Savage, Illeana Douglas, Robbie Coltrane, Jesse James, Bethel Leslie, Tom ...**
www.amazon.com/Message-Bottle-Kevin-Costner/dp/B00000JGPC - 186k -
Cached - Similar pages

Message in a bottle - Its a gift, Its a Smile, Yes! Its a Message ...

The **Message in a Bottle** Shop offers **message in a bottle** gifts for every occasion, Anniversary, Birthday, Get Well, Love, Mother's Day, Christmas, ...
www.bottlemeamessage.com/ - 54k - Cached - Similar pages

Searches related to: message in a bottle

message in a bottle
wow

message in a bottle
invitations

message in a bottle
book

message in a bottle by
nicholas sparks

message in a bottle
soundtrack

the notebook

message in a bottle
guitar tab

plastic message in a
bottle

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) **Next**

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message in a bottle

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H30

Exhibit E

Nov 25, 2003

This acknowledges receipt on the FILING DATE of the application for registration for the mark identified below. The FILING DATE is contingent upon all minimum filing date requirements being met. Your application will be considered in the order in which it is received from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) approximately six months from the application, include the SERIAL NUMBER, FILING DATE, OWNER NAME and MARK.

16

JEFFREY C. CANNON
CANNON BUSINESS LAW GROUP
PACIFIC CENTER
1012 11TH STREET, SUITE 103
MODESTO, CA 95354

PLEASE REVIEW THE ACCURACY OF THE FILING RECEIPT DATA.

A request for correction to the filing receipt should be submitted within 30 days. Such request may be submitted by mail to: COMMISSIONER FOR TRADEMARKS, 2900 CRYSTAL DRIVE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-3514; by fax to 703-308-9096; or by e-mail to tmfiling_receipt@uspto.gov. The USPTO will review the request and make corrections when appropriate.

SERIAL NUMBER: 76/556304
FILING DATE: Nov 3, 2003
REGISTER: Principal
LAW OFFICE: 110
MARK: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
MARK TYPE(S): Trademark
DRAWING TYPE: Stylized words, letters, or numbers
FILING BASIS: Sect. 1(a) (Use in Commerce)

ATTORNEY: Jeffrey C. Cannon

OWNER: ROJAS, ROGER (UNITED STATES, Individual)
725 Paradise Road
Modesto, CALIFORNIA 95351

FOR: Communication device, namely, text and graphic images printed on paper and enclosed in a glass container
INT. CLASS: 009
FIRST USE: Jan 16, 1999 USE IN COMMERCE: Jan 16, 1999
ALL OF THE GOODS/SERVICES IN EACH CLASS ARE LISTED

OTHER DATA

DISCLAIMER: No claim is made to the exclusive right to use "Message" or "Bottle", apart from the mark as shown.

SECTION 2(f): Yes



CANNON
BUSINESS LAW GROUP

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1012 11TH STREET,
SUITE 103
MODESTO, CA 95354

209-550-5690
FAX: 209-550-5691
WWW.JCANNONLAW.COM

October 27, 2003

Box NEW APP FEE
Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

RE	:	Application for Registration of Mark Based Upon Actual Use
APPLICANT	:	ROGER ROJAS, an individual
CITIZENSHIP	:	U.S.A.
ADDRESS	:	725 Paradise Road Modesto, CA 95351
MARK	:	MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (and stylized text)
CLASS	:	(Int'l) 09 (U.S.) 21
DISCLAIMER	:	No claim is made to the exclusive right to use the words "Message" or "Bottle" apart from their use in the mark.

Dear Sir/ Madam:

Enclosed please find the following for registering the above-referenced Mark based upon Applicant's actual use of the mark in commerce:

- Application for registration based on intent-to-use pursuant to Section 1(b) of the Lanham Act, including signed Declaration and Power of Attorney;
- Drawing Page; and
- Check No. 2774 in the amount of \$335.00 per class, the fee for filing this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C. Cannon
Attorneys for Applicant
ROGER ROJAS, an individual

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BOX NEW APP FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

**Application for Registration of Trademark on the Principal Register
Based on Actual Use**

APPLICANT : **ROGER ROJAS, an individual**

CITIZENSHIP : **U.S.A.**

ADDRESS : **725 Paradise Road
Modesto, CA 95351**

MARK : **MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (and stylized text)**

CLASS : **(Int'l) 09
(U.S.) 21**

DISCLAIMER : **No claim is made to the exclusive right to use
the words "Message" or "Bottle" apart from their
use in the mark.**

The above-identified Applicant hereby requests that the mark shown in the accompanying drawing be registered pursuant to Section 2(f) in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register established by the Act of July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. § 1051 *et. seq.*, as amended) for the following goods:

**Communication device, namely, text and graphic images printed
on paper and enclosed in a glass container**

Applicant is using the mark in commerce on or in connection with the identified goods or services. Applicant first used the mark at least as early as January 16, 1999 and first used the mark in interstate commerce at least as early as January 16, 1999, and the mark is now used in such commerce.

The mark is used by affixing it to tags affixed to the goods, to packages in which the goods are sold, or to cartons used with the goods, or by applying it to advertising materials, promotional materials, signage, etc.; three (3) specimens showing the mark as actually used are presented herewith.

Applicant believes that this mark has acquired distinctiveness and is therefore entitled to registration pursuant to Section 2(f) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(f), for the following reason:

The mark has become distinctive of the goods or services as a result of substantially exclusive and continuous use in interstate commerce for the five years next preceding the date of filing of this application.

Declaration

Roger Rojas, being duly warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, document or any registration resulting therefrom, declares he is the Applicant and is authorized to make this declaration, that he believes Applicant to be the owner of the mark sought to be registered; that to the best of his knowledge and belief no other person, firm, corporation or association has the right to use that mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance thereto as may be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods of such other person, to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive; that the accompanying specimens show the mark as used in commerce in connection with Applicant's goods or services; that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Date: 10/22/03


By: ROGER ROJAS

[Notary Page Below]

State of California)
)
County of Stanislaus)



On this 22nd day of October, 2003,
before me a Notary Public personally appeared
Roger Rojas known to me either
personally or on the basis of satisfactory
identification to be the person~~s~~ whose name~~s~~
is subscribed to the above Application for
Trademark Registration and acknowledge that
she executed the same.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Elizabeth Jameson
Notary Public

DRAWING PAGE

APPLICANT : ROGER ROJAS, an individual

CITIZENSHIP : U.S.A.

ADDRESS : 725 Paradise Road
Modesto, CA 95351

MARK : MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (and stylized text)

CLASS : (Int'l) 09
(U.S.) 21

DISCLAIMER : No claim is made to the exclusive right to use
the words "Message" or "Bottle" apart from their
use in the mark.

*Message
in a
Bottle*

Exhibit 6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the Matter of Trademark Application Serial
No. 78/229,875
Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

GOLD SHELLS, INC.,
a California corporation,
Opposer,

v.

KEITH CANGIARELLA,
Applicant.

In the Matter of Trademark Registration No.
2,243,269
Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

KEITH CANGIARELLA,
Petitioner,

v.

ROGER ROJAS,
Respondent.

Opposition No. 91162780 and Counterclaim
for Cancellation

**OPPOSER'S RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S
FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES**

Opposer Gold Shells, Inc., hereby responds to Applicant Keith Cangiarella's first set of interrogatories pursuant to FRCP 33 and Rules 2.116 and 2.120 of the Trademark Rules of Practice, as follows:

PREFATORY COMMENTS

Each response herein is given subject to the general objections set forth below and all appropriate objections, including, but not limited to, objections concerning competency, relevancy, materiality, propriety and admissibility, and any and all other objections and grounds which would require exclusion of any statements and/or documents from evidence. All such objections and

grounds therefor are reserved and may be interposed at the time of testimony or final briefing.

Opposer has not fully completed its investigation of the facts relating to this case, has not fully completed discovery in this action and has not completed preparation for the presentation of evidence to the Trademark Trial & Appeal Board. Thus, all objections and responses contained herein are based only upon such information and documents which are presently available to and specifically known to Opposer. Opposer objects to Applicant's Interrogatories to the extent they seek to impose a continuing duty upon Opposer to update information and/or provide additional documents acquired or discovered subsequent to the response date for Applicant's Interrogatories. Nonetheless, Opposer reserves the right to change and/or supplement any and all responses herein as documents and information are discovered.

Opposer further objects to the interrogatories to the extent they call for disclosure of public information equally available and/or accessible to Applicant, information prepared in anticipation of litigation and/or for this proceeding; or protected by the attorney-client and/or the attorney work product privileges. Such information will not be disclosed, and any inadvertent disclosure thereof shall not be deemed a waiver of any privilege with respect to such information.

Each of these objections is incorporated as though fully set forth in responding party's responses below.

Also, the following definitions apply to these responses:

- A. The term "Applicant" refers to Keith Cangiarella, an individual doing business under the fictitious name of "DreamWeaver Studios".
- B. The term "Opposer" refers to Gold Shells, Inc., a California corporation.
- C. The term "Registrant" refers to Roger Rojas, an individual.

D. The term "person" includes any corporation, division, agency or other entity, as well as an individual.

RESPONSES

Interrogatory No. 1: Describe each product sold by Opposer under the designation MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: Communication devices, namely text and graphic images printed on paper and enclosed in a glass container, which may or may not be decorated with text and/or images, as requested by customers. Opposer's products are further described at Opposer's website, messageinabottle.com.

Interrogatory No. 2: Describe each service offered by Opposer under the designation MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: Receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others, using the communication devices described in the response to Interrogatory No. 1. Opposer's services are further described at Opposer's website, messageinabottle.com.

Interrogatory No. 3: Describe each product produced or marketed by Registrant under the designation MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: See the response to Interrogatory Number 1.

Interrogatory No. 4: Identify each product and service produced or marketed by Registrant under the designation MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: See the responses to Interrogatory Numbers 1 and 2. Registrant's

products and services are the same as those of Opposer.

Interrogatory No. 5: Describe the manner of Opposer's first use of the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE as a successor in interest of Registrant in the trademark (Registration No. 2,243,269).

Response: The manner of Opposer's first use of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE was the same as shown on its current website, messageinabottle.com, as a trademark and service mark used to identify the source of the services and products of Opposer as described in the responses to Interrogatory Numbers 1 and 2.

Interrogatory No. 6: Identify the marketing plans or marketing studies created or implemented by Opposer concerning the use of the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: Opposer has no documents which constitute marketing plans or marketing studies, but Opposer's marketing plans have included use of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE on its Internet website, in Internet advertising with Yahoo!, Inc., Google, Inc., and Findwhat.com, and in radio advertising.

Interrogatory No. 7: Identify the date of first use in commerce for each product on which Opposer has used the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: Registrant's date of first use in commerce of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for Registrant's products and services was January 16, 1999. Opposer's date of first use in commerce was on or about August 1, 2003, and no earlier than the date of its incorporation, July 7, 2003.

Interrogatory No. 8: Identify the date of first use in commerce for each service that

Opposer has used the MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE mark.

Response: Registrant's date of first use in commerce of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for Registrant's products and services was January 16, 1999. Opposer's date of first use in commerce was on or about August 1, 2003, and no earlier than the date of its incorporation, July 7, 2003.

Interrogatory No. 9: Identify each person participating in the preparation or approval of advertisements or promotions of products and services bearing the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Response: (1) Roger Rojas, Gold Shells, Inc., P.O. Box 581113, Modesto, CA 95358; (2) Jump Fly, Inc., 2303 Randall Road, Suite 182, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110 (phone 877-239-9610).

Interrogatory No. 10: State the amount of money that Opposer has spent for each type of advertising or promotion Opponent has used in connection with each of its MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE products, goods, and services before October 4, 2004, if any, and since October 4, 2004.

Response: Before October 4, 2004, Opposer spent \$1,400.00 on radio advertising and \$1,400.00 on an advertising campaign with Yahoo!, Inc. Since October 4, 2004, Opposer has spent \$3,000.00 on website promotion on lovingyou.com and approximately \$15,000.00 on advertising campaigns with Yahoo!, Inc., Google, Inc., and Findwhat.com.

Interrogatory No. 11: Identify each third party use, former use, or claim of use of any term consisting of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE known to Opposer and each person with knowledge of such use, former use or claim of use.

Response: See Exhibit A attached hereto. In addition to the persons named in Exhibit

A, Roger Rojas and Peter H. Smith are persons with knowledge of such use, former use, or claim of use.

Interrogatory No. 12: Identify each investigation which has been conducted relating to any term consisting of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE and each person having knowledge relating thereto.

Response: (1) Trademark search through Thomson & Thomson, with Roger Rojas and Peter H. Smith being the persons having knowledge relating thereto; and (2) Internet searches, with Roger Rojas being the person having knowledge relating thereto.

Interrogatory No. 13: Identify any rights in the term MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE which Opposer has granted to any third party or acquired from any third party, and the persons most knowledgeable concerning each grant or acquisition.

Response: Opposer originally received rights in the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE through a license agreement from Registrant, and later received an assignment of rights from Registrant. The person most knowledgeable concerning the license agreement is Roger Rojas. The persons most knowledgeable concerning the assignment are Roger Rojas and Peter H. Smith. No other rights to the mark have been granted by either Registrant or Opposer to any other party.

Interrogatory No. 14: Describe separately the nature of all objections made by or directed to Opposer that relate to use of or rights in, any term consisting in whole or part of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE, and identify the persons most knowledgeable about each objection.

Response: Objections have been made by Opposer as to infringement of its rights to the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE. Such objections have been made to Applicant, Julie Steeper, dba Authentic Messages, ServerBeach.com regarding Authentic Messages, the attorney for

Personal Creations, and to Google, Inc., Overture Services, Inc., and Yahoo!, Inc., regarding various infringements by multiple users. The persons most knowledgeable about these objections, in addition to the persons noted above, are Roger Rojas, Peter H. Smith, and Jeffrey Cannon.

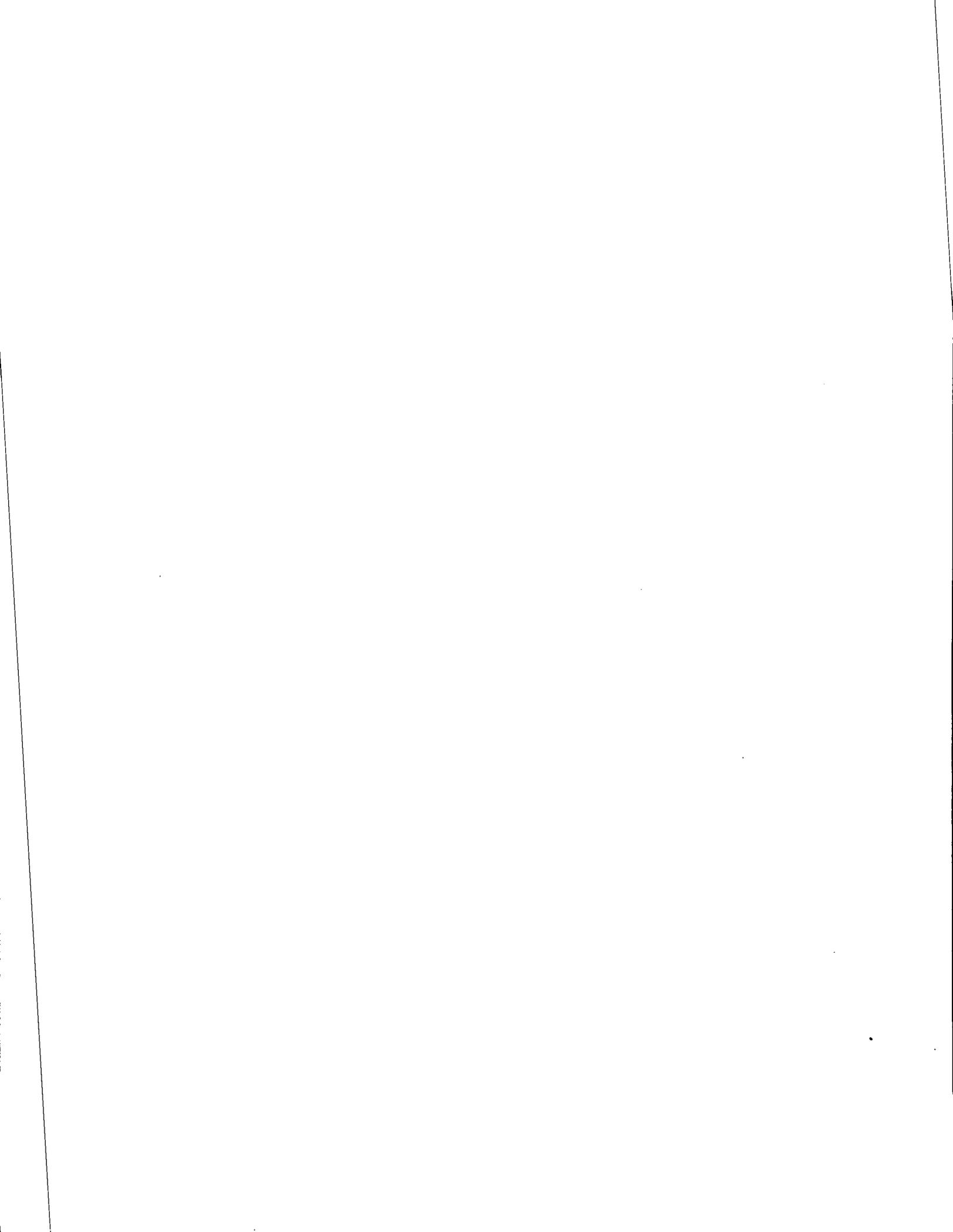
No objections have been directed to Opposer that relate to use of or rights in the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE apart from this proceeding.

Interrogatory No. 15: If Opposer intends to rely on the opinion of an expert in connection with his defense of the cancellation proceeding, provide the information set forth in Rule 26(a)(2)(A) and (B), Fed.R.Civ.P., for each expert.

Response: Opposer does not presently intend to rely upon the opinion of an expert. If this changes, Opposer will amend its response by providing the designated information for each expert.

Interrogatory No. 16: Identify all facts which relate to Opposer's claim that it is the owner of the rights to the trademark Registration No. 2,243,269.

Response: Gold Shells, Inc., was incorporated as a California corporation on July 3, 2003. Registrant Roger Rojas was the incorporator. In connection with the formation of the corporation, and in partial consideration for Registrant's receiving stock from the new corporation, Registrant entered into a license agreement dated July 3, 2003, with Opposer which allowed Opposer exclusive use of the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE except for continuing concurrent use by Registrant. On October 5, 2004, Rojas executed an assignment of U.S. service mark registration no. 2,243,269 to Opposer. On October 6, 2004, Opposer mailed the assignment to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office for recording. On October 15, 2004, the assignment was recorded by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office as document no. 102859988, and written notice of recordation was sent



to Opposer on April 8, 2005.

Interrogatory No. 17: Identify all documents that refer to, relate to, or reflect the decision to file the application for the trademark (Registration No. 2,243,269) including any opinion from or to counsel for Registration.

Response: Registrant obtained through Peter H. Smith a research report dated November 18, 1996, from Thomson & Thomson on the mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for message delivery service, and that document related to Registrant's decision to file the application for registration no. 2,243,269. Attorney Peter H. Smith sent a letter to Registrant dated November 27, 1996, discussing the research report and stating an opinion as to registrability of the mark, and this letter is subject to the attorney-client privilege.

Interrogatory No. 18: Identify all documents in your possession, custody or control that relate to or mention the MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE trademark as used by the Applicant.

Response: All documents which are part of the record in the present proceeding; copies of Applicant's website; e-mail messages from Applicant to Registrant dated August 9, 2004, and September 29, 2004; a response from Registrant to Applicant dated on or about September 30, 2004; communications between counsel for Applicant and Registrant; a copy of Applicant's file for application serial no. 78/229,875 with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; a letter from Jeffrey Cannon to Overture Services, Inc., dated January 27, 2004; a letter from Peter H. Smith to Brinks, Hofer, Gilson and Lione, attorneys for Overture Services, Inc., dated May 31, 2005; a letter from Peter H. Smith to the Copyright Agent for Yahoo!, Inc., dated August 30, 2005; and an e-mail from Lisa Kramer dated February 11, 2005.

Interrogatory No. 19: Identify all documents that support YOUR contention stated in your

tenth affirmative defense in the Respondent's Answer to Applicant's Counterclaim for Cancellation that "Respondent has continuously used the registered mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE in commerce, for the services in connection with which it was registered, for over five consecutive years subsequent to the date of such registration".

Response: Copies of the website messageinabottle.com for the years 1999 through 2004; customer lists and invoices to customers for the years 1999 through 2004; bank account statements under the name "Message In A Bottle" for the years 1999 through 2004; copies of advertising used for "Message In A Bottle" during the years from 1999 through 2004; fictitious business name statement filed by Registrant for "Message In A Bottle"; affidavit of continuing use signed by Registrant October 1, 2004, and filed with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; notice of acceptance of same from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office dated December 9, 2004; license agreement dated July 7, 2003, between Registrant and Opposer allowing continued use by mark by Registrant in connection with licensing of mark to Opposer; and corporate resolution of Opposer authorizing said license agreement.

Dated: October 13, 2005.

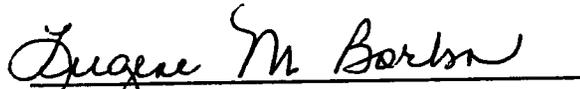


PETER H. SMITH
Attorney for Opposer
1535 J Street, Suite A
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 579-9524

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing OPPOSER'S RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES was mailed first-class mail, postage prepaid, to Stephen L. Anderson, Esq., Anderson & Associates, 27349 Jefferson Avenue, #211, Temecula, California 92590, attorney for Applicant.

Dated: October 13, 2005.


LUGENE M. BORBA

RESPONSE TO INTERRATORY NO. 11:

	<u>Domain Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
1.	messageinabottle.com	Roger Rojas
2.	bottlemeamessage.com	Keith Cangiarella DreamWeaver Studios
3.	timelessmessage.com	Jeff Trott Timeless Message, LLC
4.	personalcreations.com	Geoffrey Smith PC Acquisition, Inc.
5.	sayitinabottle.com	Juan Certain
6.	sandartsupplies.com	Jay Massey SanBlast Entertainment
7.	specialtybottle.com	Shawn McBride Specialty Bottle, LLC
8.	instantstyle.com	Brooke Taylor
9.	ebottles.com	Gary Daniels Tucows, Inc.
10.	marketinginabottle.com	Chris Stanley KRJ Company, Inc.
11.	authenticmessage.com	Julie Steeper Authentic Message
12.	onepassionplace.com	Arlene Brown The Kemper Lake Group, Inc.
13.	lovepoemsunlimited.com	Gary Daniels Tucows, Inc.
14.	thinkingofyoutwo.com	Arlene Brown The Kemper Lake Group, Inc.
15.	obsessionboxcompany.com	No site.
16.	findgift.com	Robert Nakrzewski

	<u>Domain Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
17.	personalizationmall.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
18.	personalizedbirthdaygifts.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
19.	conwasa.demon.co.uk	Unknown contact information
20.	thegreetingstore.com	Unknown contact information
21.	yourweddingpartyfavors.com	Cornelius Buschi
22.	dogwoodsquare.com	Greg Cole Bright Builders, Inc.
23.	capeimages.com	Kate Meyer Cape Fear Images, Inc.
24.	weddinggift.net	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
25.	writingpapers.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
26.	walmart.com	Wal-Mart Stores
27.	allbirthdaygifts.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
28.	giftideasformom.com	Nameview, Inc.
29.	tradewindproducts.com	Trade Wind Products
30.	fraternity-sorority.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
31.	weddingfavorsetc.com	Chad Tuttle
32.	myweddingfavors.com	Brad Fallon
33.	giftlet.com	Unknown contact information
34.	textstyledesigns.com	Mindy Wogan Text Style
35.	granny1.com	Martha C. Haun

	<u>Domain Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
36.	mypersonalartist.com	Michelle Bukuts
37.	giftsfourgolfers.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
38.	epersonalized-gifts.com	Brian Lam
39.	momentsofelegance.com	Gary Daniels Tucows, Inc.
40.	paradiseisntlost.com	Bealo Group S.A.
41.	babyshowerspecialists.com	Debra Levine OH BABY! Baby Shower Specialist
42.	babygifts1.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
43.	wtv-zone.com	Larry Bumeder The WTZ Zone
44.	weddinggifts1.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
45.	nopassportrequired.com	Unknown contact information
46.	hqweddingfavors.com	Leah Lee
47.	washnweartoo.com	Frances Bouffard
48.	allmothersdaygifts.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
49.	easterncorner.com	Tunc Toker
50.	wherebridgesgo.com	No site.
51.	foreverwedstore.com	Gary Daniels Tucows, Inc.
52.	cottongin.com	Tommy Wright The Cotton Gin
53.	name-origins.com	Unknown contact information
54.	weddingsbydezn.com	Kathy Schwin Weddings By Dezn

	<u>Domain Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
55.	romanticgiftstudio.com	Arlene Brown The Kemper Lake Group, Inc.
56.	lighthousewarehouse.com	Cindy Woodall Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts
57.	bocaresort.com	Bulk Register, LLC
58.	moodsweddings.com	Margot Moody Moods
59.	cassandra-greatest.com	Paul Tse
60.	kidboxes.com	Jodi Vershum
61.	giftideasfordad.com	Nameview, Inc.
62.	sale4all.com	David Brown Sale 4 All
63.	shoppingbrains.com	Gary Daniels Tucows, Inc.
64.	presentpicker.com	Zoran Nevajdic Perfect Present Picker
65.	jilcompanies.com	JiL Companies, Inc.
66.	islandweddingshop.com	David Myers Cyber Island Shops, Inc.
67.	tradingstories.com	Charles Agol Trading Stories.com
68.	crownstationers.com	Pete Pesce PersonalizationMall.com
69.	yourweddingfavors.com	Innerwise, Inc.
70.	kateaspen.com	Brad Fallon
71.	amessagebottle.com	Walter Smith The Greeting Store
72.	letterinabottle.com	Net Benefit PLC

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING
UNDER 37 CFR §2.198

Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Serial No.: 78/229,875

Opposition No. 91162780

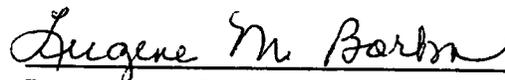
Name of party filing paper: Gold Shells, Inc.

Type of paper being filed: Response of Opposer Gold Shells, Inc., to Applicant Keith Cangiarella's Motion to Compel Responses to First Set of Interrogatories and Request for Stay of Proceedings

Express Mail Mailing Label Number: ED 447628134 US

Date of Deposit: October 28, 2005

I hereby certify that the above-identified response to motion to compel responses, which is attached, is being deposited on October 28, 2005, with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §2.198 in an envelope addressed to: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Trademark Trial & Appeal Board, P. O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA 22313-1451.



Lugene M. Borba

Date: October 28, 2005

Exhibit H.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SERIAL NO: 76/556304

APPLICANT: ROJAS, ROGER

76556304

CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:

JEFFREY C. CANNON
CANNON BUSINESS LAW GROUP
PACIFIC CENTER
1012 11TH STREET, SUITE 103
MODESTO, CA 95354

RETURN ADDRESS:

Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3514

MARK: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET NO: N/A

CORRESPONDENT EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please provide in all correspondence:

1. Filing date, serial number, mark and applicant's name.
2. Date of this Office Action.
3. Examining Attorney's name and Law Office number.
4. Your telephone number and e-mail address.

OFFICE ACTION

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT, WE MUST RECEIVE A PROPER RESPONSE TO THIS OFFICE ACTION WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF OUR MAILING OR E-MAILING DATE.

Serial Number 76/556304

The assigned trademark examining attorney has reviewed the referenced application filed on 3 November 2003, and has determined the following.

Search Results

Information is enclosed concerning pending Application Serial No. 76-381872. Although the Office records have been searched and no similar *registered* mark has been found that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. §1052(d), there may be a likelihood of confusion under Section 2(d) of the Act between applicant's mark and the mark in the above noted application. The filing date of the referenced application precedes applicant's filing date. If the earlier-filed application registers, registration may be refused under Section 2(d). 37 C.F.R. §2.83.

Section 2(f) – Unacceptable

Additional evidence is needed to support the claim of distinctiveness. Applicant's allegation of five years' use alone is insufficient evidence of distinctiveness in this case because applicant's mark appears to be highly descriptive of the goods.

TMEP §1212.05(a). *In re Kalmbach Publishing Co.*, 14 USPQ2d 1490 (TTAB 1989).

Applicant must establish acquired distinctiveness by a preponderance of the evidence. *Yamaha Int'l Corp. v. Hoshino Gakki Co.*, 840 F.2d 1572, 6 USPQ2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1988). This evidence may include specific dollar sales under the mark, advertising figures, samples of advertising, consumer or dealer statements of recognition of the mark, and any other evidence that establishes the distinctiveness of the mark as an indicator of source. The Office will decide each case on its own merits.

If additional evidence is submitted, the following factors will be considered when assessing its sufficiency: (1) how long applicant has used the mark; (2) the type and amount of advertising of the mark; and (3) applicant's efforts to associate the mark with the goods and/or services. See *Ralston Purina Co. v. Thomas J. Lipton, Inc.*, 341 F. Supp. 129, 173 USPQ 820 (S.D.N.Y. 1972); *In re Packaging Specialists, Inc.*, 221 USPQ 917 (TTAB 1984); 37 C.F.R. §2.41; TMEP §§1212, 1212.01 and 1212.06 *et seq.*

Accordingly, the following refusal is made.

Section 2(e)(1) - Descriptive Refusal

The examining attorney refuses registration on the Principal Register because the proposed mark merely describes the goods. Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1), 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(1); TMEP §§1209 *et seq.*

A mark is merely descriptive under Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1), 15 U.S.C. 1052(e)(1), if it describes an ingredient, quality, characteristic, function, feature, purpose or use of the relevant goods. *In re Gyulay*, 820 F.2d 1216, 3 USPQ2d 1009 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re Bed & Breakfast Registry*, 791 F.2d 157, 229 USPQ 818 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re MetPath Inc.*, 223 USPQ 88 (TTAB 1984); *In re Bright#Crest, Ltd.*, 204 USPQ 591 (TTAB 1979); TMEP section 1209.01(b).

The examining attorney must consider whether a mark is merely descriptive in relation to the identified goods, not in the abstract. *In re Omaha National Corp.*, 819 F.2d 1117, 2 USPQ2d 1859 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re Abcor Development Corp.*, 588 F.2d 811, 200 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1978); *In re Venture Lending Associates*, 226 USPQ 285 (TTAB 1985).

The applicant's MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE immediately tells something about the goods – a message in the form of “text or graphic images printed on paper,” enclosed in a container, presumably a “bottle” (per the applicant's identification of goods). No imagination, thought or perception is required to determine the nature of the goods from the terminology.

The applicant is advised that it is not necessary that a term describe all of the purposes, functions, characteristics or feature of the goods to be merely descriptive. It is enough if the term describes one attribute of the goods. *In re H.U.D.D.L.E.*, 210 USPQ 358 (TTAB 1982); *In re MBAssociates*, 180 USPQ 338 (TTAB 1973).

The applicant's disclaimer of MESSAGE and BOTTLE fails to overcome the refusal. These terms appear together in the mark as the unitary phrase “MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.” A disclaimer of the individual component words of a complete descriptive phrase is improper. See, e.g., *In re Medical Disposables Co.*, 25 USPQ2d 1801, 1805 (TTAB 1992); *In re Wanstrath*, 7 USPQ2d 1412, 1413 (Comm'r Pats. 1987); *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association v. National*

Hearing Aid Society, 224 USPQ 798, 804 n.3 (TTAB 1984); *In re Surelock Mfg. Co., Inc.*, 125 USPQ 23, 24 (TTAB 1960). This standard is applied strictly, and the disclaimer of individual words separately is generally appropriate only when the words being disclaimed are separated by registrable matter. TMEP §1213.08(b). Therefore, as a disclaimer of the entire wording is required, the mark in its entirety is merely descriptive.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant's MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE is refused registration under Section 2(e)(1) of the Trademark Act.

Although the trademark examining attorney has refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal to register by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration.

Informalities

If applicant chooses to respond to the refusal(s) to register, then applicant must also respond to the following requirement(s).

Identification of Goods/Services

The identification of goods is unacceptable as indefinite. The applicant may adopt the following identification, if accurate: Printed products, namely, text and/or graphic images printed on paper featuring (identify subject matter) enclosed in a glass container in Class 16. TMEP §1402.01.

Please note that, while an application may be amended to clarify or limit the identification, additions to the identification are not permitted. 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Therefore, the applicant may not amend to include any services that are not within the scope of the services recited in the present identification.

Classification

If the applicant adopts the suggested amendment to the identification of goods, the applicant must amend the classification to International Class 16. 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(7) and 2.85; TMEP §§1401 *et seq.*

Request for Information

Applicant must submit samples of advertisements or promotional materials and a photograph of the identified goods because the nature of the goods on which applicant intends to use its mark is not clear from the present record. If such materials are not available, then applicant must submit samples of advertisements or promotional materials and a photograph of *similar* goods. In addition, applicant must describe in some detail the nature, purpose and channels of trade of the goods listed in the application. 37 C.F.R. §2.61(b); TMEP §§814 and 1402.01(d).

Specimen

Applicant must submit (1) a substitute specimen showing the mark as it is used in commerce on the goods or on packaging for the goods, and (2) a statement that "the substitute specimen was in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application," verified with a notarized affidavit or a signed declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20. 37 C.F.R. §§2.56 and 2.59(a); TMEP §904.09.

The current specimen of record comprises photocopies of the mark of indeterminable origin and is unacceptable as evidence of actual trademark use because the nature of the specimens is not clear. Examples of acceptable specimens for goods are tags, labels, instruction manuals, containers, photographs that show the mark on the goods or packaging, or displays associated with the goods at their point of sale. TMEP §§904.04 *et seq.*

Basis for Filing

The applicant asserts use of the mark in commerce and that it has a bona fide intent to use the mark in commerce for the same goods. An applicant may not assert both use of the mark in commerce, under Trademark Act Section 1(a), 15 U.S.C. §1051(a), and intent to use the mark in commerce, under Trademark Act Section 1(b), 15 U.S.C. §1051(b), for the same goods or services. 37 C.F.R. §2.34(b)(1); TMEP §806.02(b). The applicant must delete one basis or divide the goods/services between the two bases, as appropriate.

Claim of Ownership

If applicant is the owner of U.S. Registration No. 2243269, then applicant must submit a claim of ownership. 37 C.F.R. §2.36; TMEP §812. The following standard format is suggested:

Applicant is the owner of U.S. Registration No. 2243269.

If the applicant has any questions or needs assistance in responding to this Office action, please telephone the assigned examining attorney.

/Katherine Stoides/

Examining Attorney

Law Office 110

(703) 308-9110 ext.166

How to respond to this Office Action:

To respond formally using the Office's Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), visit <http://www.uspto.gov/teas/index.html> and follow the instructions.

To respond formally via regular mail, your response should be sent to the mailing Return Address listed above and include the serial number, law office and examining attorney's name on the upper right corner of each page of your response.

To check the status of your application at any time, visit the Office's Trademark Applications and Registrations Retrieval (TARR) system at <http://tarr.uspto.gov/>

For general and other useful information about trademarks, you are encouraged to visit the Office's web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm>

FOR INQUIRIES OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS OFFICE ACTION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSIGNED EXAMINING ATTORNEY.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

(NOTE: If any data on this notice is incorrect, please submit a written request for correction of the NOA to: Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, Box ITU, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3513. Please include the serial number of your application on ALL correspondence with the PTO. 15 U.S.C. 1063(b)(2))

ISSUE DATE OF NOA: Aug 25, 1998

Exhibit I

PETER H SMITH
 PO BOX 1867
 MODESTO CA 95353

K

**** IMPORTANT INFORMATION: 6 MONTH DEADLINE ****

To avoid ABANDONMENT of this application, either a "Statement of Use" (a.k.a. "Allegation of Use") or a "Request for Extension of Time to File a Statement of Use" (a.k.a. "Extension Request") and the appropriate fee(s) must be received in the PTO within six months of the issue date of this Notice of Allowance (NOA). Failure to do so will result in the ABANDONMENT of this application.

Please note that both the "Statement of Use" and "Extension Request" have many legal requirements, including fees. These requirements are explained in the PTO booklet "Basic Facts About Trademarks", which can be obtained upon request at (703)308-9000. In addition, there are printed forms contained in this booklet (for "Statements of Use" and "Extension Requests") for your use.

The following information should be reviewed for accuracy:

SERIAL NUMBER: 75/226521
 MARK: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
 OWNER: Rojas, Roger
 725 Paradise Road
 Modesto, CALIFORNIA 95351

GOODS/SERVICES BY INTERNATIONAL CLASS

038—receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others

ALL OF THE GOODS/SERVICES IN EACH CLASS ARE LISTED



PETER H. SMITH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1535 J STREET, SUITE A

POST OFFICE BOX 1867

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95353

MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA
& OREGON STATE BARS

TELEPHONE (209) 579-9524
FACSIMILE (209) 579-9940

January 26, 1999

16
Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Box ITU
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

Re: Application for MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Application No. 75/226521
Owner: Roger Rojas
Notice of Allowance Mailing Date: August 25, 1998

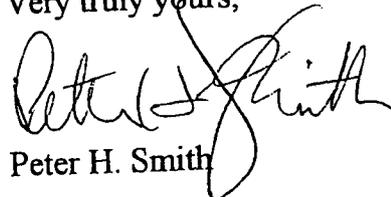
Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a statement of use in connection with the above-referenced application for registration of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others in Class 38. I am also enclosing three samples of direct mail advertising letters with the service mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE as specimens in support of the statement of use.

I am also enclosing a check in the amount of \$100.00 as the fee for filing the statement of use.

Please file the statement of use and issue a certificate of registration.

Very truly yours,


Peter H. Smith

PHS:lmb

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Roger Rojas

STATEMENT OF USE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §2.88, WITH DECLARATION

TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND
TRADEMARKS:

APPLICANT NAME: ROGER ROJAS

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE ISSUE DATE: August 25, 1998

Applicant requests registration of the above-identified service mark in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register established by the act of July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. §1051 et seq., as amended). Three (3) specimens showing the mark as used in commerce are submitted with this statement.

Applicant is using the mark in commerce on or in connection with the services identified in the Notice of Allowance in this application as receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others.

The date of first use of the mark anywhere was January 16, 1999.

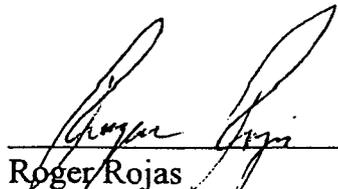
The date of first use of the mark in commerce which the U.S. Congress may regulate was January 16, 1999.

The type of commerce is interstate commerce.

The manner or mode of use of the mark in connection with the services is on advertising flyers, letterheads, business cards, computer screen displays in electronic commerce, and labels and containers used in carrying out the services.

The undersigned, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any resulting registration, declares that he is executing this statement as the applicant; he believes that he is the owner of the service mark sought to be registered; the service mark is now in use in commerce; and all statements made of his own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

DATE: January 19, 1999.



Roger Rojas

Telephone: (209) 521-3653

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8(a)

Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

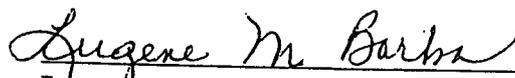
Serial No.: 75/226521

Filing Date: January 6, 1997

Name of party filing paper: Lugene M. Borba, Assistant to Attorney for Applicant.

Type of paper being filed: Statement of Use

I hereby certify that the above-identified Statement of Use under 37 C.F.R. §2.88, with Declaration, which is attached, is being deposited on January 25, 1999, with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Box ITU, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3513.



Lugene M. Borba

Date: January 25, 1999

PETER H. SMITH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1538 J STREET, SUITE A

POST OFFICE BOX 1867

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95353

MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA
& OREGON STATE BARS



01-28-1999

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

TELEPHONE (202) 579-9524
FACSIMILE (202) 579-9840

January 26, 1999

Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Box ITU
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

8/25/98
01-28-1999

Re: Application for MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Application No. 75/226521
Owner: Roger Rojas
Notice of Allowance Mailing Date: August 25, 1998

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a statement of use in connection with the above-referenced application for registration of MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE for receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others in Class 38. I am also enclosing three samples of direct mail advertising letters with the service mark MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE as specimens in support of the statement of use.

I am also enclosing a check in the amount of \$100.00 as the fee for filing the statement of use.

Please file the statement of use and issue a certificate of registration.

Very truly yours,

Peter H. Smith
Peter H. Smith

PHS:lmb

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Roger Rojas

\$42.20

100/363

ITU

MARK: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
SERIAL NO. 75/226521

STATEMENT OF USE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §2.88, WITH DECLARATION

TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS:

APPLICANT NAME: ROGER ROJAS

01-28-1999

01-28-1999

U.S. Patent & TM Office Mail Rpt D1 #22

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE ISSUE DATE: August 25, 1998

Applicant requests registration of the above-identified service mark in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register established by the act of July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. §1051 et seq., as amended). Three (3) specimens showing the mark as used in commerce are submitted with this statement.

Applicant is using the mark in commerce on or in connection with the services identified in the Notice of Allowance in this application as receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others.

The date of first use of the mark anywhere was January 16, 1999.

The date of first use of the mark in commerce which the U.S. Congress may regulate was January 16, 1999.

The type of commerce is interstate commerce.

The manner or mode of use of the mark in connection with the services is on advertising flyers, letterheads, business cards, computer screen displays in electronic commerce, and labels and containers used in carrying out the services.

The undersigned, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any resulting registration, declares that he is executing this statement as the applicant; he believes that he is the owner of the service mark sought to be registered; the service mark is now in use in commerce; and all statements made of his own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

DATE: January 19, 1999.



Roger Rojas

Telephone: (209) 521-3653

02/04/1999 ARRIVERA 00000071 75226521

01 FC:263

100.00 00

ca
sum

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8(a)

Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

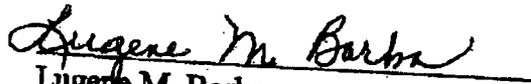
Serial No.: 75/226521

Filing Date: January 6, 1997

Name of party filing paper: Eugene M. Borba, Assistant to Attorney for Applicant.

Type of paper being filed: Statement of Use

I hereby certify that the above-identified Statement of Use under 37 C.F.R. §2.88, with Declaration, which is attached, is being deposited on January 25, 1999, with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Box ITU, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3513.



Eugene M. Borba

Date: January 25, 1999

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Roger Rojas, Proprietor - P.O. Box 561113 - Modesto, CA 95356 - U.S.A.

Email miab@ainet.com

Visit our website at www.messageinabottle.com

Valued customer,

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Our service is sending art quality greetings in unique and distinctive bottles to that someone special. You let us

know the communication you want to send, and who you want it sent to, and we will record your communication in

beautifully hand-written form, insert it in a bottle, and transmit it for you. To receive our service visit our website at

www.messageinabottle.com and fill out the order form.

Sincerely,

Roger Rojas

PETER H. SMITH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1536 J STREET, SUITE A

POST OFFICE BOX 1867

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95353

Exhibit J.

MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA
& OREGON STATE BARS

TELEPHONE (209) 579-9524
FACSIMILE (209) 579-9940

October 5, 2004

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

Re: Service Mark Registration No. 2,243,269
Mark: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Registrant: Roger Rojas
Submission of Combined Affidavit of Use and Incontestability

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a combined affidavit of use and incontestability in connection with the above-referenced service mark registration, which has been in effect since May 4, 2004. A specimen of the mark as currently used in connection with the registrant's services, consisting of a copy of the registrant's home page from his website on the global communication network, is attached as Exhibit A.

I am also enclosing a check for \$300.00 as the filing fee for this document.

Please acknowledge the filing of this document and confirm that the registration will continue in full force and effect for the remainder of its term.

Very truly yours,


Peter H. Smith

PHS/lmb

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Roger Rojas

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Registrant:)	Roger Rojas
Mark:)	MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Registration No.)	2,243,269
Class No.)	38

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3513

Combined Affidavit of Use and Incontestability

Roger Rojas, doing business as Message in a Bottle, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this document, declares that he owns the above-identified registration, issued May 4, 1999, as shown by records in the Patent and Trademark Office; that the mark shown therein has been in continuous use in interstate commerce for five consecutive years from the date of the registration or the date of publication under Section 12(c)(6) to the present, on or in connection with receiving communications from others, recording such communications in written or printed form, and transmitting such communications to others, which services are stated in the registration; that such mark is still in use in interstate commerce; that such mark is still in use as evidenced by the specimen attached hereto as Exhibit A; that there has been no final decision adverse to registrant's claim of ownership of such mark for such services, or to registrant's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; that there is no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of either in the Patent and Trademark Office or in the courts; and that all statements made of his own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Dated: October 1, 2004.



Roger Rojas, doing business as
Message in a Bottle

Message in a Bottle®

The Art of Expression™

Messageinabottle.com Official Site of Message in a Bottle & Serving our online customers since 1997



Free Gold Lined Box or Upgrade to a Wood Presentation Box For Only \$12.99



Don't Forget!

Narcissist Day Oct. 16th
Boss's Day Oct. 16th



Christmas Collection
Coming Soon!

Make a lasting impression on someone today.
Send them a genuine Message in a Bottle®

We offer you:

- the largest selection of decorative bottles in the gift bottle industry so that you'll always have the appropriate bottle for any occasion
- a 100% unconditional money back guarantee, so that you'll feel confident with your purchase
- a huge selection of prewritten messages and poems so that you will always have the words to say it right
- a FREE Gold Lined Gift Box with every purchase or upgrade to one of our Wood Presentation Boxes
- the security of knowing that you are sending your loved one the original Message in a Bottle®, that we have been offering to our online customers since 1997 and not a mere imitation by another name

- Home
- Message in a Bottle®
- Search
- Love
- Anniversary
- Birthday
- Friendship
- Wedding
- Any Occasion
- Personalized
- Message Samples
- Shipping
- About
- Contact Us
- Privacy
- FAQs

Feedback

"She loved it! I can't tell you how happy it made her. thank you! thank you! thank you!" - Patrick R.

We are proud to offer a personalized gift in a class of its own. Our beautiful bottles are simply the perfect complement to your message, love poem, love letter or if you prefer, select one of our wonderful pre-written messages. Either way, our bottles make for a great gift idea as a Valentine's Day gift, Mother's Day gift, Wedding gift, Anniversary gift, or as a unique gift for any special occasion.

"It is beautiful! you guys did a wonderful job, thank you. I've been telling everyone about you. I am very pleased to give this to my daughter!" - Joy H.

View our bottles
in the gallery



Ordering couldn't be simpler!

- A. Select category and bottle
- B. Choose your message or write your own
- C. Proceed to our secure checkout

It's that simple!

Click [HERE](#) view bottles

Free Gold Toned Box
or Upgrade to a
Wood Presentation Box For Only
\$12.99

[Home](#) | [All Message in a Bottle®](#) | [Specials](#) | [Love](#) | [Anniversary](#) | [Birthday](#) | [Friendship](#) | [Traditional](#) | [Any Occasion](#) | [Accessories](#) | [Message Sample](#) | [Shipping](#) | [About](#) | [Guarantee](#) | [Contact](#) | [Privacy](#) | [FAQ'S](#) | [Feedback](#) |



Look for our signature "Gold Sbeth from Carmel" to ensure it's a real Message in a Bottle®.

Message in a Bottle® P. O. Box 1625 Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921 Email: info@messageinabottle.com
Message in a Bottle® is a registered mark. All rights reserved 1997-2004 ©

Side - 1

	NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF §§8 & 15 DECLARATION MAILING DATE: Dec 9, 2004
<p>The combined declaration of use and incontestability filed in connection with the registration identified below meets the requirements of Sections 8 and 15 of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1058 and 1065. The combined declaration is accepted and acknowledged. The registration remains in force.</p>	
<p>For further information about this notice, visit our website at: http://www.uspto.gov. To review information regarding the referenced registration, go to http://tarr.uspto.gov.</p>	
REG NUMBER:	2243269
MARK:	MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
CLASS(ES):	038.

Side - 2

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COMMISSIONER FOR TRADEMARKS P.O. BOX 1451 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1451	FIRST-CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PETER H SMITH P O BOX 1867 MODESTO, CA 95353	

Exhibit L



Message in a Bottle[®]

www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"[™]
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

~~Exhibit D~~

MessageInABottle.com is the Official Site of Message in a Bottle[®]

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle[®]
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



Make a lasting impression on someone today!

Send them a genuine Message in a Bottle[®]

What is a Message in a Bottle[®]?

In simplest terms a Message in a Bottle[®] is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.



American Red Cross

Victims of Hurricane Katrina need your help now...



We are proud to offer you the **largest selection of quality gift bottles in the gift bottle industry with a 100% money**

Occasions

- Love

back guarantee. We are proud to offer you a huge selection of pre-written messages and a free gift box with every order. You'll be proud you gave your loved one the original Message in a Bottle® and not a mere imitation by another name. Remember to insist on the genuine Message in a Bottle® because anything less simply won't do. It's easy.



- Anniversary Gift
- Birthdays
- Traditional
- Friendship
- Special Occasion
- Celestial
- Flowers
- For Mom
- Romantic
- For Dad
- Zodiac Gift
- Baby
- Nautical
- Valentine's Day
- Christmas



"It is beautiful! you guys did a wonderful job, thank you. I've been telling everyone about you. I am very pleased to give this to my daughter!" - Joy H.

Message in a Bottle® offers a Free Gold Gift Box or Upgrade to a Sweetheart Red Box \$3.99 Wood Presentation Box \$16.99

"I will have to say this is one of the most creative things I have ever done. Thanks to a message in a bottle I sent to my boyfriend, we have become even closer. I just want to say thank you very much..." -Judy A.



Hand-Crafted in the USA

Imagine...

- the surprise they'll feel as they open the gift box and a beautiful bottle is revealed.
- the wonder they'll experience as they discover the message inside. Who could it be from?
- the anticipation that grips them as they remove the message.
- the joy they'll feel when they realize it's from you. The look in their eyes says it all!

Now just imagine how great it will feel knowing you made someone so very happy.

"just want to thank you .. you guys have by far the best customer service .. i have never dealt with a company as thorough as yours in their customer service dept. i will definitely be ordering from you guys again .. keep up the excellent work" -Mike M.

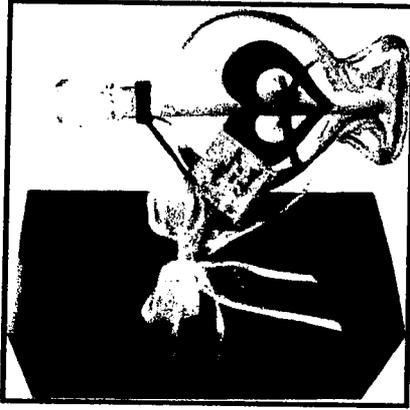
We are excited to bring you a personalized gift in a class of its own. Our beautiful glass bottles are simply the perfect complement to your message, love poem, love letter or if you prefer, select one of our wonderful pre-written messages. Either way, it makes for a **great gift idea as a Valentine's Day gift, Mother's Day gift, Wedding gift, Anniversary Gift**, or as a unique gift for any **Special Occasion**.

Say I Love You in a Message in a Bottle @

"It is beautiful! you guys did a wonderful job, thank you. I've been telling everyone about you. I am very pleased to give this to my daughter!" - Joy H.

Message in a Bottle @ Desire

**Designed and Hand-crafted here in our Studios
Only \$39.99 Red Gift Box Included**



[Home](#) | [All Message in a Bottle®](#) | [Specials](#) | [Love](#) | [Anniversary](#) | [Friendship](#) | [Birthday](#) | [Special Occasion](#) | [Traditional](#) | [For Dad](#) | [For Mom](#) | [Baby](#) | [Zodiac](#) | [Nautical](#) | [Celestial](#) | [Romantic](#) | [Flowers](#) | [Valentine's Day](#) | [Accessories](#) | [Message Sample](#) | [Shipping](#) | [About](#) | [Guarantee](#) | [Contact](#) | [Privacy](#) | [FAQ'S](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Bulletin](#) |

www.MessageInABottle.com Official Site of Message In A Bottle®



Look for our signature "Gold Shells from Carmel" logo to ensure it's a real Message in a Bottle®.

Message in a Bottle® P. O. Box 1625 Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921 Email:
sales@messageinabottle.com

Message in a Bottle® is a registered mark. All rights reserved 1997-2005.©



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

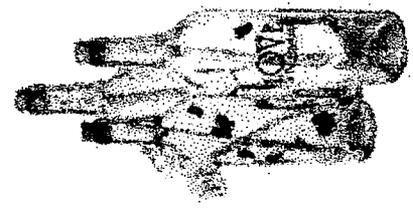
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Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

All Message in a Bottle® Categories

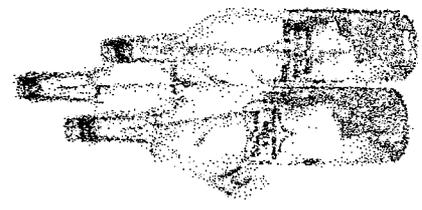
More than kisses, letters mingle souls. -John Donne

Scroll down to view all our categories

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



Love
\$25.99- \$39.99



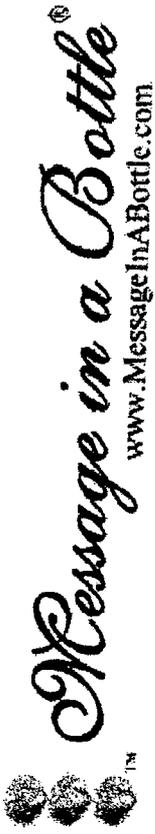
Anniversary Gift
\$25.99



Birthday
\$25.99



Traditional
\$25.99- \$29.99

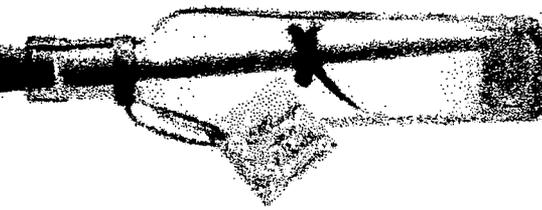


"the art of expression"[™]
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Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Specials

What comes from the heart goes to the heart. -Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



Lavender
Reg. Price: ~~\$25.99~~
Sale Price: \$23.99
Save: \$2.00



Shaped
Glass Bottle
10.5 inches tall



Bamboo
Reg. Price: ~~\$25.99~~
Sale Price: \$23.99
Save: \$2.00



Glass Bottle
12 inches tall

Admire
Reg. Price: ~~\$29.99~~
Sale Price: \$25.99

"I ordered a message in a bottle from your site, and was very pleased with the outcome of it! Loved it, great shipping,



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"SM
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditions
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Techie
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Samples
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

Message in a Bottle® Sample

We here at Message in a Bottle® go through great lengths to ensure that your finished message looks great. All of our messages are printed on the best *acid-free archival quality translucent parchment paper* available to ensure that your message stands the test of time.

We format each and every message by centering it on the page, printing it is an elegant cursive script and then adjust the spacing of the lines and size of the text so that it fits the page perfectly. An example of the cursive script we use is pictured below.

If you have a particular formatting request such as for a stanza or just want a poem formatted in a certain way, we would be more than happy to take your text via email. Simply email us at customerservice@messageinabottle.com with your formatting request. Please include your Order ID Number.



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

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Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Accessories

Although our beautiful bottles are meant to be displayed and admired, we have made available three types of presentation gift boxes for the all important big unveiling.

The first is a **complementary Gold Toned Gift Box** that is included with every order.

If however you would like to upgrade your presentation gift box, simply select our optional **Sweetheart Gloss Red Gift Box** priced at \$3.99. This box is perfect for Valentine's Day!

Our other presentation gift box is a **Wood Gift Box** which is priced at \$16.99. This elegant Wood Gift Box wraps around your bottle and is held closed by a leather strap. This box is truly an excellent addition to your bottle and will only add to your heartfelt sentiments.

[VIEW BOTTLES](#)

Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Siblings
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Tooth
Neutral
Valentine
Romantic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
Message Sample
Shipping
About
Guarantee
Contact



Message in a Bottle[®]

www.MessageInABottle.com

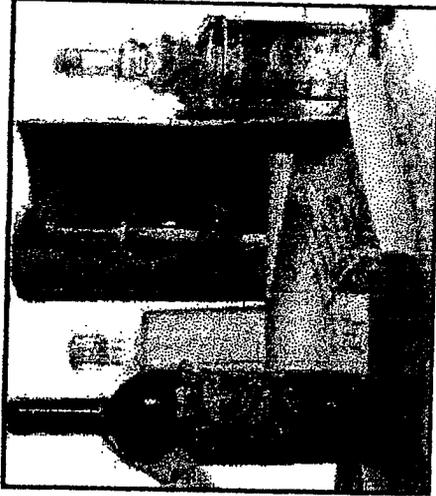
"the art of expression"[™]
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle[®]
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

Our Products

Message in a Bottle[®] uses only the best materials to ensure a finished product that is not only pleasing to the senses but stirs the soul. The pursuit of excellence is one that we do not take lightly. Our passion is to create works that can capture a moment and transform it into a treasured memory for years to come. All of our unique handcrafted bottles are created with a meticulous attention to detail. This method ensures that each bottle will be a complete original and truly a one of a kind. Our artisans work with only the finest bottles and after applying gorgeous designs, they polish each bottle to perfection.

All of our messages are printed on the best acid-free archival quality translucent parchment paper available to ensure that your message stands the test of time. Its composition gives it an ethereal elegance not found in other papers and its translucency accentuates this same quality found in all our bottles.





Message in a Bottle®
www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"™
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Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Birthday
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Zodiac
Nautical
Calendal
Remanic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
Message Sample
Shipping
About
Guarantee
Contact

Message in a Bottle® Guarantee

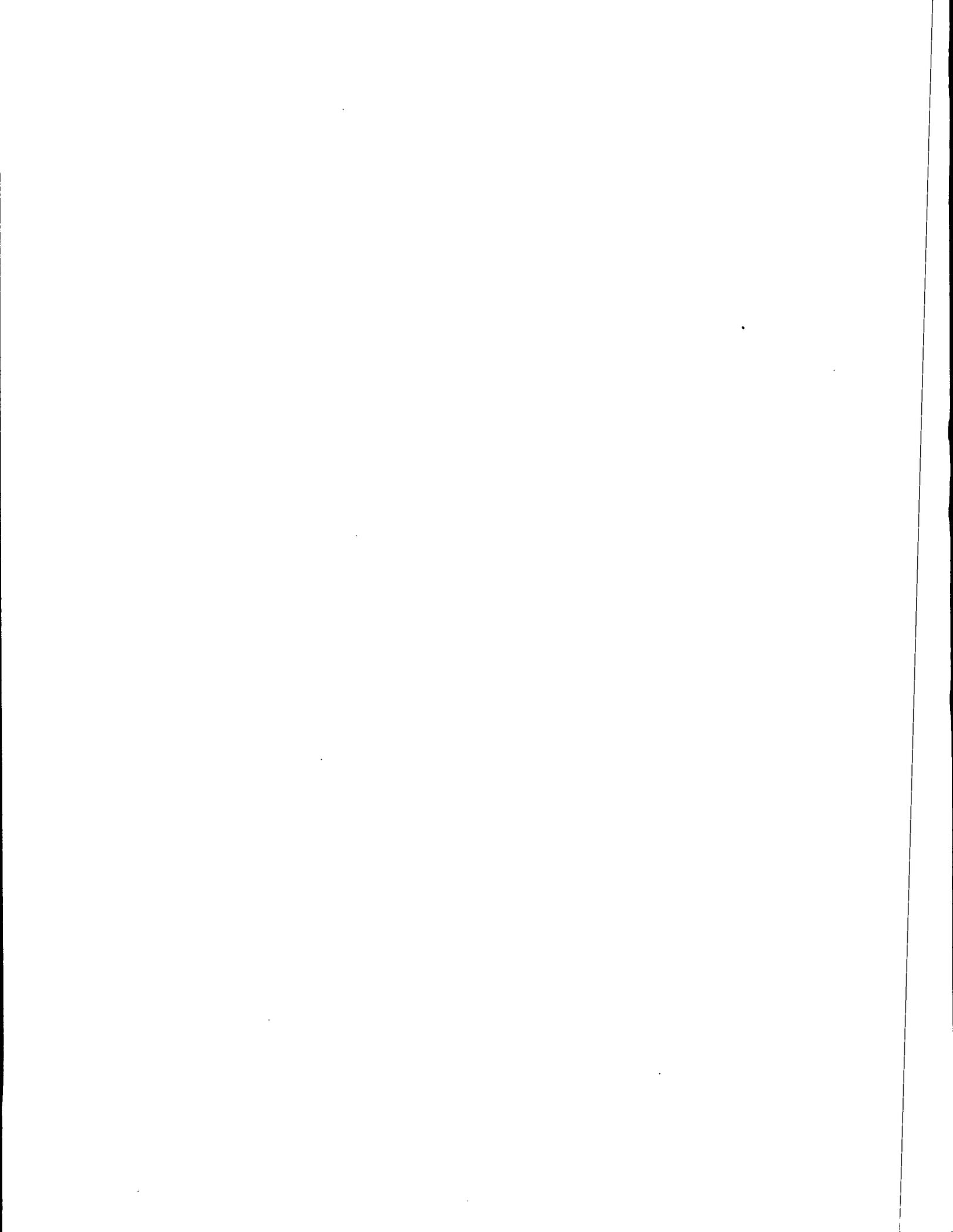
***We are THE original and true Message in a Bottle® and are certified as such on the Principle Register of the Patent and Trademark Office.**

***We are committed to providing great customer service that includes an unconditional money back guarantee so that you will always have a great purchasing experience.**

***We are committed to using only the best quality materials in the manufacture of our products and employing these in an ever varying assortment of new and exciting bottles.**



As you can see we here at Message in a Bottle® are committed to providing you with both superior products and stellar service that are clearly a cut above the rest. Acknowledged as the preeminent provisioner of gift bottles, we feel it our duty to provide you with a product that will be prized by your recipient and will no doubt become a valued heirloom.





Message in a Bottle®
www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"™
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

Exhibit E.

Message in a Bottle® FAQ'S

SHIPPING

How long does it take for my Message in a Bottle® to arrive at its destination from the day I order it?

We ship via **USPS Priority Mail** and delivery is usually completed within four to five business days in the continental U.S. If you choose our optional **USPS Express Mail** and place your order by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on a regular business day, Mon.-Fri. excluding holidays, your order will arrive within two to three business days to most locations. Express Mail orders placed outside the above guidelines will require one additional business day for travel.

What delivery methods do you offer?

For domestic delivery we ship via **USPS Priority Mail \$4.75 - \$8.55** depending on zip code (this will be calculated during checkout) and **USPS Express Mail \$21.05** anywhere in the continental U.S.. For international delivery we ship via **USPS Global Express Mail**.

How are the bottles packaged for delivery?

We go through great lengths to ensure that our bottles arrive at their destination undamaged. We use multiple lines of protection which include protective wrap and transit tested delivery boxes.

What addresses appear on the outside of the delivery packaging?

Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Shower
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Zodiac
Nautical
Talent
Romantic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
Message Samples
Shipping
About
Guarantee
Contact



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

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Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Shipping

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Toothic
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

DOMESTIC SHIPPING

We ship within the U.S. via United States Postal Service

USPS Priority Mail - Standard delivery which usually takes 3-5 business days from date of order within the continental U.S. (\$5.75 to \$8.55 Depending on Zip code)

USPS Express Mail - For expedited delivery which usually takes 2-3 business days from date of order within the continental U.S. if you place your order by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on a regular business day, Mon.-Fri. excluding holidays. Express Mail orders placed outside the above guidelines will require one additional business day for travel. (\$21.05 All Zip codes)

MILITARY APO, FPO SHIPPING

We ship to military destinations via USPS Priority Mail for which tracking is not available. Delivery times are usually between 3-7 business days however due to customs delivery times will vary. As APO's, FPO's etc. are considered U.S. addresses, the cost is comparable to sending a package within the United States, usually between \$5.75 and \$8.55. While checking out simply input the following in the ship-to address field.



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"™
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Love

The most Romantic way to send a love letter or just to say I Love You.



Promise
Price: \$25.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Love is the Beginning of Forever"



True
Reg. Price: ~~\$29.99~~
Sale Price: \$25.99
Save: \$4.00

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Love bears all



Beautiful
Price: \$39.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12.5 inches tall



Inspiration
Price: \$34.99

Shaped
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall

Simply choose a bottle, write your love letter and then tell us to whom you want it sent. We'll do the rest.

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



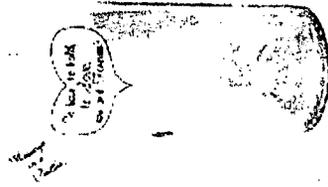
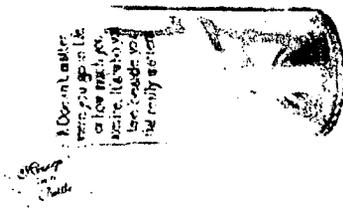
Message in a Bottle®

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Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Anniversary Gift

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



What is a Message in a Bottle®?

In simple terms a Message in a Bottle® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.

"I have to say that although my husband doesn't do romantic things everyday, when he does do them...he does them to a level that blows me a way.

We celebrated our first anniversary yesterday and we exchange the traditional gift of paper. His gift to me was the message in a bottle (he sent me on a scavenger hunt with written notes all around the house to find my gift).

Devotion

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle
12 inches tall

Text: *"To have, to hold, to Love, now and Forever"*

Content

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle
12 inches tall

Text: *"It Doesn't matter where you*

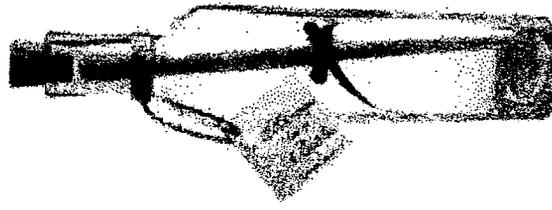


"the art of expression" the
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Friendship

A friend is a gift you give yourself. -Robert Louis Stevenson

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



Lavender

Reg. Price: ~~\$25.99~~

Sale Price: \$23.99

Save: \$2.00

SPECIAL OFFER



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle

12 inches tall



Secrets

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle

12 inches tall



Sincere

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle

12 inches tall



Anticipation

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle

12 inches tall



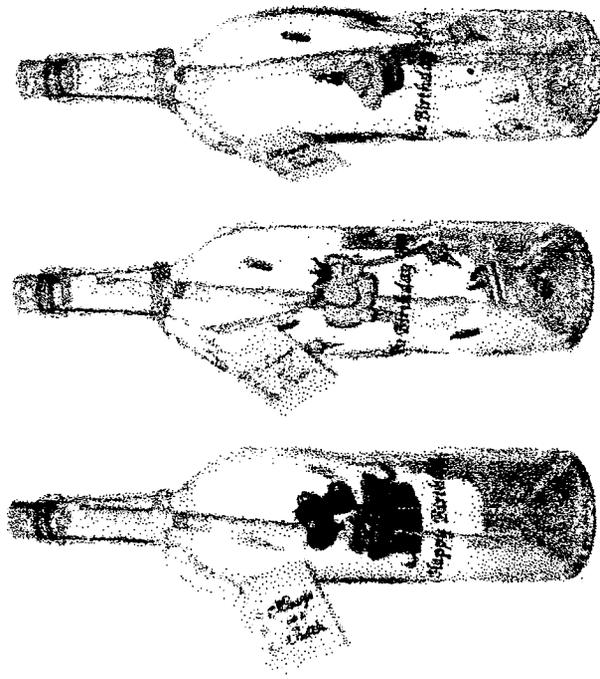
Message in a Bottle®

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Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Birthday

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



What is a Message in a Bottle®?

In simple terms a Message in a Bottle® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.

"Hi! I accidentally found your website last week, and have placed my first order. I'm sooo excited about this. I immediately shared it with my closest friends. What a perfect gift! Thanks" -
Debbie F.

To order a Message in a Bottle®

- Happy Birthday**
Price: \$25.99
Handcrafted Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Happy Birthday"
- Birthday Boy**
Price: \$25.99
Handcrafted Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Birthday"
- Birthday Girl**
Price: \$25.99
Handcrafted Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Birthday"



Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"™
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Any Occasion

The only gift is a portion of thyself. -Emerson

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarancee
- Contact



Moonlight

Reg. Price: ~~\$23.99~~

Sale Price: \$19.99

Save: \$4.00

SPECIAL OFFER



Shaped
Glass Bottle



Exclamation

Price: \$25.99

SPECIAL OFFER



Treasure

Reg. Price: ~~\$23.99~~

Sale Price: \$19.99

Save: \$4.00

SPECIAL OFFER





Message in a Bottle®

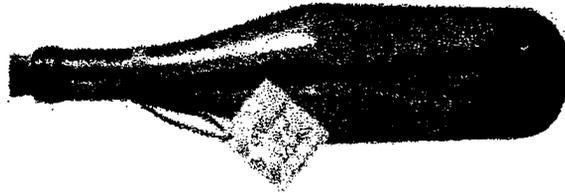
www.MessageInABottle.com

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Message in a Bottle® Traditional

The sun shines not on us, but in us. -John Muir

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
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- About
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- Contact



Sunrise
Price: \$25.99

NEW ARRIVAL



Glass Bottle
12 inches tall



Bamboo
Reg. Price: ~~\$25.99~~
Sale Price: \$23.99
Save: \$2.00

SPECIAL OFFER



Glass Bottle
12 inches tall



S.O.S.
Price: \$25.99



Glass Bottle
12.5 inches tall



Seabreeze
Price: \$25.99





"the art of expression"[™]
Serving Our Online Customers
Since 1997

Message in a Bottle® Father's Day Gift

Order by June 13th to ensure delivery by Father's Day

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specialt
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

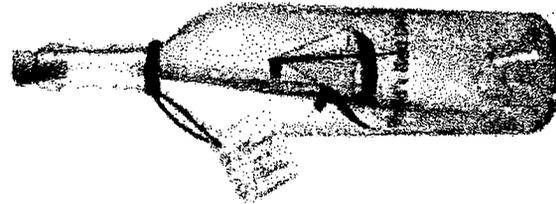


Hero

Reg. Price: ~~\$29.99~~

Sale Price: \$25.99

Save: \$4.00



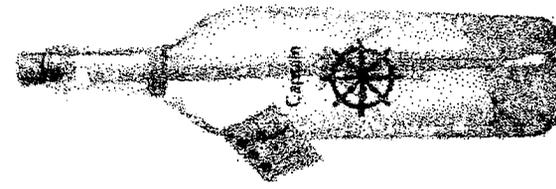
King

Price: \$29.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle



Captain

Price: \$29.99



Handcrafted

Glass Bottle

What is a Message in a Bottle®?

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Scroll down to view other Bottles

Father's Day is June 19th

Admire

Reg. Price: ~~\$29.99~~



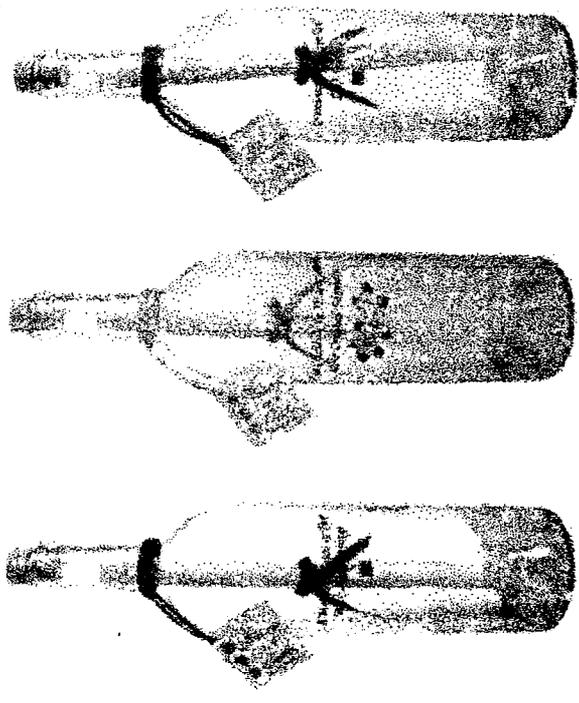
Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

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- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
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- Anniversary
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- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarance
- Contact

Message in a Bottle® For Mom



What is a Message in a Bottle®?

In simple terms a Message in a Bottle® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.

Essence
Price: \$29.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "A Mother's

Patience
Price: \$29.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
text "God couldn't be Everywhere

Wisdom
Price: \$29.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall
Text: "Grandmother

Wish your Mom A Happy Mother's Day on May 8th with a Message in a Bottle®

"When I first saw your bottles I knew my mom would love one. I was right. She did. Thanks"
-G. Adams El Paso, Texas



Message in a Bottle®

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Message in a Bottle® Baby

The beginnings of all things are small. -Cicero

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

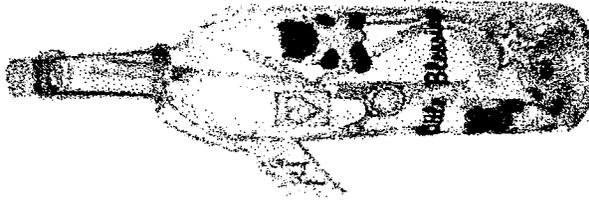


Blue

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted



Pink

Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted



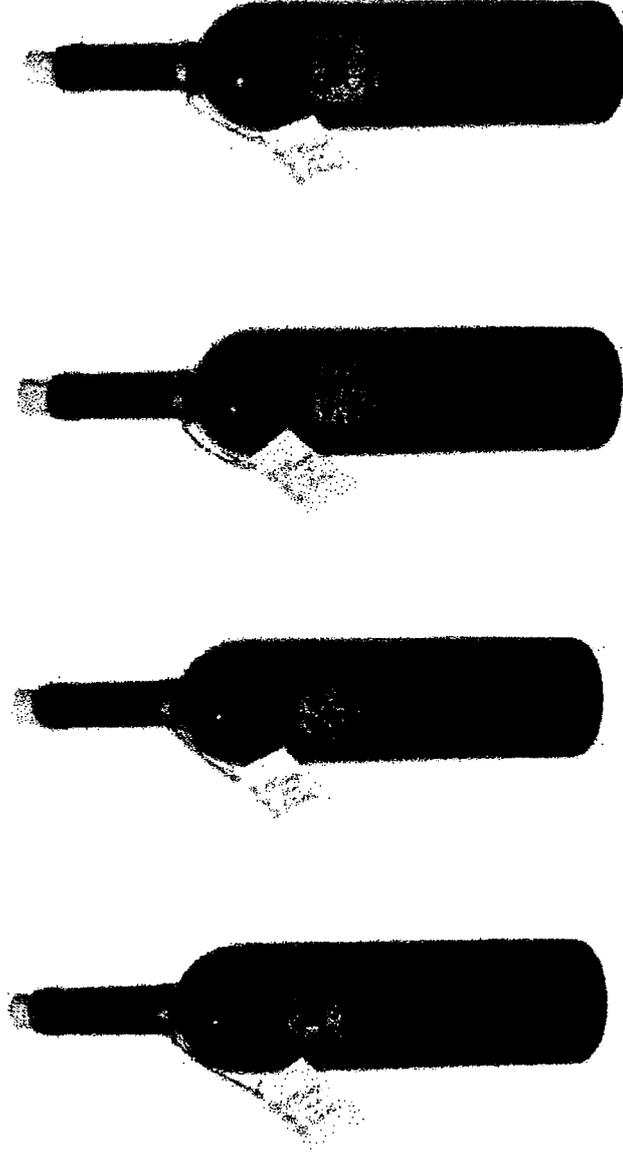
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Message in a Bottle® Zodiac Gifts

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

What is a Message in a Bottle®?

In simple terms a Message in a Bottle® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.





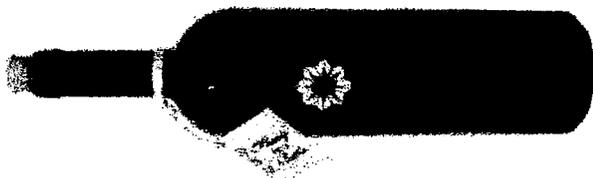
Message in a Bottle®

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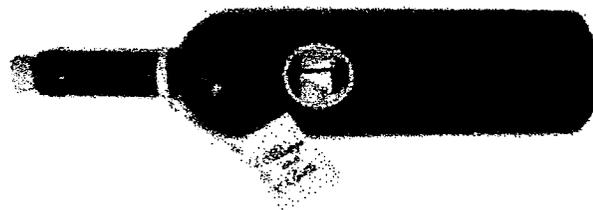
Message in a Bottle® Nautical

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact



North Star
Price: \$25.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12.5 inches tall



Freedom
Price: \$25.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12.5 inches tall



Oceana
Price: \$25.99

Handcrafted
Glass Bottle
12 inches tall



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Message in a Bottle® Celestial

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
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- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarantee
- Contact

Hitch your wagon to a star. -Emerson



Blue Moon
Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted
Glass Bottle



Sunshine
Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted
Glass Bottle



Heavenly
Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted
Glass Bottle



Voyager
Price: \$25.99



Handcrafted
Glass Bottle



Message in a Bottle®

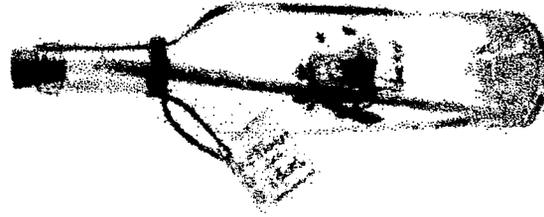
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Message in a Bottle® Valentine's Day

Love conquers all things; let us too surrender to love. -Virgil

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
- Traditional
- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
- Zodiac
- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
- Message Sample
- Shipping
- About
- Guarancee
- Contact

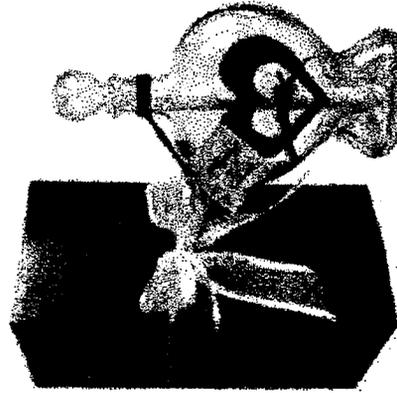


Be Mine

Price: \$29.99



Handcrafted



Desire

Price: \$39.99



Temporarily out of Stock

Hand-crafted

Glass Bottle
9 inches tall

What is a Message in a Bottle®?

In simple terms a Message in a Bottle® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.

To order a Message in a Bottle® Simply select a bottle, choose a message or write your own and then tell us to whom you want it sent. We'll do the rest.



Message in a Bottle®

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Since 1997

- Home
- All Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
- Love
- Anniversary
- Friendship
- Birthday
- Special Occasion
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- For Dad
- For Mom
- Baby
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- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
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Message in a Bottle® Sample

We here at Message in a Bottle® go through great lengths to ensure that your finished message looks great. All of our messages are printed on the best *acid-free archival quality translucent parchment paper* available to ensure that your message stands the test of time.

We format each and every message by centering it on the page, printing it is an elegant cursive script and then adjust the spacing of the lines and size of the text so that it fits the page perfectly. An example of the cursive script we use is pictured below.

If you have a particular formatting request such as for a stanza or just want a poem formatted in a certain way, we would be more than happy to take your text via email. Simply email us at customerservice@messageinabottle.com with your formatting request. Please include your Order ID Number.



Message in a Bottle®

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Message in a Bottle® Shipping

DOMESTIC SHIPPING

We ship within the U.S. via United States Postal Service

USPS Priority Mail - Standard delivery which usually takes 3-5 business days from date of order within the continental U.S. (\$5.75 to \$8.55 Depending on Zip code)

USPS Express Mail - For expedited delivery which usually takes 2-3 business days from date of order within the continental U.S. if you place your order by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on a regular business day, Mon.-Fri. excluding holidays. Express Mail orders placed outside the above guidelines will require one additional business day for travel. (\$21.05 All Zip codes)

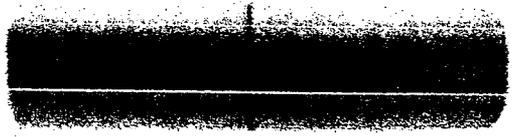
MILITARY APO, FPO SHIPPING

We ship to military destinations via USPS Priority Mail for which tracking is not available. Delivery times are usually between 3-7 business days however due to customs delivery times will vary. As APO's, FPO's etc. are considered U.S. addresses, the cost is comparable to sending a package within the United States, usually between \$5.75 and \$8.55. While checking out simply input the following in the ship-to address field.

Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Birthday
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Zodiac
Nautical
Celestial
Romantic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
Message Sample
Shipping
About
Guarantee
Contact

- [Privacy](#)
- [FAQS](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Bulletin](#)

1. the recipients name in the NAME FIELD
2. any post information or numbers in the ADDRESS FIELD
3. the APO in the CITY FIELD
4. the AE in the STATE/PROVINCE FIELD
5. the zip in the ZIP/POSTAL CODE FIELD.



An example would be:

NAME: John Smith
 ADDRESS: PSC 82 Box 9576
 CITY: APO
 STATE/PROVINCE: AE
 ZIP/POSTAL CODE: 09960

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

We ship outside the U.S. via the United States Postal Service

USPS Global Express Mail - This is the only international shipping option we offer however as package tracking is not available to all destinations, refunds on orders delivered internationally are not offered. Please contact us at international@messageinabottle.com for countries that can be serviced or if you would like to place an order for international delivery. We will provide you with ordering information and shipping rates.

- [Message in a Bottle®](#) offers a Free [Gold Gift Box](#) or [Upgrade to a Sweetheart Red Box \\$3.99](#)
- [Wood Presentation Box \\$16.99](#)

[View Bottles](#)

[Home](#) | [All Message in a Bottle®](#) | [Specials](#) | [Love](#) | [Anniversary](#) | [Friendship](#) | [Birthday](#) | [Special Occasion](#) | [Traditional](#) | [For Dad](#) | [For Mom](#) | [Baby](#) | [Zodiac](#) | [Nautical](#) | [Celestial](#) | [Romantic](#) | [Flowers](#) | [Valentine's Day](#) | [Accessories](#) | [Message](#) | [Sample](#) | [Shipping](#) | [About](#) | [Guarantee](#) | [Contact](#) | [Privacy](#) | [FAQS](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Bulletin](#) |

www.MessageInABottle.com Official Site of Message In A Bottle®



Look for our signature "Gold Shells from Carmel" logo to ensure it's a real Message in a Bottle®.

Message in a Bottle® P. O. Box 1625 Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921 Email: sales@messageinabottle.com

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Message in a Bottle®

www.MessageInABottle.com

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Our Products

Message in a Bottle® uses only the best materials to ensure a finished product that is not only pleasing to the senses but stirs the soul. The pursuit of excellence is one that we do not take lightly. Our passion is to create works that can capture a moment and transform it into a treasured memory for years to come. All of our unique handcrafted bottles are created with a meticulous attention to detail. This method ensures that each bottle will be a complete original and truly a one of a kind. Our artisans work with only the finest bottles and after applying gorgeous designs, they polish each bottle to perfection.

All of our messages are printed on the best acid-free archival quality translucent parchment paper available to ensure that your message stands the test of time. Its composition gives it an ethereal elegance not found in other papers and its translucency accentuates this same quality found in all our bottles.

Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Birthday
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Zodiac
Nautical
Celestial
Romantic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
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Home
All Message in a Bottle®
Specials
Love
Anniversary
Friendship
Birthday
Special Occasion
Traditional
For Dad
For Mom
Baby
Zodiac
Nautical
Calendral
Romantic
Flowers
Valentine's Day
Accessories
Message Sample
Shipping
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Guarantee
Contact

Message in a Bottle® Guarantee

***We are THE original and true Message in a Bottle® and are certified as such on the Principle Register of the Patent and Trademark Office.**

***We are committed to providing great customer service that includes an unconditional money back guarantee so that you will always have a great purchasing experience.**

***We are committed to using only the best quality materials in the manufacture of our products and employing these in an ever varying assortment of new and exciting bottles.**



As you can see we here at Message in a Bottle® are committed to providing you with both superior products and stellar service that are clearly a cut above the rest. Acknowledged as the preeminent provisoner of gift bottles, we feel it our duty to provide you with a product that will be prized by your recipient and will no doubt become a valued heirloom.



Message in a Bottle®
www.MessageInABottle.com

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- Home
- Alt Message in a Bottle®
- Specials
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- Friendship
- Birthday
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- For Mom
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- Nautical
- Celestial
- Romantic
- Flowers
- Valentine's Day
- Accessories
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Message in a Bottle® FAQ'S

SHIPPING

How long does it take for my Message in a Bottle® to arrive at its destination from the day I order it?

We ship via **USPS Priority Mail** and delivery is usually completed within four to five business days in the continental U.S. If you choose our optional **USPS Express Mail** and place your order by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on a regular business day, Mon.-Fri. excluding holidays, your order will arrive within two to three business days to most locations. Express Mail orders placed outside the above guidelines will require one additional business day for travel.

What delivery methods do you offer?

For domestic delivery we ship via **USPS Priority Mail \$4.75 - \$8.55** depending on zip code (this will be calculated during checkout) and **USPS Express Mail \$21.05** anywhere in the continental U.S.. For international delivery we ship via **USPS Global Express Mail**.

How are the bottles packaged for delivery?

We go through great lengths to ensure that our bottles arrive at their destination undamaged. We use multiple lines of protection which include protective wrap and transit tested delivery boxes.

What addresses appear on the outside of the delivery packaging?

Exhibit K

[home](#) [about](#) [guarantee](#) [privacy](#) [contact](#) [shipping](#)



Message in a Bottle®
www.MessageInABottle.com

"the art of expression"™ **www**
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Message In A Bottle .com is the Official Site of Message in a Bottle ®

*Make a lasting impression on someone today!
Send them a genuine Message in a Bottle®*



**Over 70 Beautiful Glass
Bottles
to choose from!**

What is a Message in a Bottle ®?
In simple terms a Message in a Bottle ® is the combination of your personalized sentiment which is printed, rolled and placed inside one of our beautiful bottles. A variety of presentation gift boxes, one of which is free, can then be added. We then send your gift to the recipient of your choice.



"Cupid" ONLY \$29.

We are proud to offer you the **largest selection** of quality gift bottles in the **gift bottle industry** with a **100% money back guarantee**. We are proud to offer you a huge selection of pre-written messages and a **free gift box** with every gift order. You be proud you gave your loved one the **original Message in a Bottle®** and not a mere imitation by another name. Remember, insist on the genuine Message in a Bottle® because anything less simply won't do. It's easy. **Simply choose a bottle, choose message or write your own and then tell us to whom you want it sent. We'll do the rest.**

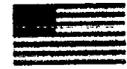
Wedding Invitations [CLICK HERE](#)

Imagine...

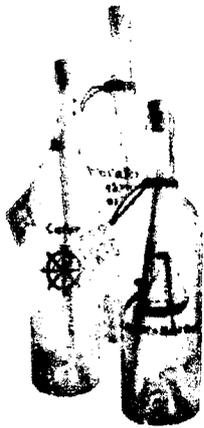
- the surprise they'll feel as they open the gift box and a beautiful bottle is revealed.
- the wonder they'll experience as they discover the message inside. Who could it be from?
- the anticipation that grips them as they remove the message.
- the joy they'll feel when they realize it's from you. The look in their eyes says it all!

Now just imagine how great it will feel knowing you made someone so very happy.

"just want to thank you .. you guys have by far the best customer service .. i have never dealt with a company as thorough as yours in their customer service dept. i will definitely be ordering from you guys again .. keep up the excellent work" -Mike M



Hand-Crafted in th



For Dad
\$29.99 - \$34.99



Love
\$34.99- \$44.99



Anniversary Gift
\$29.99 - \$44.99



Traditional
\$25.99- \$29.99



Friendship
\$25.99 - \$34.99



Birthday
\$29.99 - \$34.99



Special Occasion
\$25.99- \$29.99



For Mom
\$34.99 - \$39.99



Celestial
\$34.99



Zodiac Gift
\$34.99



Baby
\$34.99



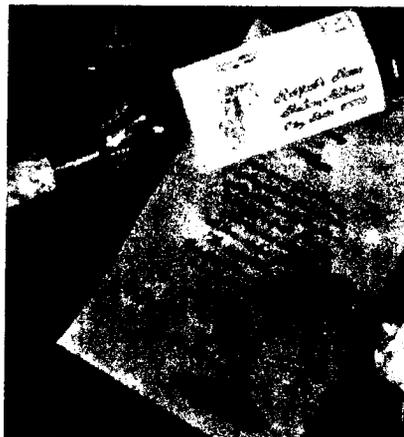
Nautical
\$34.99



Christmas
\$34.99



Valentine's Day
\$34.99-\$44.99



Wedding Invites -Plastic



Wedding Invitations -Gl.

"It is beautiful! you guys did a wonderful job, thank you. I've been telling everyone about you. I am very pleased to give this to my daughter!" - Joy H.

We are excited to bring you a personalized gift in a class of its own. Our beautiful glass bottles are simply the perfect complement to your message, love poem, love letter or if you prefer, select one of our wonderful pre-written messages. Either way, it makes for a **great gift idea** as a Valentine's Day gift, Mother's Day gift, Wedding gift, Anniversary Gift, or as a unique gift for any Special Occasion.

Consumer Guide

Protect yourself against fraud!
Our clients have recently reported finding fraudulent websites which are selling counterfeit gift, invitation and promotional services. Please **CLICK HERE** to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

[Home](#) | [All Message in a Bottle ®](#) | [For Mom](#) | [Love](#) | [Anniversary](#) | [Birthday](#) | [Friendship](#) | [Specials](#) | [Invitations](#) | [Message in a Bottle Sample](#) | [For Dad](#) |

Message In A Bottle .com - Official Site of Message In A Bottle®



Call Us Toll Free 1 800 959-2069 Mon.-Fri. 9am-4pm PST

Look for our signature "Gold Shells from Carmel" logo to ensure it's a real Message in a Bottle®.
Message in a Bottle® 432 Bitritto Way Ste. 5 Modesto, CA 95356 Email: customerservice@messageinabottle.com
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Exhibit M



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GO!

Take search with you...

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Overview

Sites Linking in

Traffic Detail

Share your thoughts

Write a review on Amazon.com...

E-mail a friend about this site...

Travel Back in Time!

Use the Wayback Machine to see how Messageinabottle.com... looked in the past.

INTERNET ARCHIVE



Go Wayback

Target Your Keywords with Hitslink!

Advanced Keyword Analytics & Website Statistics

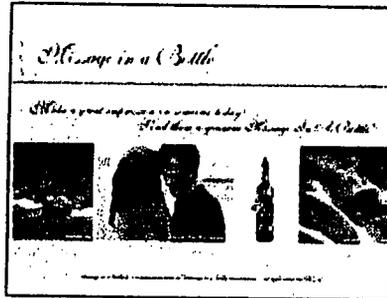


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Messageinabottle.com

Go to site now

messageinabottle.com



Traffic Rank for messageinabottle.com: 153,448

See Traffic Details

Qui Buy: onlin Price

Fin: 100C Idea: Regi: www

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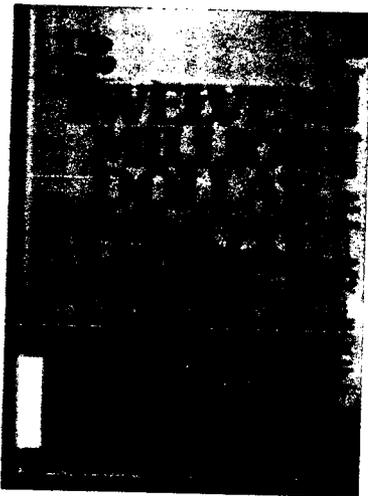


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The twelve million dollar note: Strange but true tales of messages found in seagoing bottles (Unknown Binding)

by Robert Kraske (Author)

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Per 21-67

The TWELVE MILLION DOLLAR NOTE

Strange but True Tales of Messages
Found in Seagoing Bottles

by Robert Kraske

People strolling along a lonely beach spy a sand-pitted cola bottle, half buried in the tidal debris. Idly they investigate and find that the derelict contains a piece of paper. They open it, extract its contents, and read. Inside are detailed instructions on how to find the Pirate Treasure . . . the Lost Gold Mine . . . the Missing Heiress . . .

Movie stuff? Romantic nonsense out of a gushy magazine? Well, yes and no. For bottle messages *are* found from time to time, and although the message is usually ordinary, now and then it makes its finder rich.

Consider young Miguel of Villa do Porto, Azores Islands, whose bottle brought him a thousand-dollar reward. And then there's dishwasher Jack Whurn, whose find made him coheir of a \$12 million inheritance. And not to be slighted either is the sailor who, sending ashore a message requesting a certain recipe, found it waiting for him when he landed.

Bottles have introduced blond Swedes to dark-haired Sicilian girls and lonely Americans to Irish farmers' daughters. Bottles have preached the Gospel and temperance. Bottles have carried spy messages and saved ships from mutineers and cleared up the mystery of countless ships missing at sea. Bottles have helped oceanographers trace ocean currents and chart "rivers" like the Gulf Stream and track fish.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DISCARDED
MEMORANDUM
CENTER

Author Robert Kraske has produced a fascinating collection of bottle stories, astonishing but true, for these seaworthy little adventures have been known to travel over ten thousand miles in a single voyage and to stay afloat for 151 incredible years.

46575

Also by Robert Kraske

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Is There Life in Outer Space?

Silent Sentinels: The Story of Locks, Vaults, and Burglar

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Crystals of Life: The Story of Salt

The Sea Robbers

The TWELVE MILLION DOLLAR NOTE

Robert Kraske

Strange but True Tales
of Messages Found
in Seagoing Bottles



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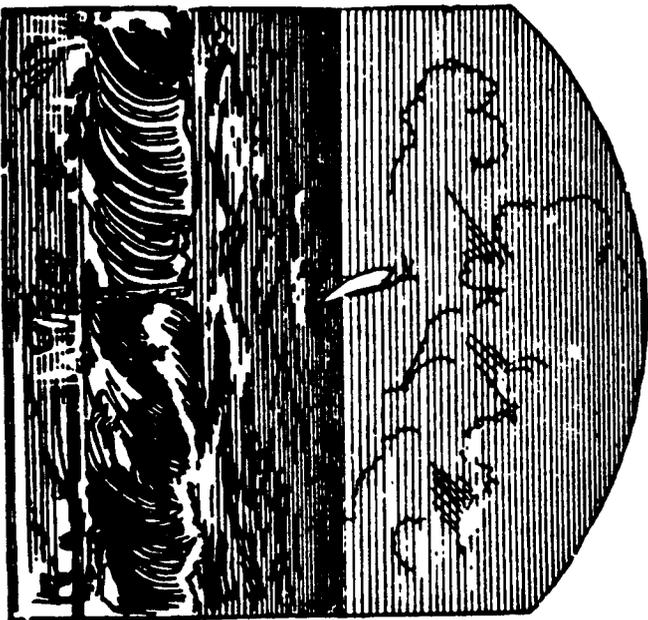
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The Twelve Million Dollar Note

messengers have zipped along on the Gulf Stream at 4 miles per hour covering a hundred miles in a single day.

Generally, a bottle takes twelve to fourteen months to drift between the east coast of the United States and Europe. But one speedster, dropped by scientists into the Mississippi River at New Orleans, drifted into the Gulf of Mexico. It was caught up by the Gulf Stream and carried north up the eastern coast of the United States. Then it moved east across the North Atlantic and beached on the Isle of Wight off England. It had traveled four thousand miles in just ten months.

. 2 .
True Tales
of Messages Found
in Seagoing Bottles



The Twelve Million Dollar Note

A king's ransom in a bottle? It happened. One man found what was possibly the single most valuable piece of paper ever placed inside a bottle and set adrift on the world's oceans.

On March 16, 1949, Jack Wurm was walking along the shore of the Pacific Ocean near San Francisco. Mr. Wurm was fifty-five years old. He worked as a dishwasher in a restaurant.

Seeing a bottle washed up on the beach, he picked it up, pulled the cork, and removed a rolled-up square of brown wrapping paper. Much to his amazement, the handwritten note read:

To avoid all confusion, I leave my entire estate

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to the lucky person who finds this bottle and to my lawyer, Barry Cohen, share and share alike.

Daisy Alexander
June 20, 1937

Wurm didn't believe the note. Who would write a will and set it adrift in a bottle? The very idea was silly. And who would leave money and property worth anything to a complete stranger—whoever found the bottle? Wurm laughed. Well, it made a good story.

A few weeks later he told a friend about the bottle. But to Wurm's surprise, his friend didn't think the story funny at all.

"Don't you know who Daisy Alexander was?" the friend said. "Only one of the world's richest women, that's all!"

He told Wurm that Daisy Alexander was the only child of Isaac Singer, the American sewing-machine millionaire. She had died in 1940 at the age of eighty years. Although married, Mrs. Alexander had had no children. Newspapers reported that, when she died, she left \$12 million in money and property, but that a will she had made a few years before her death was never found. Her lawyer in England had been trying for years to find it. He had even hired clairvoyants, people who claimed they were in touch with the spirits of dead people, to find it.

"I was in England and the story was in all the papers,"

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Wurm's friend said. "If I were you, I'd follow up on it. Maybe you've found the missing will!"

Wurm wrote a letter to "Postmaster, London, England." In his letter he told about finding the bottle and the note and asked the postmaster to find the lawyer, Barry Cohen.

The postmaster did as Wurm asked. Over the next several months, letters went back and forth across the Atlantic between Wurm and Cohen.

Cohen said that the scrap of paper might indeed be Mrs. Alexander's missing will. She had been a lady known for doing strange things. For years she had gone to a bridge over the Thames River in the heart of London and dropped bottles into the water. "I like to see where they turn up," she told a friend.

The bottle that Wurm found, Cohen said, could have been carried by the Thames out to the English Channel, where it went north into the North Sea. From there it could have traveled west across the top of the world through the polar ice pack. Then it might have drifted south through the Bering Strait and along the coasts of Alaska, Canada, Washington, Oregon, and California. Finally, nearly twelve years after Mrs. Alexander sent the bottle on its voyage, it had drifted ashore near San Francisco.

Did Wurm ever get the money?

At last report, five years after Wurm had found the bottle, he was still washing dishes in the same restaurant

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and lawyers were still arguing the case in London courts.

"There are a lot of hurdles to go over when a guy picks up a bottle on a beach and stakes a claim for millions just on the strength of a piece of paper in that bottle," Wurm told a reporter. "I don't know what's been happening. To tell you the truth, I'm afraid to let myself think much about the matter."

The Blank Check in the Jam Jar

One day early in 1956, Martin Douglas told his wife, Alice, he was going fishing for the day, and put out to sea for Miami, Florida, in his small cabin cruiser. That night he did not return, and Mrs. Douglas called the police. Despite an air and sea search, neither Martin Douglas nor his boat was ever seen again.

A year later, on a beach in Australia, on the other side of the world from Miami, a man found a jam jar with the lid tightly closed. Inside was a note.

"Should this note be found," it read, "please forward it to my wife, Mrs. Alice Douglas, at Miami Beach, Florida. No doubt you're wondering what has become of me. I got blown out into the waters due to engine trouble."

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Accompanying the note was a blank check. On the back of the check was a handwritten will—the last act of a thoughtful man who knew the end of his life was near.

The Ship That Turned Turtle

In 1902, the S.S. *Huronian* left Glasgow, Scotland, bound for Newfoundland. Weeks passed, but the cargo ship never arrived at its destination.

For two months, U.S. Navy ships searched the North Atlantic. The *Huronian* was never found. The navy's final report: "Lost at sea."

Then, months after the search ended, a bottle drifted ashore on a rocky beach in Nova Scotia. The handwritten message inside read:

"Huronian turned turtle in Atlantic Sunday night. Fourteen of us in a boat."

Navy investigators knew that "turned turtle" was a seaman's term for a ship turning over. But the note was unsigned. Was it a hoax? Investigators thought it might be.

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As strange as it may seem, bottles with fake messages about ship sinkings are sometimes found. Investigators are always on the watch for them. Insurance claims—money paid to the owner of a ship or to relatives of missing seamen—might depend on what a note says.

In 1909, for example, the *Waratah* vanished in the long stretch of empty ocean between South Africa and Australia.

Over the next few years, more than a dozen letters about the *Waratah* came to Lloyd's of London, the best-known marine-insurance company in the world.

With these letters, writers enclosed notes signed by members of the *Waratah*'s crew. They claimed that they had found the notes in bottles that had drifted ashore.

But the insurance company said all the notes were hoaxes—fakes. No two notes gave the same story about what had happened to the *Waratah*. The notes were also too long and too complete. No seaman on a sinking ship would sit down and carefully write out all the details of what was happening.

Insurance investigators also checked the handwriting of the notes with relatives of the missing crew members. The writing was never the same as in other letters the seamen had sent.

Where did the senders of the letters get the names of *Waratah* crew members? From newspaper stories about the missing ship that listed seamen's names.

The Ship That Turned Turtle

Why did these people take the time to write out letters and sign them with the names of dead seamen? Investigators can say only that some people have a strange sense of humor, a creepy kind of humor, that delights in other people's misfortune.

As for the *Huronian*, though, the letter that had washed ashore near Owl's Head proved not to be a hoax. Five years later, another bottle was found, this one on the other side of the Atlantic near a seacoast village in northern Scotland. A note in the second bottle proved the first note genuine.

"Huronian sinking fast," the note read. "Top heavy, one side awash. Goodbye mother and sister—Charlie M'Fell, greaser."

Investigators checked with the owner of the *Huronian*. Yes, a Charles M'Fell had been in the ship's crew. He had worked in the engine room. His main job was to keep the moving parts of the engines greased. The handwriting on the note matched his signature in company records; he did have a mother and sister living in Scotland.

Veteran seamen of the North Atlantic knew then what had happened to the *Huronian*. A sudden storm. The cargo in the hold had shifted as the ship rolled and tossed in the waves. Then a steep wave, and the cargo had tumbled against one side of the ship. The *Huronian* leaned to one side; the deck dipped into the sea.

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Another tremendous wave and the *Huronian* turned over on her side. The crew had only moments to clamber into boats.

Then came the cold, a slow numbing of the body; they had no food or water. Desperate notes were stuffed into bottles and thrown into the raging sea. Death had come to the seamen before long. Contrary currents eventually carried the bottles to opposite shores of the great ocean.

The five-year-old mystery of what had happened to the *Huronian* had been solved by two drifting bottles.

Torpedoed Off Gibraltar

Two boys playing on a Maine beach in 1947 came upon a tangle of wreckage. Among the cast-up litter they found a corked beer bottle with a note inside.

"Our ship is sinking. The SOS won't help. I guess this is it. Good-bye now—maybe this will reach the good old U.S.A."

The note was signed and at the bottom was scrawled the name and address of a relative.

Navy experts read the note and examined the wreckage. It had come from the U.S. *Beatty*, a Navy destroyer.

On November 6, 1943, the *Beatty* had been torpedoed off Gibraltar at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. The loss of life was heavy. The bottle note

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had taken four years to travel three thousand miles from the scene of the tragic sinking back home to America.

The Man Who Received His Own Death Note Through the Mail

Some tragedies at sea have a happy, if strange, ending, as one bottle message showed.

In 1825, the British sailing ship *Kent* was heading for home when it caught fire in the Bay of Biscay. The huge bay is an arm of the Atlantic indenting the west coast of France and the northern coast of Spain.

Among the passengers on the *Kent* were an English army officer, Major D. W. MacGregor, his wife Elizabeth, and his daughter Joanna.

Certain that the *Kent* was doomed, Major MacGregor wrote the following note, inserted it into a bottle, and threw it far from the burning ship.

"Ship on fire. Elizabeth, Joanna, and myself commit our spirits to the Hands of our Redeemer. Whose grace

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enables us to be quite composed in the awful prospect of entering Eternity."

The Kent burned to the watertine and sank. The bottle, adrift in the Atlantic for the next year and a half, was washed ashore in the Bahamas Islands. A British landowner on the islands found the note and sent it to London. He addressed the letter to Major MacGregor.

How did he know where to send the letter?

Major MacGregor, his wife Elizabeth, and his daughter Joanna were picked up by another British ship, the *Cambria*, along with the Kent's other passengers and crew. The *Cambria* had come upon the scene just as the burning *Kent* sank into the sea. Major MacGregor's name and address had appeared in newspaper stories of the sinking, and the man who found the bottle in the Bahamas simply searched through old newspapers until he found the story that listed survivors' names and addresses.

In London, Major MacGregor, alive and well, had the strange experience of reading the last note he had ever expected to write before his life ended.

A Pure Bowshot at 700 Meters

World War I was less than a year old. At 1:20 P.M. on May 7, 1915, Kapitän-Leutnant Walter Schwieger, commanding the German submarine U-20, raised the periscope and peered through the eyepiece. Suddenly he shouted, "Four funnels . . . upward of twenty-five thousand tons, speed about twenty-two knots!"

It was the ship Schwieger had been searching for, the *Lusitania*, at 760 feet and 32,000 tons the largest ocean liner in the world. She was rounding the southern coast of Ireland and was about to head north in the St. George's Channel between Ireland and England.

Fifty minutes later, twelve miles south of Old Head of Kinsale, a steep, rocky cliff jutting into the Atlantic, Schwieger ordered one torpedo fired. The torpedo was

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set to strike the speeding ship nine feet below the waterline.

"Pure bowshot at seven hundred meters' range," he said for another officer to record in the U-20's logbook. "Shot strikes starboard side behind bridge. . . ."

Immediately the huge liner heeled to starboard. The bow dipped and plowed into the sea. In four minutes the foredeck—the front deck on the ship—was under water and green sea poured in through the deck hatches. Water also entered the ship through open portholes in the passengers' cabins on the lower decks. Each minute, 3¼ tons of water poured through each porthole—and there were dozens of these portholes open to the sea.

Fifteen minutes after the torpedo had hit her, the *Lusitania's* bow struck the granite floor of the Atlantic 320 feet below. The weight of the water in the front part of the ship lifted the stern clear of the water. People in the water and in lifeboats could see the huge propellers still slowly turning.

The sun shone and the sea was calm and warm. Only six of the *Lusitania's* forty-eight lifeboats were lowered before the great ship sank. Of the nearly 2000 passengers and crew aboard, 1201 people died; only 764 were saved.

Wreckage from the *Lusitania* floated on the westward tide. In the next few days, two hundred bodies drifted gently ashore on the sands of Garretstown Strand, on

A Pure Bowshot at 700 Meters

the mudflats of Courtmacsherry Bay, and farther west at Schull, Bantry, and below the rocky headland of the Kerry coast.

Searchers poked through the flotsam of the tides. In one tangle they found a tightly corked champagne bottle with a note inside.

"I am still on deck with a few people. One is a child. The last boats have left. The orchestra is playing bravely. Some men near me are praying with a priest. The end is near. Maybe this note will . . ."

Three years later, in 1918, a second bottle was found half buried in sand and seaweed on a lonely English beach. The note inside was partly decayed from saltwater seeping into the bottle. The note read:

"*Lusitania*, May 7, 1915. Have been torpedoed. Send help."

Both notes were unsigned. No one knows who aboard the *Lusitania* on that tragic day wrote these notes in the eighteen brief minutes between the moment when the U-20's torpedo struck and the moment when the great ship sank under the waves.

Letter From a Dead Soldier

Tasmania is a large island, 180 miles long and 190 miles wide, south of Australia. It is separated from the Australian mainland by the Bass Strait, which is about 150 miles wide.

In 1953, a bottle drifted ashore on a narrow Tasmanian beach. Inside was a note written thirty-seven years earlier by two Australian soldiers whose home was in Tasmania. When they wrote the note, the two soldiers were on a troopship bound for the battlefields of France in World War I.

The mother of one soldier was still living and the note was delivered to her. She recognized the handwriting of her son. The young man had been killed in action in France in 1918, thirty-five years before the message reached her.

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Bottles That Came Home

* Some bottle messages confirm our belief in how things happen by pure chance. Consider these two messages:

In November 1933, the steamer *Saxilby*, loaded with iron ore, left Ireland and headed into the Atlantic. The *Saxilby* was never heard from again.

"Whatever happened to Joe Okane?" people asked in the seacoast village of Aberayron, Wales. Joe, whose family had lived in Aberayron for years, had been a member of the twenty-five-man crew aboard the *Saxilby*.

Two and a half years later, the people of Aberayron had their answer when a beach walker found a bottle. It lay like a stick on the pebbled beach. Atlantic storm

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waves, pushed by gale winds, had just washed it ashore. Inside was a note.

"S.S. *Saxilby* sinking off Irish coast," the note read, "Love to sisters, brothers, and Dinah. Joe Okane."

What is strange about the incident is where the sea delivered the message. The pebbled beach was at Aberayron, less than a mile from the doorstep of the people Joe Okane had loved and left behind when he put to sea in the ill-fated *Saxilby*.

The year was 1784, and Chunosuke Matsuyama, a Japanese seaman, and forty-three companions set out on a brave adventure, a search for treasure buried on a Pacific island.

But fate decided that Matsuyama and his friends were not to find the treasure. On the vast ocean, a mighty storm came up. High waves almost turned the small ship over and the sails were ripped. Finally the wind blew the battered craft onto a coral reef. Matsuyama and the other crew members jumped out and waded ashore.

Safe from the raging waves, they gave thanks that they were saved. Or were they?

The next day the storm blew itself out and the sky cleared. Matsuyama and his friends looked around the tiny island now bathed in warm sunlight. The storm had uprooted palm trees. The island was a wreck. Except for a few coconuts, it offered absolutely nothing to eat.

For days the men ate tiny crabs that dashed toward

Bottles That Came Home

the surf when any of the starving sailors crept too close. Even so, the crabs they caught were salty and the island had no fresh water to soothe their thirst.

Matsuyama watched his friends die one by one. He realized that none of them, himself included, would ever see their families or their beloved Japan again. But maybe, just maybe, he could send a message home.

In the wreckage of his ship, he found a bottle. Then, using a knife he always carried strapped to his waist, he cut thin pieces of wood from a fallen coconut tree. Carefully he carved a message—the story of what had happened to him and his shipmates. Sealing the wood message tightly into the bottle, he flung it as far as he could and watched as it drifted away on the blue ocean.

That was Matsuyama's last known act. Shortly thereafter he and all his shipmates died of thirst and starvation.

But the bottle survived. For years it drifted on the ocean. Wind and waves pushed it along. Currents carried it this way and that. Storm waves tossed it. Calms that lasted for days held it fixed in one place. And then, in 1935, a century and a half after Matsuyama had set it adrift, the bottle was washed ashore on a narrow beach.

The person who found it was a Japanese seaweed collector. The place where the bottle came ashore was the village of Hiraturemura, the birthplace of Chunosuke Matsuyama, the young men who had gone treasure hunting 151 years before and had never returned.

“Your Old Pal, Bill . . .”

In 1934, Doyle Branscum wrote his name and address on the back of a snapshot of himself, slipped it into a bottle, and threw the bottle into a river in Arkansas.

Twenty-four years passed. Branscum had totally forgotten the incident. Then, one day in 1958, he received a letter. In it was the old snapshot taken when he was a boy. But even more amazing was the letter that came with the snapshot. It was signed, “Your old pal, Bill.”

The letter came from Branscum’s boyhood friend, Bill Headstream, who said that he had found the bottle and snapshot on the beach near his home at Largo, Florida. The two friends hadn’t heard from each other since Headstream and his parents had moved away from Arkansas nearly a quarter century before.

Bottle Postmen That Deliver Letters from Lonely Hearts

In May, 1957, Sebastiano Puzzo, a factory worker, was walking along a beach on Sicily.

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Shaped roughly like a triangle and almost entirely covered by mountains, it is separated from the “toe” of Italy by the narrow Strait of Messina. On a narrow strip of sand between the mountains and the sea, Puzzo found a bottle with a note inside.

Puzzo could not read English, so he took the note home. “Paolina,” he said to his pretty eighteen-year-old daughter. “Look what I found. You studied English in school. Read for me what the note says.”

The note was dated December, 1955. It was from

The Twelve Million Dollar Note

Ake Viking, a sailor on a Swedish ship. Ake's home was in Göteborg, Sweden.

"Listen to this, Father," Paolina said, laughing. "This man is asking all girls aged sixteen to twenty to write to him if they want to marry a handsome blond Swede!"

"Then write to him," Puzzo said, "just as a joke. Send him your picture."

And Paolina did—just as a joke.

Soon Ake visited Sicily. A year after Puzzo found the bottle with Viking's letter, his daughter and the "handsome blond Swede" were married.

On the other side of the world, an ocean liner was docked in an Australian port. A sailor brought a bottle with a message in it to his captain, who read it and handed it to a pretty woman employed as a cabin maid.

"It's for you," he said.

Puzzled, the young woman read the message.

"I am a mate on a freighter bound for the South Seas," it said. "I am a lonesome fellow and hope that fate will bring me a wife. Perhaps somewhere in the Commonwealth there is a girl not older than thirty who wants to write to me."

The mate's name and address were on the bottom of the note. A photograph was clipped to the note.

Months later, two things happened. The captain of the ocean liner lost a good maid, and the lonesome mate gained a wife.

Bottle Postmen That Deliver Letters

In Miami, Florida, a seaman had an argument with his wife. He stormed out of the house and went to his ship.

A week later, as his ship was about to pass Miami, he wrote a letter to his wife. "Forgive me," he said. "I'm sorry we argued."

He rolled the letter into a cylinder, inserted it in a bottle, and tossed the bottle overboard. Currents pushed the bottle toward the beach. There a swimmer found it and mailed the letter.

Exactly one week after the seaman threw the bottle overboard, his ship docked in New York. There a letter was waiting for him. It was from his wife.

"I forgive you," she wrote.

Christmas night, 1945, was lonely for a U.S. Army serviceman named Frank Hayostek. World War II had ended that year. Hayostek had been away from home for three years. Standing at the rail of a troopship heading for the United States, he stuffed a note into an aspirin bottle. He corked the bottle, taped the top, and tossed it far into the ship's churning wake. The note read:

Dear Finder,

I am an American soldier . . . 21 years old . . . just a plain American of no wealth, but just enough to get along with. This is my third Christmas from home. . . . God bless you.

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He signed his name and added his street address in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Nine months later in September, 1946, Frank Hayostek, now discharged from the army, received a letter from Ireland. He was puzzled. He didn't know anyone in Ireland.

I have found your bottle and note (the letter said). I will tell you the whole story.

I live on a farm at the southwest coast of Ireland. On Friday, Aug. 23, 1946, I drove the cows to the fields beside the sea and then went for a walk on the strand [beach] called The Beal. It is an inlet of Dingle Bay.

Well, my dog was running before me and I saw him stop and sniff something light on the sand, and then he went off in pursuit of sea gulls. I found the object was a brown bottle. . . . The cork. . . crumpled in my fingers. How the note kept dry, nobody can understand. It must have been because you mentioned God's name on it, and He brought it to safe harbor. . . . I sat there on the beach and read it

I thought at first I was dreaming. This is just a little common Irish village where nothing strange ever occurs, and this is something for the farmers to talk about while they cut the oats and bring the hay into the barn. Well, imagine, the bottle has

Bottle Postmen That Deliver Letters

been on the sea for eight months. . . . Who knows where it has been? It may have traveled around the world. How did it escape being broken on the rocks? If you had only seen where I got it! It's all a mess of rocks. The hand of Providence must surely have guided it.

Well, I hope to hear from you soon. . . . You mention offering no reward to the finder of the bottle. Well, I ask no reward, as it was a very pleasant surprise. Wishing you very good luck, your loving friend,

Breda O'Sullivan

Over the next seven years, seventy letters traveled across the Atlantic between Breda O'Sullivan in Ireland and Frank Hayostek in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Breda was a farm girl in the village of Lispole, County Kerry. She wrote of raising a greyhound, of acting in theater plays in Killarney, and of hoping one day to teach Frank the hornpipe—an Irish dance.

Frank was now working as a welder. He wrote that he had sold his 1941 automobile and was saving \$80 each month for a plane ticket to visit Breda in Ireland.

In August 1952, six years after Breda O'Sullivan found his bottle message, Frank Hayostek boarded a plane and flew to Ireland. He took along his best suit.

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For Breda, he carried presents of nylon stockings and a music box.

By this time, newspaper reporters had heard about the letters going back and forth between Breda and Frank and how they had started with Hayostek's message in a bottle. Frank and Breda were important news. All across the United States, people followed the bottle-message romance in their daily newspapers.

In Ireland, after Hayostek's plane landed, reporters followed Breda and Frank as they visited the Lakes of Killarney. Later, the two young people spent several hours in the thatched-roof cottage on the O'Sullivan's fifteen-acre farm. Breda, reporters informed their readers, served Frank tea and cakes. The cakes had been especially made by the baker in Dingle.

Much to the couple's embarrassment, newspapers in America and Europe reported on their day together. The question everyone wanted answered was: Would they fall in love and get married?

"It's in the hands of God," answered Frank. "She's very nice."

"After all," said Breda, "we only met a few hours ago. Up to then, he was only a man in a bottle."

A few days later, as reporters waited for a wedding announcement, Breda and Frank decided to end the suspense.

"There is no romance and there will be no wedding," Breda said. "We will remain good pen pals."

Bottle Postmen That Deliver Letters

And so the grand romance, started when a lonely soldier stuffed a note in a bottle and threw it into the Atlantic, came to an end. Newspaper readers in Europe and America were of course disappointed. Romantic stories like this were supposed to end in marriage!

But Breda O'Sullivan and Frank Hayostek decided not to go along with what the world expected of them. They knew what was right for them. And so the story ended.

Bottle Preachers Cast the Gospel Upon the Waters

"Bottle preachers" have used bottles to carry the Gospel message to every shore in the world.

In Middlesboro, a small town in the Kentucky mountains, H. Harrison Mayes clears out whiskey bottles and stuffs them with messages like "Prepare to meet God!" The messages are printed in sixteen languages, including Chinese.

He mails the bottles to friends in other countries. The friends drop the bottles into the ocean.

In 1974, Mayes, who was then seventy-six years old, received a letter from the Philippine Islands. The writer said he had found one of Mayes's bottles. Checking his records, Mayes discovered that the bottle had been thrown into the ocean off Nicaragua in Central America twenty-three years before.

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Bottle Preachers Cast the Gospel Upon the Waters

Another bottle preacher was the Reverend Jewel Pierce of Piedmont, Alabama. Between 1946 and 1955, Reverend Pierce threw thirty thousand bottles into a stream flowing into the Alabama River, which in turn flows into the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile. Each bottle carried a sermon. The Reverend Pierce never said how many replies he had received in response to his messages.

A bottle preacher who did talk about the answers he received was Brother George Phillips of Tacoma, Washington. In 1940, Brother George began collecting whiskey and wine bottles from trash cans at the back doors of saloons. In the next twenty years, he launched fifteen thousand bottles into Puget Sound, whose currents carried them into the Pacific Ocean.

Each bottle contained a message warning readers of the evils of strong drink, a problem Brother George knew well. He had fought a drinking problem himself—and won.

Over these same years, Brother George claimed he received fourteen hundred replies. Most of the letters came from cities and towns along the Pacific coast and Mexico, but he also received letters from as far away as Hawaii, New Guinea, and Australia.

Of every ten replies, seven carried promises to stop drinking, Brother George said. Another two carried the vows of people who promised to return to church. The remaining letters were from people who wanted

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Brother George to know where and when his messages were found.

The most dramatic letter came from a Chicago businessman. Whiskey had ruined him, he wrote. He had lost his business and his wife had left him. Discouraged, he had fled to Mexico.

One day, on a beach near Acapulco, he picked up one of Brother George's bottles. The message ended with the words, "Be sure your sins will find you out!"

The message shook the man. He felt it was directed right to him. He wrote to Brother George. "I am returning to Chicago," he said. "I am going to remake my life."

Two years later, Brother George received a second letter from the man. He was working hard seven days a week to pay off his debts, and his wife had come back to him. He ended by saying: "I owe it all to that bottle that came out of the sea."

Queen Elizabeth's Official Uncorker of Ocean Bottles!

The Strait of Dover, only twenty-one miles wide at its narrowest point, separates England and France and connects the English Channel with the North Sea. Naval battles have been fought there. In the thirteenth century, English ships repelled a French invasion, and in 1588, a huge Spanish fleet—the Spanish Armada—took its first blows from a smaller English fleet in the strait and was in time destroyed.

One day in 1560, a fisherman was rowing beneath the gray chalk cliffs of Dover. At the top of the cliffs stood old forts and castles. At their base, waves washed into caves and tunnels, which smugglers used to hide gunpowder and treasure.

But today the boatman was not interested in the

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sights around Dover. His keen eye had caught the glint of sun on a bottle. Eagerly he plucked it from the water. Yes, there was a message inside. He pulled it out.

Delighted at his find, he took the bottle and the message to the chief naval officer at Dover. If the message was important, maybe—just maybe—he would get a gold piece.

After the naval officer had read the message, he glared at the fisherman. "Do you know what this is?"

The fisherman was startled. "Y-yes," he said. "I mean n-no!" Suddenly he wished he had never seen the bottle.

"A message! A secret message to her Majesty the Queen!"

The fisherman's mouth gaped. The Queen! Now he was really frightened. He clutched his cap to his chest. "Sir, I—I didn't know!"

The officer leaned across the table. "I do not believe you! You are lying! It says plainly here on the message, 'For the Queen! Not to be read by any other person! You are in trouble, my man!'"

"Good sir, I tell the truth. I do not know what the message says." He lowered his eyes. "I cannot read."

There was silence. The officer glared at the man. Then he sat down in his chair. "Guard! Take this man to a cell. Hold him until we get further orders!"

What the poor fisherman didn't know was that the bottle had been dropped into the Strait of Dover by

Queen Elizabeth's Official Uncorker of Ocean Bottles!

an English spy. The spy, who was on a Dutch ship sailing south on the strait, had wanted to get an important message to Queen Elizabeth. A bottle was the only way to send the message. Currents in the narrow strait delivered the message for him.

In London, Queen Elizabeth read the message to her councilors. "The Dutch have taken an island in the Arctic Ocean from the Russians and will use it as a naval base. Our ship captains must be warned of this, otherwise they will be captured."

Her advisers nodded agreement.

"But there is something else important here," she added. "Anyone who finds a state message in a bottle might read it. This we cannot permit! Henceforth, it will be an offense against the Crown—punishable by hanging—for anyone to read a message found in a bottle. All bottles must be delivered, unopened, to the palace. Here they will be opened only by my Official Uncorker of Ocean Bottles, a new post, which you, my lord"—she pointed to one man at the table—"will fill!"

From that time on, anyone in England who found a bottle with a message inside delivered it to the authorities. They in turn sent it to London by special messenger on horseback.

And what about the poor fisherman who had found the bottle and started all the fuss, the man who had expected a reward and instead was thrown into a prison cell?

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The fact that he couldn't read saved him. When his cell was opened, he quickly ran back to his boat and never again looked for floating bottles.

However, if you are ever walking along an English beach and find a bottle with a message inside, go ahead and read it. You won't be hanged. Queen Elizabeth's law, along with the title of Official Uncorker of Ocean Bottles, was removed from the books in 1760 when George III became king.

The Bottle Message That Called Out the French Navy

November, 1875. The tide flowed from the Bay of Biscay into the tiny harbor of Les Sables d'Olonne on the French coast. A French naval lieutenant, his uniform unbuttoned at the neck, stood with one boot on a low stone wall enjoying the thin autumn sunshine and smoking a cigar. His gaze wandered among the fishing boats and coal scows; then his eyes narrowed. Among the garbage scum floating against the wall was a bottle. And, yes, in the bottle was a note. He could see it from where he stood.

Minutes later he was standing at the desk of his commanding officer. His uniform coat was buttoned.

"Sir, you must read this for yourself! I have no idea if it is true!"

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The commanding officer, a full captain in the French navy, unfolded the note. A moment later, he raised his gray eyebrows and looked at the lieutenant. "Man Dieu! If this is true, the crime happened but a few days ago!"

"But could it be a hoax?"

The captain looked out the window. The sun glistened on the water and reflected on the ceiling. "It very well could be! But we are compelled to investigate!"

"The *Trailleur* is ready, sir."

"Good! Assemble a company of marines and take her. Find the *Lennie* if you can. See if there is any truth in this monstrous story!"

The note that had shocked the two officers told of a mutiny a few days earlier in the Bay of Biscay aboard the British full-rigger *Lennie*. "The crew revolted against the ship's officers," the note read. "They have murdered the captain and two officers. The cabin boy and I have locked ourselves in the saloon."

The note was signed: "Van Hoydek, Ship's Steward."

Within a few days, the *Trailleur* found the *Lennie*. French marines boarded the British ship, made prisoners of the mutineers, and released Van Hoydek and the cabin boy from the saloon.

The *Trailleur* took the mutineers to London, where they were placed on trial in a court called the Old Bailey. Van Hoydek, who was a Dutch citizen, told what had

The Bottle Message That Called Out the French Navy

happened aboard the *Lennie*. As a result of his testimony, four of the mutineers were hanged.

London newspapers reported the trials, and Van Hoydek became a hero. He was so popular that people gave money into a fund for him.

Did Van Hoydek ever think of the bottle that he had thrown out a porthole in a desperate call for help? The bottle and its message had not only revealed a crime on the high seas that might otherwise have gone undiscovered, but had called out the French navy!

The answer to this question will never be known. After the trial in the Old Bailey, Van Hoydek took the money the public had given him and opened a restaurant in Wapping. The restaurant became very popular. He married an English girl and never went to sea again.

Two Cats on a Ghost Ship

She lurched to one side. Her sails flapped in the light breeze.

Minutes later six coastguardsmen were rowing through the low waves to the stranded ship, the *Carroll A. Deering*. But, oddly, as they approached, no one appeared on deck.

The coastguardsmen climbed aboard. Not only was the ship without a crew, they discovered, but her motor lifeboat and dory were gone. Her charts, log, and navigating instruments were also missing. The only living things aboard the ship were two cats that mewed and rubbed against the legs of the sailors.

"If only they could talk!" a Coast Guard officer said. "They could tell us what happened."

Investigation revealed that the *Deering* had left Barbados, West Indies, for Norfolk, Virginia, on January 9, 1921. But why had the crew abandoned the *Deering*? The ship was seaworthy and showed no damage. Besides—something really strange—the cargo was gone. No crew leaving a ship would take along the freight it was carrying.

The Coast Guard could find no answer to these questions, and finally, it closed the investigation. "Unsolved!" was stamped on the file.

And then, on April 11, ten weeks after the *Deering* ran aground, a stroller on the beach at Buxton, North Carolina, came upon a bottle partly covered by sand. Inside was a note, and suddenly the mystery of the

Two Cats on a Ghost Ship

The day was January 31, 1921, a wet, misty morning. At Diamond Shoals, North Carolina, long gray waves rolled ashore. Hissing and foaming, they spread fanlike on the beach.

At the U.S. Coast Guard station, a young sailor sipped his morning coffee and looked across the restless sea. Suddenly he leaned forward, squinting to see better. Out of the mist, straight for the outer shoals, sailed a five-masted schooner, all sails set.

The young sailor yelled a warning, useless as it was: "The shoals!" His coffee cup smashed on the floor as he sprang to pull the warning siren. A whooping wall shattered the still morning, but it was too late. The ship lifted as her bow ground on the rising underwater sandbar.

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Carroll A. Deering was solved.

"Deering captured by oil-burning boat something like chaser," it read, "taking off everything, handcuffing crew. Crew hiding all over ship. No chance to make escape. Finder please notify headquarters of Deering."

The note was unsigned, but government handwriting experts said the writing was that of Henry Bates of Islesboro, Maine, one of the Deering's crew members. Reviewing the note and the condition of the ship, Coast Guard officers could finally say what had probably happened aboard the Deering.

Ships loading cargo at Barbados sometimes took aboard cases of unlawful whiskey for sale in the United States. A ship as big as the Deering could carry whiskey worth a million dollars or more. Its entire cargo was probably whiskey and no other freight.

Somewhere near the United States coast, gangsters, using small but powerful World War I submarine-patrol ships, boarded the Deering. They murdered the crew and cut the lifeboats adrift to make it look as if the crew had left the ship. Then they moved the cargo of whiskey to their own boats. They left the Deering's sails set. Winds drove the ship toward shore.

The cats had witnessed the terrible crime, but they of course could tell nothing. Coast Guard officers agreed that the case was solved. The bottle note had indeed solved the mystery of the ghost ship Carroll A. Deering.

"Five Ponies, 150 Dogs Remaining . . ."

On his last expedition to the Arctic in 1901-1902, the famous explorer Evelyn Baldwin became lost. His party's supplies were nearly gone when Baldwin wrote a note in both Norwegian and English, placed it in a bottle, and threw it into the Arctic Ocean.

Forty-seven years later, a Russian fisherman found the bottle on the edge of an ice pack near Villditski Strait. Unable to read the message, he took it to Murmansk. There, authorities read:

"Five ponies and 150 dogs remaining. Desire hay, fish, and 30 sledges. Must return early in August." It was signed "Evelyn Baldwin."

How the bottle survived nearly half a century without being crushed in drifting ice packs is a mystery. But

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survive it did. What was not a mystery was what had happened to Evelyn Baldwin and his men. The explorer had led his party safely out of the Arctic and to the United States. He died in 1933—in bed at his home in New York—sixteen years before his desperate message was found by the Russian fisherman.

Cape Sheridan, 1905: Peary Was Here!

Another Arctic explorer who placed a message in a bottle was Commander Robert Peary, an American naval officer who, in 1909, was the first man to reach the North Pole.

Before his discovery, however, Peary had made an earlier try at reaching "90 north," the geographical top of the world.

In the fall of 1905, Peary's ship *Roosevelt* nosed into Robeson Channel off Cape Sheridan, Ellesmere Island, Canada, 550 miles south of the Pole.

As he walked up the rocky shore, Peary came upon a cairn—a mound of stones or rock. Arctic explorers often built cairns and left bottle messages in them to prove they had actually visited a particular place. This cairn

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held a letter from Sir George Nares, an earlier English explorer. Nares had visited the Arctic with a British expedition in 1875-1976.

Peary took Nare's letter, made a copy, and placed it in a whiskey bottle in a new cairn. With the copy, he placed a letter that told about his own expedition.

Peary did not reach the Pole on that attempt. However, when he returned to the Arctic four years later, he reached the North Pole by another route.

Meanwhile, Peary's handwritten report of his 1905 expedition stayed safely in the cairn on Cape Sheridan through forty-three severe winters. Then, in the late summer of 1948, twenty-eight years after Peary died, three Canadian and United States ships entered the same waters off Cape Sheridan, carrying food and supplies for weather-station crews deep in the Arctic wilderness.

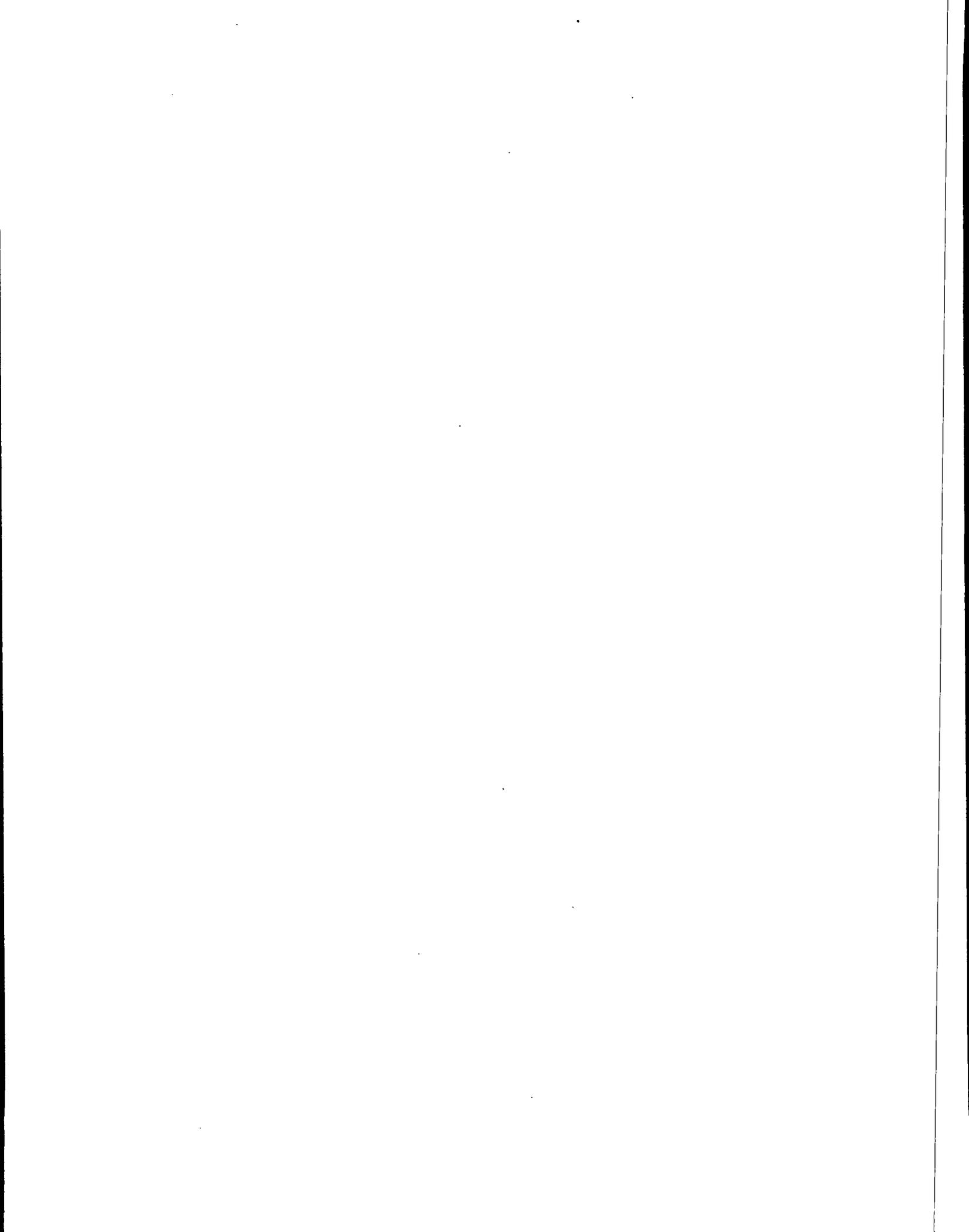
Naval officers on the ships knew of Peary's cairn and were on the lookout for it. A weatherman, Charles Hubbard, was the first to see it. The cairn was marked with a wooden cross. On the cross Peary had marked a large R for his ship *Roosevelt*. Hubbard took apart the mound of flat shale. Inside he found an old Scotch-whisky bottle. In it was the letter Peary had written forty-three years earlier.

Hubbard took the bottle back to his ship. There he made copies of both Peary's letter and Sir George Nares's letter. Ice was getting thick in Robeson Chan-

Cape Sheridan, 1905: Peary Was Here!

nel, so Hubbard used a helicopter to fly back to Cape Sheridan, where he built a new cairn. In it he placed another bottle that held copies of both Peary's and Nares' letters.

The bottle may still be there today holding its letters safe from the cruel polar weather, waiting for the next Arctic traveler to come along.



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Exhibit O

STRANGE STORIES, AMAZING FACTS

Reader's Digest

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Pleasantville, New York
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Stories that are bizarre,
unusual,
odd,
astounding,
and often incredible

STRANGE STORIES, AMAZING FACTS

Reader's Digest

Paolina and Ake Viking were married in Sicily in the autumn of 1958, thanks to a far-traveling bottle. Two years earlier Ake, a bored young Swedish sailor on a ship far out at sea, had dropped a bottle overboard with a message asking any pretty girl who found it to write.

Paolina's father, a Sicilian fisherman, picked it up and passed it to his daughter for a joke. Continuing the joke, Paolina sent off a note to the young sailor. The correspondence quickly grew warmer. Ake visited Sicily, and the marriage soon followed their first meeting.

Surviving hurricanes

Fragile as it is, a well-sealed bottle is one of the world's most seaworthy objects. It will bob safely through hurricanes that can sink great ships. And for most practical purposes glass lasts forever. In 1954, 18 bottles were salvaged from a ship sunk 250 years before off the English coast. The liquor in them was unrecognizable, but the bottles were good as new.

It is impossible to predict the direction a bottle will take. Of two bottles dropped together off the Brazilian coast, one drifted east for 130 days and was found on a beach in Africa; the other floated northwest for 190 days, reaching Nicaragua. Speed is also bound to vary according to wind and current. A bottle might be completely becalmed or, if caught up by the Gulf Stream at its raciest, might travel along at four knots and cover as many as 100 miles a day.

The longest voyage

The longest bottle voyage ever is thought to have been made by a bottle known as the Flying Dutchman. It was launched by a German scientific expedition in 1929 in the southern Indian Ocean. Inside was a message, which could be read without breaking the bottle, asking the finder to report where he found it and throw it back into the sea.

It apparently caught an eastgoing current, which carried it to the southern tip of South America. There it was found, reported, and thrown back again several times. Eventually, it moved out into the Atlantic, then again into the Indian Ocean, passing roughly the spot

SEND IT BY BOTTLE

Messages can cross the world sealed with a cork

where it had been dropped, and was cast ashore on the west coast of Australia in 1935. It had covered 16,000 miles in 2,447 days—a respectable average of more than 6 nautical miles a day.

Charts compiled from bottles
When he was postmaster general for the American colonies, Benjamin Franklin realized that because their whaler captains knew the currents much better than their English counterparts, American ships were crossing the Atlantic much quicker than the British mail packers. He therefore compiled a chart using both the whalers' lore and information he obtained by dropping bottles into the Gulf Stream and asking the finders to return them. The information he recorded is little changed today. Since then both the British and U.S. Navies have used bottles extensively to compile intricate current charts. And the movement of oil slicks, mines, and even fish have been predicted with the help of seaborne bottles.

Of course, a number of bottles have been dispatched containing strange messages. Elizabeth I once received an intelligence report by this means and was so disconcerted to find it had been opened by a boatman at Dover that she appointed an official Un opener of Bottles and decreed that no unauthorized person might open a message-carrying bottle, on pain of death.

In 1875 the crew of the Canadian bark *Lennie* mutinied and murdered the officers. A steward who was spared because he could navigate steered them to the French coast, telling them it was Spain, and surreptitiously dropped several bottles over the side revealing the whole story. The French authorities found one, boarded the ship, and arrested the surprised mutineers.

Torpedoed destroyer

A message found on a beach in Maine in 1944 read: "Our ship is sinking. SOS didn't do any good. Think it's the end. Maybe this message will get to the U.S. some day." It was identified as coming from the USS *Beatty*, a destroyer torpedoed with heavy loss of life somewhere off Gibraltar on November 6, 1943.

In 1933 a bottle was found in Tasmania 37 years after it had been dropped overboard by

South Africa. A head stretched to days of hardship and hazard—10 days that helped to shape the history of British garrison fighting desperately for its life. Behind them lay a beleaguered Salisbury Island. Behind them lay a beleaguered out, their horses swimming behind them, to Africa's Durban harbor. There they were rowed the darkness and crept unseen to South Africa's Durban harbor. There they were rowed his Zulu servant boy stole quietly into South Africa. Shortly before midnight, Dick King and

Farmer's 10-day ride brought relief to besieged town

HORSEBACK TREK FOR HELP

The strangest case was perhaps that of Chunosuke Matsuyama, a Japanese seaman who was Delayed message The mother of one of the soldiers recognized the handwriting of her son who had been killed in action in 1918. Two Australian soldiers on their way to France in a troopship. before he and his companions died of starvation on a Pacific coral reef, Matsuyama carved a brief account of their tragedy on a piece of wood, sealed it in a bottle, and then threw it into the sea. It was washed up 150 years later in 1935 at the very seaside village where Matsuyama had been born.

