

Lestoil Colored Flasks

The following is an excerpt from a letter written to Mr. Don Tupper who was a past newsletter editor for the Empire State Bottle Collector's Association (Syracuse club). Don was the editor back during the 1980's and was a worthy steward of his time. Some twenty years ago, newsletters were still being produced by pounding on typewriter keys and there was no such thing as a home computer. This information was printed in a 1980 issue of *Bits and Pieces*, the newsletter of the ESBCA.

Dear Mr. Tupper:

Please accept our apology for the delay in answering your letter of September 22, 1980 requesting information on earlier editions of the Lestoil bottle.

We discussed your letter with a member of our technical staff who was formerly with Standard Household Products when these special bottles were in use. He supplied us with the following information.

- 1.) Lestoil detergent was packaged in a colonial bottle strictly as a promotional item. The product itself had been around since the mid 1930's.
- 2.) The colonial bottle idea was tried from around the mid-1964 to the mid-1965 period in several short selective runs.
- 3.) Only four major colors were offered: green, blue, purple and amber. The reason for the variation in shading was that the same glass tank was used for all of the glass bottles made. Consequently, as the desired production quantity of one color was reached, the glass was diluted with the next color.
- 4.) The amber glass bottle was found to have an inherent defect and was, therefore, not used for product filling in any great numbers. Incidentally, he felt the amber bottle was the prettiest.

We hope you find this information helpful.



Editor's note: These bottles are colorful and make good window bottles. Although they are considered common because so many were made and saved, they certainly are collectable and will become more so in the future. Recently, member Kevin Gallagher brought in an amber example for show and tell. After reading the above information we now know the history behind these bottles and that the amber ones are the scarcest. If anyone happens to run into Don Tupper, tell him he did a good job on researching these Lestoil bottles.
