1.
Object type: Small bottle
Museum number: 1997,0423.1.A2
Title: Holy Water bottle
Description: Bottle is constructed of glass, with raised lettering reading “HOLY WATER.” A raised cross is situated between the two words. The bottle is stopped with a cork, with hollow metal tubing running through vertically. An engraved metal cap screws onto the tubing.
Culture/period:
Date: Bottle produced circa 1850
Production place: Unknown
Findspot: Reno, NV
Materials: Glass, tin, cork
Technique: Engraved; glass casting
Curator’s comments: Bottle believed to have been typical of the kinds of cure-alls carried by a snake oil salesman who traveled through Nevada. Cap is believed to have been adapted from a 15th century child's ring; glass bottles of similar make have been found in the area with traditional cork stoppers. Bottle was purchased by a Carson Valley sheriff, and was said to be found on his person after he was shot by escaping train robbers.
Bibliography:
Aceti 1980
Stimler 1985
Barrett-Small 1999
Aceti 1999
Brown 2002

Acquisition date: 1977-02-13
Department: American West Studies
Exhibition History
'Cowboys! Indians!'
'Showdown at Carson Corral'
'Glassworks of the West'
'The Things They Carried - trinkets, charms, and personal effects of the old west'
'American Hustle: A History of the Art of the Sale'