

JAN. - FEB. 1974

\$ 1.50

the miniature bottle collector

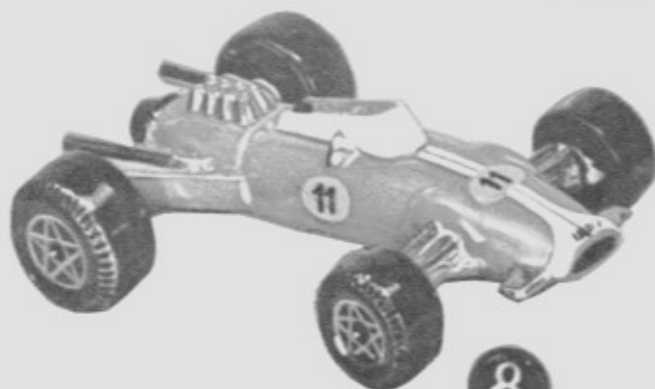


Times Square Liquor Store

715 8th Avenue-at 45th. St. New York, N.Y. 10036



F
A
M
O
U
S
F
I
R
S
T
S



PLUS the WINNIE MAE, the SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS, and soon many others.

EXCLUSIVE NEW YORK DEALERS

for
LUXARDO

WILDLIFE and DOMESTIC ANIMALS



ANNOUNCEMENT

THE miniature bottle collector

Introducing the first issue of THE miniature bottle collector Magazine. It is devoted to exploring and examining the many diverse areas in the world of the miniature collector. This magazine is not meant to be glanced at or leafed through; it is intended to be thoroughly read as a reference guide and an entertainment. If you decide to subscribe, doing it now will save you three dollars. It's an investment in knowledge.

EACH ISSUE YOU'LL FIND:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| M. B. C..... | by Mary Aiken |
| SMALL SUDS..... | Jean Fugina |
| SKI COUNTRY..... | Dennis Kowalski |
| FINEST FIGURALS..... | Tony Natelli |
| ...ABOUT SNUFF BOTTLES..... | Melville A. Spaid |
| SOUTH AMERICAN COLLECTING... | Alfredo Spinelli |

and many other surprises!

Subscribing to THE miniature bottle collector places you in the unique position of having the world of miniatures delivered to your home.

THE miniature bottle collector
P. O. BOX 2161
Palos Verdes Peninsula,
California 90274

Charter Subscription: \$6 per year
Please send the next six issues to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The BIG Journal of LITTLE Collectibles.
January-February 1974 Vol. 1, No. 1

THE miniature bottle collector

EDITOR/
PUBLISHER
DAVID M. SPAID

ART
ROBERT STAAKE

- page 3 NOTES AND WRITERS
David M. Spaid
- 4 CALENDAR, JAN.-FEB.
What to do and when to do it!
- 5 WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND...
A look at the past and future.
- 7 SKI COUNTRY
Dennis D. Kowalski
- 10 NEW FROM ITALY
Our Cover Story.
- 12 SMALL SUDS
Jeanne Fugina
- 16 FASCINATING FIGURALS
Tony Natelli
- 18 MINIS IN ARGENTINA
Alfredo Spinelli
- 20 M. B. C.
Mary Aiken
- 24 AN INTRODUCTION TO SNUFF BOTTLES
Melville A. Spaid

Copyright (applied for) 1973. BRISCO PUBLICATIONS Published bi-monthly. P. O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274. Subscription rate \$6.00 per year, \$1.50. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return envelopes and postage. Publisher assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or art. All rights reserved.

bottle contents

This is usually the space designed for a publisher to say a few words about his new publication. Our virtues are naturally many while our shortcomings are few and far between. . . . we hope.

The idea for this magazine was born when it was realized that a successful format such as that used by the Pictorial Bottle Review Magazine was missing in the miniature collector's field. With the appearance of this very first issue, that void has been filled.

The high and lofty phrases such as the ones you've just read above are often nothing more than empty rhetoric. We could continue to revel in self-praise but that is rather meaningless when you are the final judge.

So turn the pages and enjoy. If these were liner notes for a new record, we could say that the product speaks for itself; however, this isn't a record so all we can really do is paraphrase a well-known line (while mixing a metaphor) and say, "let your eyeballs do the walking." After finishing this issue, we hope you'll come to the same conclusions we did in our opening paragraph. Once again, enjoy.

David M. Spaid

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Alfredo Spinelli is from Argentina and is one of the few people around who is able to truthfully say that his whole life is devoted to miniature bottles. Mr. Spinelli both designs and markets plain and fancy miniatures as well as being a very avid collector. You'll be seeing more of his interesting articles here in our upcoming issues.

By day Dennis Kowalski fills his working hours with facts, figures, and proposals at a Denver based firm. Off hours, however, are dedicated to mini bottles in almost every style, shape, and form. This month Dennis brings us up to date with Ski Country and presents some very interesting background information.

Mary Aiken is another representative of the distaff side of our writing corps. Rather new to collecting circles, Ms. Aiken frankly admits to rabid enthusiasm for her subject. . . which just happens to be M. B. C. bottles and their growing popularity.

Nepotism usually refers to favoritism shown by fathers to sons. With our first issue, we reverse the process as Melville A. Spaid unfolds the many-faceted world of snuff bottles. If this is your first exposure to snuff bottles, we guarantee it won't be your last.

If you've been a collector of miniatures for longer than one month, you have naturally heard the name Tony Natelli. Tony has run the collecting gamut from scotch to figurals to beers and back to scotch again. He'll be showing you some real beauties in the figural line each time. Turn to page 16 and see if you don't agree.

Contd. on page 28

THE BOTTLE CALENDAR

- or -

WHAT & WHEN

Each issue we'd like to list as many bottle activities as we possibly can. The listings will be free to any and all. Send to us all the particulars about meeting times and places, bottle shows and sales, friendly get togethers, or just anything you feel other collectors would have an interest in. Remember, it's to your advantage. Keep those cards and letters coming, folks.

BOTTLE SHOWS



VEGAS

VIC

says

COME TO THE
SOUTHERN NEVADA
ANTIQUÉ
BOTTLE CLUB

9th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

JANUARY 19-20, 1974

LAS VEGAS
CONVENTION CENTER
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

and

WHERE WE'RE GOING

In all probability, this is by no means your first exposure to the world of miniature bottles. If by some small chance it is, then an extra special HOWDY to you. Of course, no slight is intended to those of you who are old-timers in miniature collecting, you're the greatest.

The first regular appearance of my writings about miniature bottles was in the June 1970 issue of Pictorial Bottle Review. At that time, I wrote a very broad overview as sort of an introduction to miniature collecting in general. Since that was three and a half years ago, let's take a look at what's been happening since then.

In 1970 there were fourteen states which generally allowed the sale of most miniatures. The words generally and most have been used since some states like Wisconsin and Massachusetts only allow a limited selling area while New York allows everything except the sale of wines and whiskeys. At present, efforts are being made to legalize the sale of minis in both Arizona and New Jersey. Indeed, by the time this appears legalization may have already occurred.

Also in 1970 the sale of minis in Canada was an almost unheard of occurrence. Presently, the Province of Ontario is selling miniature bottles much to the delight of Canadian collectors. Some of the western Provinces may also legalize the sale momentarily.

In that first article, the Rynbende Company of Holland was spotlighted and their delft and blown glass animals were shown. Today Rynbende is making no more miniatures for general consumption and is only supplying KLM Airlines with the 27 different delft houses. Yes, you read that correctly. Unless some major changes are made, the delft and blown glass pieces which are found in stores are the end of the line.

However, the Rynbende Company is the exception that tests the rule. More companies have either begun production or have returned to the fold after a long hiatus. The Drioli Company continued to release bottles after the success of their 1969 line. The Garnier Company began again after a twenty year absence while the Luxardo Co. returned after a ten year lay off period.

But those are simply examples of companies which have been well known among collectors for decades. Add to those names those already listed in our table of contents such as M. B. C., Lionstone, Ski-Country, Famous Firsts, etc. and then also add all the names of companies whose bottles have been brought back to the U. S. from foreign travel. The names McLech, Barsottini, Rutherford, Bols, I. D. A., Fortune Teller, Brams, St. Galmier are ones which you might have thought of with no effort at all.

The ensuing three and a half years has also seen the formation of many clubs devoted solely to miniature bottle collecting as well as many other bottle clubs which make minis a regular part of their proceedings. The Lilliputian Club has the largest group of collectors at a meeting followed closely by the Bay Area Club in Northern California, the East Coast Mini Club, the Northwest Mini Collectors Club in Portland, and the Wee Bottle Club International in Las Vegas. Groups are also meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, Albuquerque, N. M., Pennsylvania, and Phoenix.

And finally, in 1970 there was very little information available concerning minis. The Miniature Bottle Mart was in its infancy and has grown to great proportions. Bob Snyder has three marvelous editions out in his Bottles in Miniature series and likewise Cembura and Avery have three

Contd. on page 28

SKI COUNTRY BOTTLE CLUB

of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

| SKI COUNTRY | RELEASE DATE | MINIATURE MINIMUM CLUB PRICE |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| MAJESTIC EAGLE | In Stock | \$24.95 |
| SNOWY OWL | " " | \$19.95 |
| PEACOCK | " " | \$10.95 |
| GILA WOODPECKER | " " | \$10.95 |
| RED SHOULDERED HAWK | " " | \$19.95 |
| RAM | " " | \$10.95 |
| LEADVILLE LADIES | " " | \$29.95 pr. |
| CALIFORNIA CONDOR | " " | \$10.95 |
| GOLDEN EAGLE | " " | \$10.95 |
| MALLARD DUCK | " " | \$10.95 |
| PEACE DOVE | " " | \$10.95 |
| CANADIAN GOOSE | Soon | \$10.95 |
| MOUNTAIN LION | Soon | \$10.95 |
| FOX ON A LOG | Dec. or Jan. | \$10.95 |
| HARPY EAGLE | Dec. or Jan. | |
| ELEPHANT ON A DRUM | January | \$12.50 |
| COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES BURRO | January | \$10.95 |
| CIGAR STORE INDIAN | January | |
| AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN | Jan. or Feb. | \$10.95 |
| OSPREY | February | \$10.95 |

***NOTE: Postage & Insurance - \$1.25 per bottle

Your \$5.00 membership fee enters you into both the Local Club and the National Club, and Ski-Country Bottle Club will credit you with \$3.00 of that money off anyone of the following bottle purchases.

MEMBERSHIP \$5.00 (\$3.00 will be credited to First bottle purchased.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

SKI-COUNTRY BOTTLE CLUB of SO. CALIF.
c/o Zee Guidotti
3148 N. Walnut Grove
Rosemead, CA. 91770
(213) 288-3441

SKI COUNTRY

by

Dennis Kowalski



PEACOCK



SNOWY OWL



GILA WOODPECKER



RED SHOULDER HAWK



RAM



CANADIAN GOOSE



HARPY EAGLE



PEACE DOVE

SKI COUNTRY VISIT

Welcome to Ski Country. Certainly you're already a native, aren't you? For those ski buffs who think this column will be devoted to the white powdery slopes of the Colorado Rockies, read on, for you will be surprised.

The Ski Country I refer to is a brand name of Straight Bourbon Whiskey that is distilled and bottled by the Weston Springs Distilling Company in Weston, Missouri, and marketed exclusively through the Foss Drug Company in Golden, Colorado. Ah, yes, there is a little tiny relationship to Ski Country, Colorado; however, bottled Bourbon whiskey is still bourbon whiskey no matter where it's bought, right? Wrong. The unique feature about Ski Country bourbon is the container; and if you are a bottle collector, this is one series of bottles you won't want to miss. In a little over a year, more and more collectors have jumped on the Ski Country bandwagon and each month countless numbers of people who have never numbered themselves among the miniature bottle collector ranks are starting collections because they got interested when they first came across some of the Ski Country birds.

The Foss Drug Company (who is responsible for all those Ski Country bottles) is as much a landmark to Golden, Colorado, as Schwabs Drug Store is to Hollywood, California, only the stars we speak of here are, of course, the bottles. Established in 1913 by Henry Foss, the Company operated out of a 1300 sq. foot store. Still owned and operated by the family, Foss Drug is currently expanding its operations and is known in Golden, Colorado, as the complete place to shop.

All collectors want to get their prized bottles as inexpensively as possible and everyone everywhere has a right to moan and groan that prices are hitting almost heavenly heights. It's true, there's no doubt about it. Prices are getting out of hand... but that's because quality costs money. Now naturally that's a statement that's open to interpretation. Tacitly, the idea has been put forth that Ski Country bottles are a high quality product. And, if you don't agree with that, you need read no farther. But on the off chance that you're still hanging in there, let's continue.

As certainly all of you must know by now, all of the Ski Country bottles are produced in Japan. And, if you keep up with your current events, you also know that over the past two years there have been two major dollar devaluations in Japan and that their inflation has been zooming upward. At this point many argue that there must be places here in the U.S. where bottles with such fantastic detail and incredibly life-like design could be made. Well, sir, find that ceramic factory and your fortune has been assured because a legion of companies will beat a path to your door. But, we digress.

These ideas of great detail and life-like design are what have helped to spur the individual who simply desires beautiful ceramic pieces to become a full-fledged collector of miniature bottles. It's not the rare story of the person who begins with one or two bottles because he or she happens to like birds or some type of animal and then goes on to add more and more bottles until a collection takes shape. So even though we may be paying more for these and other bottles,

S K I COUNTRY

- ___ 1. MAJESTIC EAGLE
- ___ 2. SNOWY OWL
- ___ 3. PEACOCK
- ___ 4. GILA WOODPECKER
- ___ 5. RED SHOULDERED HAWK
- ___ 6. RAM
- ___ 7. BABY DOE TABOR
- ___ 8. MOLLY BROWN
- ___ 9. CALIFORNIA CONDOR
- ___ 10. GOLDEN EAGLE
- ___ 11. MALLARD DUCK
- ___ 12. PEACE DOVE
- ___ 13. CANADIAN GOOSE
- ___ 14. MOUNTAIN LION
- ___ 15. FOX ON A LOG
- ___ 16. HARPY EAGLE
- ___ 17. ELEPHANT ON A DRUM
- ___ 18. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
BURRO
- ___ 19. AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN
- ___ 20. OSPREY
- ___ 21. CIGAR STORE INDIAN



coming
soon



N E W



from

Г Р А Д С К



Sarandrea's by

David M. Spaid

Exactly what can you say about the bottles you first saw on our cover? The range of adjectives usually runs all the way from "beautiful" to "fantastic." To my way of thinking, both apply.

These bottles first appeared in the United States when a Northern California collector, Mr. Sherman Silver of Oakland, received them in a package from another collector friend in Italy. Then in the early fall, many sets including the ones pictured for you were hand carried back from Italy by other collectors. The mark of truly fine miniatures to me is often whether or not the bottle or bottles are easily accepted by non-miniature collectors. These quickly passed the test as overwhelming acceptance has been the rule with these bottles.

Now, if you're not too certain as to precisely what these statues are even though they seem terribly familiar, don't despair. The bottles represent the famous statues of David, Moses, and the Pieta. Unfortunately, the demand has so far outweighed the supply everywhere as the bottles were even a limited edition in Italy by the Sarandrea Company. The specific pieces pictured here for you are in the dark, matte-type finish while there is also another set of three which were released in a shiny, white finish. Both sets are equally rare.

Bottles from the Sarandrea Company have been featured several times in different articles by different writers. It's not at all uncommon when you realize the number of bottles this company has issued. You'll be reading more about some of their bottles in future issues.

--DMS--





by

jeanne

fugina

When Bob and I were asked to provide a series of articles on miniature beers, we had mixed emotions. While we would enjoy sharing our collection with others, we had to admit that we did not have too much information concerning the background of the miniature beers and the breweries they represent. We agreed to do the articles because we wanted to share our collection and the information we have been able to obtain regarding these beers and because we hope to gain information from fellow collectors.

The primary interest of many mini beer collectors seems to center on the recent beer miniatures put out since prohibition ended in 1933. We also consider the so-called pre-prohibition minis, which were sample bottles provided by a number of breweries prior to the start of prohibition in 1919 as a part of our mini collection. These bottles are extremely hard to come by and a collector should consider himself very lucky to have two or three in his collection. Most of the bottles are bigger than the modern mini (5 to 7 inches) and appear to have been made from the late 1800's through the early 1900's.

One characteristic of a particularly fine pre-prohibition beer sample is the amount of embossing (raised lettering) on the bottle. To have a pre-prohibition mini with a label still intact is a real treasure. Most of the collectors we know do attempt to add these items to their collections and while we all know of the fleamarket find, the going price is about \$35.00. A number of collectors started out, as we did, not considering these pre-prohibition samples as miniature beers. When we started collecting, we felt the sample was too big, some did not have labels, and they just did not seem to fit in with the modern mini beers in our collection. We happily traded away a Fredricksburg pre-prohibition (San Francisco brewery) and to this day have not found another.

Just to give you an idea of the range of pre-prohibition samples potentially available, the number of breweries in existence at the turn of the century numbered about 2,000. The number of breweries back in operation after prohibition ended was about 750. The number in existence in 1969 was 148, which shows the effect modern bottling methods and improved transportation has had on the industry.

a

little

déjà

vu

The modern beer miniature was predominantly produced during the 1935 to 1950 period. Remember now, the number of breweries in operation during that period was around 700. This is no way, however, should suggest the number of miniature beer variations available since in our collection we have, for example, 8 Goetz Country Club variations and 22 Blatz variations. We guess the miniature beer variation potential should be at about 600 to 700. We have over 340 different label or size variations on bottles in our collection and most of our fellow collectors have described labels we have never even seen.

What we plan to do in this series of articles is to picture many of the "rare" beer labels and to provide you with as much background concerning the breweries as possible. We hope that these articles can be a joint effort and that many collectors will provide us with pictures of rare beers they have and the background they have relative to breweries represented, so that we may also use this column for sharing all information.

A number of potential collectors have been discouraged because they have heard it is too late to start collecting miniature beers. In our view, this is not correct. The bottles still may be found. For example, we started our collection only 2-1/2 years ago. Friends have had similar success, so don't be discouraged. Collecting is not a "constant find" situation as most collectors know. We have added 20 beers in one month and then nothing for 3 months. So, if you are aware that this is the way they are likely to be added to your collection, you won't become frustrated. Modern beer miniatures range in price from \$2 to \$15 depending on rarity and condition. The fleamarket find, by all means, is still the most satisfying.

A word about mini beer "go-withs." We like anything in the miniature beer area—mini cans, figurines, mugs, back bar pieces, and tip trays. Finding these items can add to the general interest and color of a collection. While the beers we will picture will be in black and white, unfortunately not showing the excellent colors on many of the labels, we will attempt to describe col-

or. We will also indicate what we believe is the going price for each bottle.

Pre-prohibition samples pictured, all in the \$35.00 category, are (1) John Wieland, 5-3/4 inches tall, brown bottle, embossed "John Wieland Export Beer SF." Label color - blue, red, and gold. Label indicates an 1886 award for Best Lager Beer. The Wieland Brewery moved from San Francisco to San Jose in the 1890's and ceased to operate as Wielands in 1952 when purchased by the Falstaff Brewing Company. (2) Red Lion, 5-1/2 inches tall, brown bottle, embossed "Aug J. Lang, San Francisco, Cal." Label color - blue, gold with red lion. We haven't been able to find brewery background (can anyone help?), however, the label indicates this bottle was produced during or after 1906. (3) Rainier, 5-3/4 inches tall, brown bottle, embossed "Rainier Beer Seattle USA." Label color - red, white and blue. Seattle Washington Brewing and Malting Co., which used the Rainier label, began operation around 1898. This bottle was probably produced around 1900 (4) Pabst Brewing Co., 6 inches tall, not embossed. Label color - red, white and blue. The Pabst Brewing Co. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been in operation since the late 1890's. This bottle would appear to have been produced after 1890. (5) Schlitz, 6 inches tall, brown bottle, embossed (on bottom only) "Schlitz Milwaukee." Label color - red, white and blue. The Schlitz Brewery was established in 1856 and continues today. This bottle appears to have been produced around 1900. (6) Betz's Best, 5-1/2 inches tall, brown bottle, not embossed. Label color - black, red, and white. Label indicates bottle is a souvenir of the 1893 World's Fair. The Betz Brewery of Philadelphia started operation around 1880 and has since closed.

In the next article, we will cover a number of hard to find "modern beer miniatures." See you then.

JMF



P R E



P
R
O
H
I
B
I
T
I
O
N



B E E R S

Fascinating Figurals



by **Tony Natelli**

The Barsottini Company of Certaldo, Italy, produced some of the finest, most wanted, imaginative ceramic figurals circa 1958-1965 (approximately). But their set of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is undoubtedly not only their finest issue but perhaps the zenith of all miniature figurals.

Identical reproductions of the famed Disney characters, these were sold mainly in England with a few sets staying in Italy and a couple of sets which trickled into Oregon during 1962-1963. The sets contained various Barsottini wines such as Vin Santo and Lacrima Chrysti.



Unfortunately for collectors, Snow White, Doc, Dopey, Sneezy, Sleepy, Bashful, Grumpy, and Happy are next to impossible to find. This is due to the fact that they were almost immediately removed from the market because of a royalty problem with the Disney Company. Thus, a very limited quantity were produced. On top of this, due to their limited quantity and the popularity of the subject, the limited amount was obviously quickly snapped up by collector and non-collector alike. All of this further contributed to the non-availability of the bottles.

The bottles themselves stand four and three-quarters inches high and are decked out in brilliant colors. It is doubtful if more than a dozen or so collectors in the United States are fortunate enough to own a set. They are a highlight of even the most spectacular collection.



from around

the world...



about argentine mini's

by

alfredo spinelli

COMO SE COLECCIONA

EN ARGENTINA

---or---

HOW MINIATURES ARE
COLLECTED IN ARGENTINA

For many years now many people have taken on the custom of collecting miniatures that the distilleries and warehouses have distributed. These were distributed as samples to try the product. In the course of years, small collections were formed. Thus without giving count, many persons became small collectors without knowing about each other.

At the end of 1955 we got together and in this way got to know each other, exchanged ideas and miniatures. The collections were increased day by day and our acquaintances also. I don't believe that in any other country of the world are so many miniatures and such good pieces kept in particular collections as they are here in Argentina. In many collections are kept previous treasures and few are the countries which are not represented in these collections.

The system of collecting is very particular. The collectors don't buy all the miniatures which appear in all parts of the world. This would become very costly and occupy too much space. However, there also exist universal collections which are very important. The biggest of these has over 12,000 miniatures with more than 70 countries represented. The majority of the collectors are governed or directed by an order or system of which I am proud to say I am the author.

This system divides the miniatures in diverse ways:

- 1) By their content: whisky, cognac, wines, liquors - a single type of drink from all parts of the world.
- 2) By their origin: a Country, a Continent, a miniature from each country.
- 3) By their form: animals, people, houses, means of transportation, etc.
- 4) By their material: ceramics, clay (earthenware), and basketry.

With this system, the collections are smaller and more specialized.

A good collection of Argentine miniatures includes both the antique and the modern. Kept small, this can reach a total of 1800 different miniatures. Only 600 of these are found today in the market. The other 1200 are considerably rarer. Many of these bottles are very well-known international brands which have been available since the beginning of the century. Among these can be found the following: Cusenier, Bols, Terry, Martini, Queens Castle, Cointreau, and Cinzano.



M B C





M B C

by

Mary Aiken

At a bottle meeting a few months ago, a man new to the ranks of miniature collectors and collecting stopped at a table upon which stood several different minis. His gaze shifted from bottle to bottle until he finally reached out and selected one. The bottle he had chosen was the blue M.B.C. Stein. The conversation which then ensued went as follows:

"Say, just what is this M. B. C. ?" asked our new collector with the Stein clutched tightly in his hand.

"Well, from the quality of that bottle you're holding, it's definitely a much better company." The bottle dealer in our conversation said it all with a perfectly straight face while our collector (who by that time had been severely bitten by the bottle bug) made his purchase.

Throughout the evening various people stopped to ask about the M. B. C. bottles and were given the same answers. Those answers always included the words "much better company." No one caught on to the game which was being played. I say game because the initials M.B.C. do not specifically stand for "much better company;" however, in many respects you may shortly agree that the little joke was not without its serious points.

The M.B.C. initials actually signify "Miniature Bottle Collectors." The idea for the company and all the bottles rests with just one man, Joe Kaufenberg. Because of his determination to break into the miniature field, collectors now have an ample selection of delightful miniatures which otherwise just simply would not either have been filled and/or made.

That last bit of information may seem a little strange to some of you who are only familiar with certain of the M.B.C. bottles such as the Steins, Slot Machines, Horseshoes, etc. However, take a long look at all of the bottles which have been issued full of either wine or bourbon. You'll notice on our check list that many bottles have a very familiar ring. Yes, the Battle of Concord set is the set which was made for Mogen David but never filled. The same may be said for many of the other bottles such as the Banker and the Western Characters which most of you know as the original Lionstone set.

Now Joe didn't make those bottles but he did buy up all that were available and had them filled to be sold by whatever retail outlets wanted them. So far those outlets may be found in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, and one or two Eastern states. Stores in





these states handle only those bottles they want so certain pieces will be seen only in certain states and/or stores.

The bottles which Joe has been responsible for begin with the three Laurel and Hardy bottles which first were issued back in 1971. At that time the bottles were sold empty along with other Laurel and Hardy merchandise. Then in the summer of 1972, a decision was reached which eventually made possible the two Golden Roosters and the Reno Horseshoes. Both of these bottles were initially made for Reno area customers. As both bottles sold quite briskly, the thought was naturally, why not do other bottles.

With this in mind, several pilgrimages were made to both Reno and Las Vegas to see just exactly what retailers, distributors, and (of course) collectors wanted in the way of new ceramic miniatures. Somewhere along the line, the idea for a miniature slot machine came into being as did the mini stein.

The original merchandising technique was one which really so far hadn't been used by anyone involved with miniatures. The technique was to see if the bottles could be a success with scores of non-collectors before they were marketed to collectors. Incredibly enough, the bottles almost began to walk out of the liquor stores and casinos in which they were placed. More and more orders were taken until the halt had to be called. It was felt that obviously no one bottle should be done to death. So, if you happen to have a bottle or two you'll know exactly who to blame. Of course, you'll also know who to praise when some of your bottles start climbing in value due to their quick disappearance off the liquor store shelves.

Before I sign off for this time, I'd like to talk about one more phenomenon which has occurred. I've noticed a good deal of talk among some collec-

tors that they worry about new expensive bottles and the possible future value of some of these issues. Their primary worry it seems is that newer bottles are made in unlimited issues and therefore are likely to be that well-known "drag on the market." These people seem to forget (at least where the M. B. C. bottles are concerned) is that the bottles are selling briskly to the general public and the odds naturally are that some of the non-collectors who buy are going to become collectors. So essentially new collectors are being born daily and if you're anything like I am, the knowledge that there are new collectors around is pretty exciting. It's exciting to me because I know that I'll have some new friends with whom I can both talk and trade bottles. So while a particular bottle might not be my cup of tea, my new collector friend may find that's just the bottle that he or she can't live without. And that, fellow collectors, is what makes the (collecting) world go round.

That's it for this time. In my next column I'll have some information and pictures of new bottles for you. Surprises await.

---mary.a.---



M. B. C. guide

- ___ 1. LAUREL & HARDY IN CAR
- ___ 2. STAN LAUREL
- ___ 3. OLIVER HARDY
- ___ 4. GOLDEN ROOSTER (black base)
- ___ 5. GOLDEN ROOSTER (white base)
- ___ 6. GOLDEN HORSESHOE
- ___ 7. SILVER HORSESHOE
- ___ 8. 1ST NATIONAL BANK BANKER
- ___ 9. THE BROTHER (by Amana)
- ___ 10. THE SISTER (by Amana)
- ___ 11. ANTIQUE PEDDLER (for P.B.R.)
- ___ 12. WESTERN CHARACTERS
 - ___ Proud Indian
 - ___ Cowboy
 - ___ Gambler
 - ___ Casual Indian
 - ___ Cavalry Scout
 - ___ Sheriff
- ___ 18. BATTLE OF CONCORD SET
 - ___ Soldier #1
 - ___ Soldier #2
 - ___ Soldier #3
 - ___ Soldier #4
 - ___ Soldier #5
 - ___ Cannon
- ___ 24. JAPANESE ISAIAH SET
 - ___ Accordionist
 - ___ Beetles
 - ___ King Tut
 - ___ Mermaid
- ___ 28. BLUE STEIN
- ___ 29. BROWN STEIN
- ___ 30. SILVER HORSESHOE, LAS VEGAS
- ___ 31. SLOT MACHINE, LAS VEGAS
- ___ 32. SLOT MACHINE, RENO - PAUL'S PAYLESS
- ___ 33. SLOT MACHINE, RENO
- ___ 34. SAVE-MOST MAN
- ___ 35. P. B. R. CAMEL

about **SNUFF** bottles

by **M. A. Spaid**

Probably one of the least publicized miniature bottles being collected today, but steadily growing in popularity, is the Chinese snuff bottle which originated about the same time as snuff boxes became popular in Europe and The United States (late in the 17th Century). However, figural snuff bottles, it is believed, started to be made during the Chien Lung Dynasty (1736-1795) and the art of making these bottles continued through the Ming Dynasties. The Chinese were making these bottles from most any material which could be hollowed and carved. Some of these materials were: agate, agalitolite, alabaster, aquamarine, blood-sardonyx, serpentine, tourmaline, turquoise, ivory, bone, and glass.

Some of the most prized and exquisite bottles are the inside-painted. For these, the Chinese used amber, quartz or agate and glass. Some of the crystal or crystalline quartz many times had inclusions of many other materials which through the phenomenon of fossilization gave the appearance of moss growing in a sea of water. The Chinese many times painted gold fish or carp on the inside of these bottles giving them the appearance of an underwater scene.

Many of the minerals used in making snuff bottles were carved by the maker in the shape of various people

and animal figurals; however, most of the carving of these figures was done on the bottle in either low or high relief. The color of the mineral used often dictated to the carver's imagination just what he could carve. In many bottles, part of a figure will be carved and the balance of the figure, whether it be man, bird, or animal, will be completed merely by the inclusion of various colors in the material. The greater the imagination a carver had (and has) when he studied the material he carved (so that he could use the inclusions in the stone to enhance his scene on carving, the more desirable the bottle.

While the fine old bottles, in carved, plain, mineral, porcelain or other materials, are the most desirable, many of the contemporary bottles which have been made from the early 1900's to the present are very much sought after. If the work is fine, these bottles are commanding prices a good many times as high, or nearly as high, as some of the old bottles. Of course, the finer old bottles are worth more than the finer new bottles.

Referring to the Arts of Asia Magazine, July - August issue of 1972, the publisher and editor, Tuyet Nguyet, wrote, "Snuff Bottles In My Own Collection." It is one of the finest articles I have seen in any magazine. The full



The glass inside painted bottles show the remarkable patience of the Chinese. The double bottle has a painting on the left of a countryside scene with mountains in the background, homes, and trees. One must study with a magnifying glass in order to really appreciate the beauty of the painting. On the right is a picture of a bird in flowering foliage. On the back of the bottle is a countryside scene and a Chinese vase with a sprig of a flowering branch surrounded by other foliage. The outside measurement of each section of the bottle is $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ " high. The opening through which each is painted is very small and measures $\frac{3}{16}$ " in diameter. The spoons have been removed so as not to damage the painting.

next time: **Figurals**

This figural of an elephant with the neck of the bottle protruding from the elephant's back is carved from a beautiful piece of malachite. The stopper, made of lapis lazuli, is attached to an ivory spoon. The bottle measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches high (not including the base).



This fish is carved from a solid piece of beautiful turquoise, and one can almost imagine that the fish is jumping out of the water for some tasty morsel of food which is a round turquoise ball that is attached to the snuff spoon. This carving does not stop here as the carver has cleverly carved a teakwood base to fit the bottom of the turquoise carving. This bottle measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ " high.

color photographs pictured the old as well as new bottles which appeared in Hong Kong in May of 1969 and were inside painted bottles made after the Cultural Revolution in China. These bottles have almost disappeared from the market. The last I saw advertised for sale were in a 1971 catalogue from one of Hong Kong's finest dealers and at that time the prices quoted were \$240 and \$420 respectively.

Some of the finer inside painted bottles take a skilled artist ten to fifteen days to complete. He must first roughen the inner surface with an abrasive so that ink and color will adhere to it. He then takes a hooked bamboo strip dipped in ink and, inserting it through the narrow neck, outlines the picture. The choice of composition is determined by the shape of the bottle and the material of which it is made. Once drawn, no line can be changed.

The author went on to say, "If the bottle is made of agate, the artist has to study the natural color and grain so as to decide whether it is suitable for landscapes, human figures, or bird and flower paintings. When the outline has been completed, color is applied with bamboo strips of varying thickness. With a technique differing from that of painting on scrolls, the dark colors are applied to the bottles before the lighter shades. When the picture is finished, the artist writes his name in one corner.

The method above was recently described in an article appearing in *The Chinese Snuff Bottle Society of America, Inc.* newsletter which it reprinted from *China Reconstructs*, October of 1962, by Yeh Peng-chi. However, if we refer to Matoon Curtis' book, *The Story of Snuff and Snuff Boxes*, he quotes from Berthold Laufer's 1924 anthropology leaflet, "The Introduction of Tobacco in Europe, also Tobacco and its use in Asia (Chicago Field Museum of Natural History)." Laufer says the inside of the bottle is treated with pulverized i-

ron oxydul mixed with water, which, shaken for a half day, forms a milk-white coating suitable for receiving paints. He states, "the artist lies on his back holding the bottle up to the light between the thumb and index finger of the left hand. The hairy tip of the brush is not straight, as usual, but stands under a right angle against the handle. His eyes are constantly fixed on the outer surface of the glass, thus watching the gradual development of the picture as it emerges from under the glass. He first outlines a skeleton-type sketch in black ink, starting from below and then passing on to the middle sides, finally inserting the colors. This art industry commenced in the K'sen-Lung period, 1736-95, and the little masterpieces turned out at that time are unsurpassed. The modern output is intended chiefly for the foreign market, and does not stand comparison with the products of bygone days: the bottles are large, coarse, and clumsy, and the paintings are unusually crude." While this latter statement concerning modern bottles is true today to some extent, there are many bottles that have appeared in Hong Kong which are as fine and many even surpass the work of some of the old masters. (Yeh Peng-chi, 55 years old in 1962, is considered the most talented contemporary artist in painting inside snuff bottles.)

In my collection, I have three inside painted bottles. One I have owned since 1946, having purchased it from Mrs. Donald Hsueh whose husband was the head of Foochow College, Foochow, China. This bottle appears to have a coating on the inside as described by Laufer. The other two bottles appear to have been roughened on the inside with an abrasive as stated by Yeh Peng-chi.

As this article has been somewhat of a generalization concerning snuff bottles, in future articles I will describe bottles made from one particular material. 'Til then... --MAS--

realize that with each new bottle comes many new collectors. That, friends, not only benefits our entire hobby but you as well.

In this issue we are highlighting all of the Ski Country bottles which have been issued to date. In coming months, we'll have nothing but new bottles to talk about since the Foss Company has stated that it wants to establish a release schedule of one bottle per month.

The key, however, to the Ski Country situation is that the one-a-month plan is only an approximate schedule. Quality is the by-word and because of the lofty standards which the Foss Company has imposed, many bottles which are written about often don't even make it past the mock-up stage since they simply don't come "up to snuff." The Horned Owl has been turned down at least twice due to imperfections in the design and the Magpie will probably only exist in a one-of-a-kind mock-up stage.

Next issue we'll start looking at some of those up-coming new releases from Foss Drug. In the meantime, with the holidays upon us... Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes of Good Cheer to All.

Dennis D. Kowalski

for sale:

Bols Farm Woman \$25; 4 diff. Arrow jugs \$6@; Alta and Gallo jugs, 5 diff. \$5@; Armagnac shot gun shells - red, green, black - \$5@; Argentine Gaucho \$15; Scotch Barrel of Kindness \$4@; Beneagles Eagle \$6; Borghini Fruit, Cat, Cardinal, Nubian, Man on Cask, Penguin - \$8@; Brams Guitarist w/TV \$30; Carioca Oxen and cart \$10; Carioca Pirates Chest \$17; Certosini Monk \$14; Corfino Turtle \$18; Cornish Mead Elf, Toby, Barrel \$6@; Croizet Napoleon \$25; Deel Snak rum sauce jugs \$6@; Dickel Golf Club, Powder Horn \$6@; Drioli Turkey, Donkey, Elephant, \$7@; Drioli Murano glass Duck, Cat, Mouse, Dog \$8@; Fockink Cylinder \$5; Galmier Squirrel, Parrot, Duck, Monkey (Hear No Evil), Penguin \$25@; Gagliano Warrior, Harlequin, Oriental Woman \$20@; Garnier Cylinder \$7; Garnier Duck, Dog, Elephant \$25@; IDA Bird, Fish \$25@; Irish Mist Soldier \$7; Washington Bust in silver \$18, regular blue bust \$8; Larson Viking Ship ceramic \$12, glass \$10; Lindisfarne Cross \$9; Luxardo Gambia, Paestum \$8@; Luxardo Turkey \$40; Manhattan glass bell \$10; Manhattan Elephant \$10; McClellan Deacon Brodie, Lamp, Mac the Knife, Arch \$6@; Milk-glass Senorita \$20; Meiers Cat \$12; Queens Castles Scotch Barrels - green, blue, and brown \$5@; Sempe Cavalier \$18; Southern Sales Canteen \$15; WLS Soccer Ball \$8. Miniature Beers Pabst, Schlitz, Falstaff \$2.50@.

Jean Fugina, 1741 - 63rd Avenue, Sacramento, California 95822 or phone 916 422-3226.

JERRY COHEN'S

BOTTLE COLLECTORS' LIQUOR SHOP

FOR BOTTLE COLLECTORS ONLY
LARGEST MINIATURE SELECTION

1850 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD NORTH
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

It's a miniature paradise. . . with the largest selection found anywhere. Go 1 1/2 miles north from downtown Las Vegas. You can't miss it.

FOR SALE
SKI COUNTRY MINIS

Eagle \$20, Peacock & Hawk \$12, Woodpecker, Ram, & Golden Eagle \$13@. Condor & Mallard Duck \$12.50@, and the Leadville Ladies for \$20 a pair. I will also have a limited number of Elephants from the new Circus Series at \$15@.

Ruth Jones, 2740 S. Cherokee, Englewood, Colorado 80110.

CHIP'S NIPS
BOYLSTON, MASS. 01505

On ROUTE 70 or phone 617 869-2730

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND OVER 500 DIFFERENT MINIATURE LIQUOR BOTTLES... RIGHT ON THE STORE SHELVES. BRANDS INCLUDE: GARNIER, BORGHINI, LIONSTONE, FAMOUS FIRSTS, HOUSE OF KOSHU, LUXARDO, RYNBENDE, GRENADIER, RIEMERSCHMID, AIDEES OF TORQUAY, BENEAGLES, ISAIAH, CORFINO, HUNDREDS OF STRAIGHTS.... PLUS THE EXCLUSIVE FANTASTIC NIPS OF ARGENTINA. OUR 1ST EDITION SPECIAL:

PATRICIANS--8 different Italian Cordials in a 3-step graduated bottle. Usually \$2.50 per bottle, NOW just \$1.00 each plus postage.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ANYTHING SPECIAL? We also have a secret hoard of old, valuable bottles. Maybe we have that bottle for which you've been searching. Please send 25¢ and SASE for our complete list.

OUR NEW SHELF-TYPE BOTTLES INCLUDE: Glen Grant Malt Scotch, Kopke Tourist Port, Kopke Variety Port, El Toro Marguerita, and Blackforest Kirschwasser.

Contributing Writers, Contd.

The words "beer collecting" have almost become synonymous with the name of the writer of our Small Suds column. Jean Fugina (with a little help from her husband, Bob) this month tells us about some pre-prohibition gems which should have you green with envy.

Where We've Been, Contd.

editions of their excellent Guide to Miniature Bottles. My own Mini World and two price guides have also added to the list.

So this is what's behind us. I can only say that I feel the future will be even bigger and brighter. And, hopefully, this magazine will help make it so.



next time you'll
read about me!

CHIRP



A GUIDE TO MINIATURE BOTTLES

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER for MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTORS

Sections #1, #2, and #3.....\$6.00

Special Binder.....\$1.00

The three sections now include 172 Giveaways, 137 Garnier, 53 Luxardo, 77 Rynbende, 25 British Isles, and 60 Miscellaneous bottles.

Order from: CEMBURA & AVERY PUBLISHERS
 137 Arlington Ave., Berkeley, Ca. 94707
 Calif. residents add 5% tax.



Mini World III

OVER 1100 BOTTLES LISTED AND PRICED.

AVAILABLE NOW

only \$2 ppd.

THE miniature bottle collector
 P. O. BOX 2161
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, Ca. 90274.

Order Now!!

DEALERS, LIQUOR STORES & BOTTLE CLUBS!!
WRITE FOR SPECIAL CASE LOT PRICES...

**AVAILABLE
BEFORE
XMAS**



These BEARS will not be sold in Liquor Stores this year. We have on exclusive on them, so order yours TODAY. They'll be in Short Supply. To ensure receiving yours by Xmas, you must place order NOW!



1973 HAMM'S BEAR

\$9.95

Plus \$1.95 postage & Ins.

IF DESIRED, THIS MAGAZINE WILL BE REPLACED WHEN THIS ORDER BLANK IS USED.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW
P.O. BOX 42550
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90050

Enclosed is Check for _____ 1973 Hamm's Bear bottle/s at \$9.95 plus 1.95 postage per bottle. I have enclosed \$_____ as payment in full.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Pictorial Bottle Review's 4th ANNIVERSARY BOTTLE The "BRONC BUSTER"



A MASTERPIECE IN PORCELAIN
ONLY 1200 MADE
AVAILABLE BY XMAS

700 ALREADY PRE-SOLD
HURRY YOUR ORDER IN NOW!

DON'T BE LEFT OUT. THIS ONE WE
GUARANTEE TO RISE IN VALUE.

IF DESIRED, THIS MAGAZINE WILL BE REPLACED WHEN THIS ORDER BLANK IS USED.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW
P.O. BOX 42550
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90050

Enclosed is Check for _____ "Bronc Buster" Anniversary bottle/s of \$29.95 plus \$2.00 postage per bottle. I have enclosed \$_____ as payment in full.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Plus \$2.00 postage & Ins.

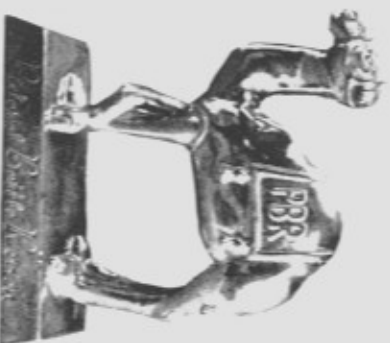
\$29.95

Pictorial Bottle Review

The 'PULSE of the BOTTLE WORLD' Since 1969

PROUDLY PRESENTS...

a
20Z.
MINIATURE
of
ELMER
the **GOLD CAMEL**



\$8.95 plus \$1.25 postage per

Make checks payable to:
PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW
P.O. BOX 42550
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90050

ENCLOSED IS CHECK FOR \$10.20 FOR 1 ELMER THE GOLD CAMEL.
PLEASE SEND ME _____ MINI GOLD CAMELS AT 10.20 EACH, POSTPAID.
NUMBER DESIRED

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY