VOL. 1 – NUMBER 3

MAY – JUNE 1974

the miniature bottle collector





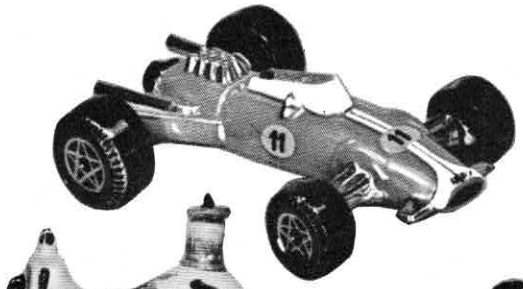


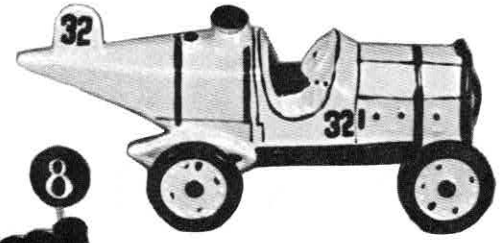
ISAIAH MINIATURES

Times Square Liquor Store

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

FAMOUS



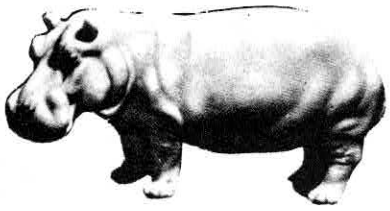


FIRSTS

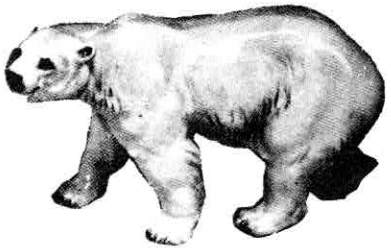




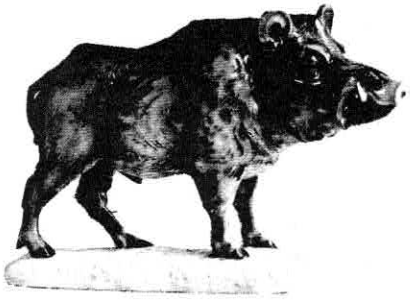












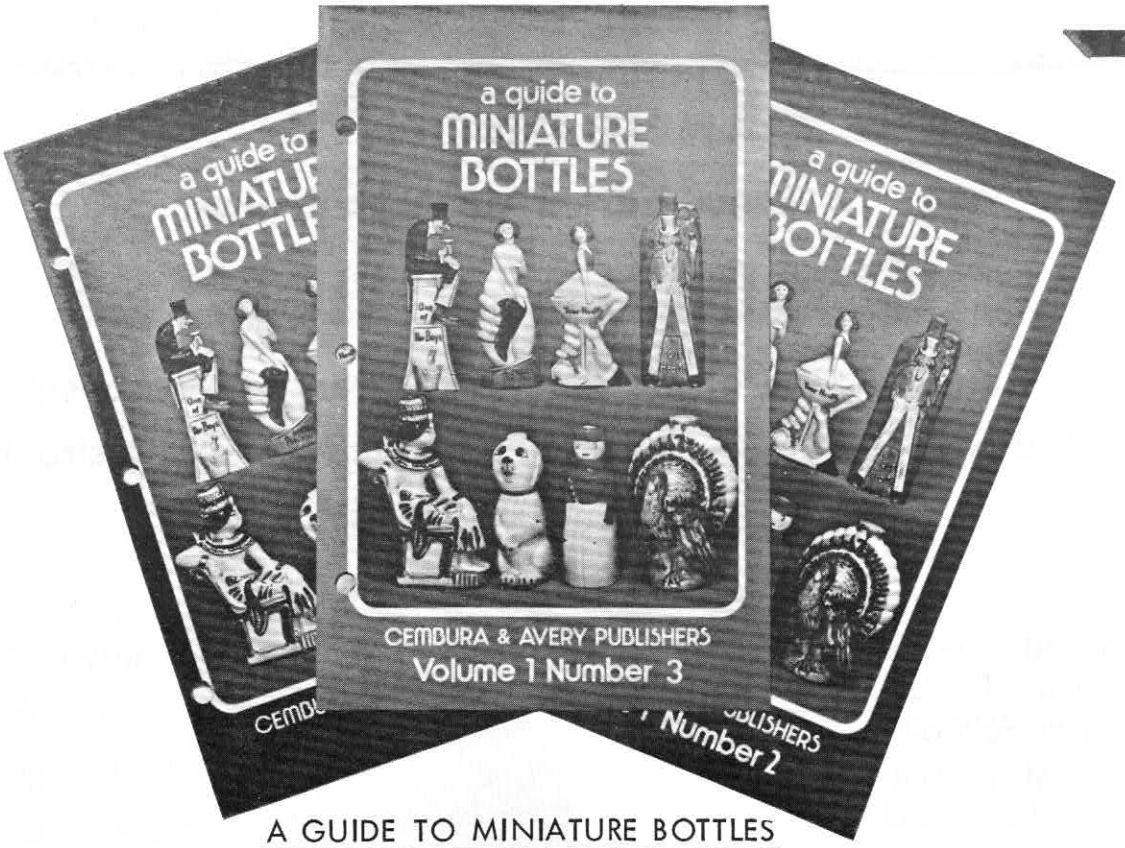
EXCLUSIVE
EAST COAST
DEALER

for
LUXARDO

ANIMALS







A GUIDE TO MINIATURE BOTTLES

SPECIAL 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.

ANNOUNCING!

A New Series of Miniatures

"WISCONSIN WILD-LIFE"

Consisting of Birds Commonly Seen in Wisconsin

Pretty — Cute — Appealing — Simple — Desirable

First in the Series — **"BABY ROBIN"**

Available — **LATE FEBRUARY**

Did you ever see a more lovable little fellow? Almost irresistable, he is the FIRST in a series of twelve WISCONSIN WILD-LIFERS to be issued at two month intervals.

You need this BABY ROBIN to have the complete set.

ANOTHER SERIES will follow this one.



Edition Limited to 2400

Each numbered from 1 to 2400.

Overall height - 4⅜ inches.

McCormick Whiskey Label

Federal Strip Stamp

Wisconsin Liquor Tax Stamp

Empty Bottle, of course.

Price per miniature - $9.95 - plus $1. for postage & insurance

Orders will be filled in the order of our receiving them

The JON-SOL Co.

3108A - W. Meinecke Ave. **Milwaukee, Wis. 53210**

(414) 871-5800 **DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED**

The BIG Journal of LITTLE Collectibles.
May - June 1974 Vol. I, No. 3

The Miniature Bottle Collector

Editor: David M. Spaid Art: Bob Staake

5 LET'S TALK
News and absolutely everything else we could find no other place for.

16 ISAIAH'S FROM JAPAN
David M. Spaid

9 SMALL SUDS
Jeanne Fugina

13 LIONSTONE
In which we find our face more than red.

6 MINIS IN ARGENTINA
Alfredo Spinelli on not what's new.... but what's old.

14 SKI COUNTRY
An eye-view of some birds by Dennis Kowalski.

23 FIGURAL SNUFFS
With apologies to Melville A. Spaid for getting squeezed out last time.

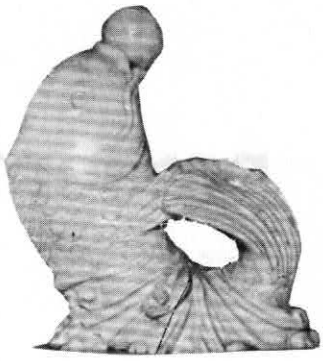
20 FASCINATING FIGURALS
Tony Natelli finishes up on Luxardos.

19 WHISKIES FROM THE EAST
John Sullivan hits the Oriental trail too.

8 KOBY'S KOLUMN
For want of a "kornier" title, we welcome our new writer, Bob Koby.

Copyright (applied for) 1974. BRISCO PUBLICATIONS. Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Single copy $2.00; yearly Subscription $9.00. Mailing address: P. O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return envelopes and postage. Publisher assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or art. All rights reserved.

p.23



p.14



p.16



BILL MARCHANT, Jr.

212 SO. EL MOLINO ST.,
ALHAMBRA, CAL. 91801
(213) 282-6442

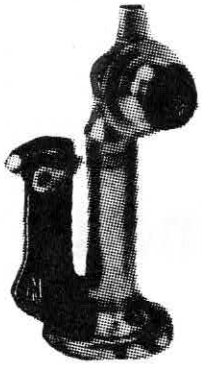
presents

SKI COUNTRY

MAJESTIC EAGLE	In Stock	$24.95
PEACOCK	" "	$10.95
WOODPECKER	" "	"
RED SHOULDERED HAWK	" "	"
RAM	" "	"
LEADVILLE LADIES	" "	$29.95 pr.
CALIFORNIA CONDOR	" "	$10.95
GOLDEN EAGLE	" "	"
MALLARD DUCK	" "	"
CANADIAN GOOSE	" "	"
PEACE DOVE	" "	"
FOX ON A LOG	" "	"
HARPY EAGLE	" "	$11.95
OSPREY	" "	"
MOUNTAIN LION	Soon	
AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN	"	
CIGAR STORE INDIAN	"	
GREAT HORNED OWL	"	
SNOWY OWL	Sold Out	
ELEPHANT ON A DRUM	" "	
COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES BURRO	" "	

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

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BILL MARCHANT, JR.
212 SO. EL MOLINO ST.
ALHAMBRA, CA. 91801
(213) 282-6442



LET'S Talk

Boy, have we ever got a lot to talk about this time. Sometimes for columns I look at the wall for a while until an idea comes along but this issue there's just lots to impart.

First off, I'm calling this our Oriental issue and it won't take you long to discover why. The bottles from Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and Bangkok have seen little or no light in publications, so with this issue we're going to attempt to change all that. Consider this our first outing.

Next we'd hoped to squeeze in the information about the new Garnier bottles for this year but that will have to wait until next time. In fact, not only wouldn't we have had room this time, our M.B.C. article even got pushed out. However, don't despair, Mary Aiken promises me she'll be back in our summer special with lots of news. But before we take leave of this Garnier issue, I can tell you what Connie Avery told me which in turn was told to her by M. Michel Garnier and is now being passed on to you. Confused? No need to be. Let's just say that sometime in the very near future you'll be able to buy a set of six tropical fish all filled with creme de menthe. How many fish bottles can you think of off hand?

Onward. Our new columnist Bob Koby wrote and had a few suggestions which I'd like to throw in your direction. He's interested in our having a trade - classified section. It sounds very good to me and it's probably been just sheer laziness (after all, who needs six hours sleep every night?) that I haven't done something about it before. So, if you're interested in running a classified ad we're going to do it a little differently than most magazines. None of this so many cents a word, just simply $2.00 for classifieds under 50 words and $3.50 for classifieds up to 100 words. Above that we get into display advertising and I'd be happy to send out rate sheets. So if you've got a few extras, advertise them.

In his letter, Bob also suggested that I ask if you would like your name and address printed so that other collectors in your area would know of your whereabouts. Personally, I think it's another marvelous idea; however, I know there are those who do not share my enthusiasm due to several reasons. Some collectors are worried about being robbed if they have their address printed. You might have a valid point there; however, I've never heard of a bottle collector being robbed because of his bottles. Others are worried about being placed on new mailing lists but that one I don't buy at all. If you're a true collector, you want others to know you're out there and you want to know about those others. So, I'll put the burden on each of you. I'll be happy to print the names of each and every subscriber who writes in and tells me he or she would like to be on the list. No matter how many pages it runs, your name will be there. It will cost you a ten cent stamp but think of the new friendships and trades that might be in the offing. Write long letters, I love to get mail.

I guess while we're on a subject which concerns who is known and who isn't, I should bring up a point that was recently brought home to me in a letter from an Iowa collector. Mrs.

Contd. on p. 27



about argentine mini's

by

alfredo spinelli

The OLD and The NEW

Is this the oldest Argentine miniature you know of? Yes.

The house of Peters was established in Buenos Aires in 1872. Its speciality was and continues to be the Gin of the Dutch type. In the year 1888, they produced the first miniature. This was a "Free Sample" and was contained in a little wooden box (Photo A). The miniature was known until 1910, the date in which appeared another miniature that was very similar and which resembled the former. This second one (Photo B) lacked the wooden box though. The label was changed and the sealing wax on the bottle cap was replaced with a cover of lead.

Now in 1925 these miniatures were considered rare because of the small quantity which remained preserved. In proportion to the growth of the hobby of collecting miniatures, much interest was generated. Many collectors rushed out with desperation to search in the old warehouses with little success. Only one example (the figure in the photo) of the first edition is known; however, they found more examples of the second edition.

For the year 1968, this firm issued a new jug. This time it was manufactured in ceramic and not pottery like the antiques. Until 1971, in which the last one was manufactured, it underwent various modifications in the size, labels, and colors. This second era of the Llave Gin, in spite of being no longer made, doesn't attract the collectors like the oldest.

--A. S. --



FOTO A FOTO B

LLAVE



Koby's KOLLECTABLE KOLUMN



Some weeks ago I wrote to the editor asking if in some small way I could contribute some picture and reading explorations of some of the miniatures my wife and I have "accumulated" in the past seven years. Last summer we were lucky and fortunate in finding three old collections totalling 1125 bottles. In the following months we shall attempt to share some of the "finds" that we enjoy looking at and for. These articles are not intended to make us experts in this field but as mentioned above only to share ideas with you. I might also add that I show some partiality to old American bottles. Since last summer I have finally sorted out and catalogued our collection and what intrigued me most were the names of the many brands of bourbons, straight whiskies, gins, and a few others that also prompted me to ask to write this column.

My second reason for writing is somewhat selfish. For the past few years I have written letters of inquiry to a number of collectors whose ads appear in club papers. I wanted to trade, to find out some history behind bottles or distillers and such. But all of a sudden there isn't one collector who knows anything about bottles unless it serves his purpose or needs. WHAT IS THE BIG SECRET? Sooner or later I feel we shall all in some way need to help each other. Why not share with others what you already are not in need of? We can only collect one of each. With the editor's permission, I hope to occasionally stand on my "soap box" and sound off about my feelings and thoughts about this hobby and the "rip off" things going on.

Now let's get on with the bottles.

The first picture is of a DANIEL WEBSTER straight bourbon whiskey bottled by the Paramount Distilling Corp. of Chicago. Since I

Contd. on p. 28

bob koby



by jeanne fugina

Ever wonder how they make beer? We got to thinking about that ourselves. Bob said after I stated in an earlier article that it's fairly simple, we ought to look into it. We read, we researced.... conclusion.... forget it unless you are a chemist. The beer you make at home in your various vats and jars would, we decided have about as much resemblance to the beer we buy in the store as grape juice has to a good bottle of French wine. Brewing beer is and has been an art... and besides you can blow up the garage. In a nutshell, here's how the stuff gets made.

To begin with, barley is roasted to malt it, next the malt is mixed with water and heated to produce a kind of soup. This soup-like substance is called the wort. Hops are added for flavor and then this smelly mess is reboiled. What you have now is still called wort by the brewers. It's cooled and yeast is added - remember, from the top for ale, porter and stout and from the bottom for lager, pilsner and bock. What's in the pot then is allowed to ferment for about a week. Next to last, it's lagered (stored) and packaged. Lastly, my husband and his poker group try to drink it all. Sound simple? The brewers say the big thing centers around controlling the chemical reaction that produces a slightly carbonated low alcohol drink called beer. Ooops - Bang. Must have been too much yeast or was it the...

The three bottles shown in Picture I and the first two in Picture 2 are Haberle's Congress Brewing Company of Syracuse New York products. Benedict Haberle opened the brewery in 1857. In 1892 Haberle's merged with Crystal Spring Brewing Company, which operated by that name until prohibition. When prohibition ended in 1933, the company reopened as the Haberle Congress Brewing Company and continued so until it ceased operations at the end of 1962.

All Haberle's pictured are stubby. We've never heard of any collector having one in a different size. If anyone does, please let us know. The bottle on the right in Picture I has a gold, black and red decal label. The middle bottle, also a Haberle's light ale, has a grey, yellow, white and red decal label. The Haberle's Congress beer (Picture I also) has a black, red, yellow and white decal label. Picture 2 shows Haberle's Black River Ale. This stubby has a beautiful black, red, green and white decal label. The Congress beer in Picture 2 was also put out by Haberles. It has a blue, gold, and

white decal label. Haberle's have been fairly hard to find beers for most mini beer collectors. We'd price them in the $8-10 range.

Heilemans Old Style Lager, also shown in Picture 2, is a tall size mini (rare - Price $10+) and has a grey, yellow and white decal label. This beer was produced by the G. Heileman Brewing Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The company is listed among active breweries in the latest Internal Revenue Service "Breweries Authorized to Operate" brochure. We haven't, however, been able to find any history on the company. Can anyone help?

We would appreciate any information any of you could send us. This beer, by the way, probably started an ugly rumor. Many of us included a "Leman's" on our mini beer want list. We don't think there is one. Bob Hanson's beer book pictured our Heileman's, however, the bottle was turned to the left in the picture - ergo, we all want a "Leman's."

The next picture, Picture 3, shows three tall variations of what are really novelty bottles rather than actual replicas of larger beer bottles. Each has a colorful red, white and blue label. The center bottle (decal label - the other two have paper labels), has a label which indicates Bills Novelty and Premium Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, produced these bottles to promote its miniature beer bottle line. These labels are fairly rare. We price them at $8@.

Picture 4 shows one medium and two tall size Kingsbury Brewing Company bottles. The bottles at left and right in the picture have blue tan and red paper labels. These have the most common Kingsbury label, however, they, too, have been fairly hard to come by for a number of collectors. We price them at $7-8. There is reportedly a stubby with this same label, but it seems to have eluded us up to this point in time. The Kingsbury bottle in the center of Picture 4 has a red, white and black and brown decal label. Price $8-9.

The Kingsbury Brewing Company of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is no longer listed as an active brewery; however, we can't tell you much more about the company or when it went out of business. See you next time.

--JMF--



3



old

AND

4



rare

LIONSTONE

by

David M. Spaid

When you talk about having made mistakes, you should definitely add my "all-timer" to the list of great ones. What am I talking about? Well, it has to do with those other two Lionstone Lions which I wrote about last time. You might remember that I said something like "they have just made their appearance and are selling extremely well." To call that a gross exaggeration would be to underplay it. Since I wrote that column a good deal in advance of the actual release of the bottles, I fudged a bit by counting the pre-release sales to dealers and the store orders to talk about how well they were selling. In fact, they were just about totally sold out to these two sources. Unfortunately, they never reached those sources.

A little matter of the federal government saying a big, fat "NO" put a stopper to the whole deal. It seems that the bottles wouldn't hold quite the 1.6 oz. of bourbon they were supposed to. Since they couldn't be sold holding just a mere one ounce of bourbon, they had to be returned to Japan. You know, our old benevolent Uncle Sam has to look our for us in matters such as these. Heavens, what would a collector think getting a bottle that held only an ounce? Hence, as of this writing, there just might not be any number 2 and 3 Lions.

Those are the gruesome details, so let's now turn to the happier side of things. Pictured for you this time are four bird bottles. These four are from a group of ten which will be composed of two groups of three each and one group of four. The most I'm going to say here is that some of them have been shipped from Japan and should be in stores shortly. Supposedly included in this shipment from Japan are these three Tropical Birds and some of the Circus Series. Now that "some" might mean that there are "some" sets of nine or that there are "some" of the nine. We'll have to wait to see.

Concrete information that I can give you is that the Woodpecker and the other three bottles in that set (a Humming Bird, Canary, and Cardinal) are going to be incredible from many view points. Each of these four bottles will retail for $29.95. Yes, that's a little over $125 with tax for the entire group. What makes this set so special is that each bottle will be covered by a specially made glass dome to protect the bottle and I've heard that this dome will be made to screw into the base of the bottle. Of course, the thing that makes the bottles so expensive is that each one is limited to 600 intricately-made, delicate pieces.

This is a rather short article this month as I was certain you'd be interested in seeing the pictures but not in getting any more false information. Next time we should have pictures of the other birds, hopefully some good news on the other two Lions and even final info on the Circus pieces. Until then....

--DMS--



Miniature Tropical Birds



Woodpecker

SKI COUNTRY

by Dennis Kowalski

This month I present to you three new figurals from the ever-growing Ski Country Collection. The first two entries, the Horned Owl and Australian Black Swan, are additions to the continuing bird series while our little hopper, the Kangaroo, is once again a digression into the animal kingdom. As one can tell, our friends "down under" in Australia are well represented with the issuance of the Kangaroo and Black Swan.

My first subject this month is the Great Horned Owl which is not only the most formidable in appearance of all owls, but is also the most powerful in courage, weight, and strength. It little regards the size of its victim and has been known at times to route the eagle from its nest and establish residence for its own family. The Horned Owl is a nocturnal bird most active at dusk and on moonlit nights when its ever familiar "hoo-hoo" might be heard. Although the Owl can see perfectly during the daytime, he hunts his prey at night, feasting on game birds, rabbits, woodchucks, insects and particularly, rats, which our porcelain friend has clutched in his powerful claws. The Great Horned Owl is found primarily along the east coast, in the mid-west and southern portions of the United States. We can look forward to a release date in late June.

Our second feathered creature is the Australian Black Swan, very similar to the Swans commonly found in parks and lakes throughout the United States; only this species is black in color and lives in wilder surroundings. In recent years, the Black Swan has been introduced into the United States and their presence should become more noticable in the future. A tentative release date is for June.

The Kangaroo is a common sight on the plains of Australia, and our third entry this month is the Great Grey Kangaroo. It is one of the largest of the some 45 different species. They generally stand six feet tall and have heads the size of sheep. A nickname many people use in reference to the Kangaroo is "Wallaby", and what many don't realize is that the Wallaby is a specie within the Kangaroo family. When the young are born, it is one at a time. They are born alive, and at birth are about one inch long. Their first six months of life are generally spent within the mother's pouch. The basic diet is vegetation, and the Kangaroo usually travels in troops watched over by a buck leader. Release should be sometime in May.

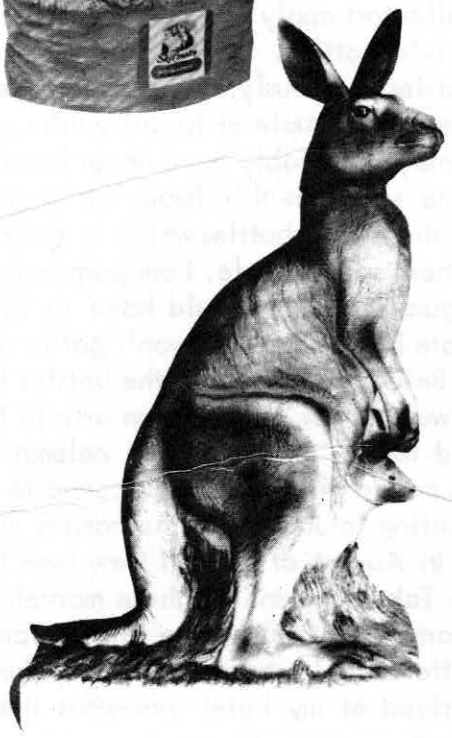
By now many of you may think I am a cross between the Bird Man of Alcatraz and the Audubon Society, but to the contrary, I, myself, am only a

Contd. on p. 26



S K I C O U N T R Y

Collector's Guide



_____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. CANADIAN GOOSE
____13. PEACE DOVE
____14. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES BURRO
____15. ELEPHANT ON A DRUM
____16. FOX ON A LOG
____17. HARPY EAGLE
____18. AMERICAN OSPREY
____19. GREAT GREY KANGAROO
____20. AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN
____21. GREAT HORNED OWL
____22. MOUNTAIN LION



ISAIAHS

Isaiah. A name which most people associate with a religious meaning but which miniature collectors apply to some truly magnificent porcelain bottles. I've written about the Isaiah bottles previously; however, this time (and for the next couple of issues) you're going to see some you probably have never heard of, let alone seen. In this issue, we're going to look at the eleven bottles which in some way or another depict people. I am purposely not saying figurals as that would have to include many more bottles that we won't get to until later.

Before we talk about the bottles themselves, I want to in part redo an article I previously did for my "Mini World" column in P.B.R. I do this to give some background to both bottle hunting in Japan and the bottles themselves.

In August of 1972, I flew from Los Angeles to Tokyo on one of those marvelous JAL 747 Gargen Jet flights. Due to the incredible time difference (sixteen hours) and the jet lag, I arrived at my hotel somewhat the worse for wear.

That first night in Tokyo I could barely get to sleep just thinking about all the bottles that awaited me in the stores. Finally the stores opened the next morning and I was ready... unfortunately, so was Typhoon Betty who had just arrived for a rather wet date. My first experience with a typhoon left me undaunted but I did buy an umbrella the first chance I got.

Now, equipped for hell and high water, I set out looking for the liquor stores. To say that there weren't any is a ridiculous overstatement, let's just say that there aren't many. And then, who do you ask where to find a liquor store? The language barrier is considerable and is naturally heightened because you are strange enough to collect miniature bottles.

After a great deal of frustration on everyone's part, I finally found out that the department stores were the best place to go. Each and every one has at least one basement floor and that's where the liquor section is. In Tokyo there is also a chain of gourmet shops called Meida-ya which usually has a good selection of bottles. Finally there are the "mom and pop" stores which are totally unpredictable and may contain anywhere from a handful to scores of bottles.

Finding myself in my first department store, I looked over the bottles. I saw bottle after bottle with famous U.S. and European names and then finally saw the little section of Japanese bottles. There were some very nice glass pieces, but no fancy bottles like I had hoped to find. Store after store kept my hopes up because I would always find someone who could speak English and usually told me that some really clever little ceramic piece had just been sold. Then at one of the Meida-ya ("ya" is a Japanese suffix meaning "store") outlets, I saw my first Isaiah bottle. It wasn't one of the magnificent people bottles shown here, it was a jusg which you'll see in another issue.

At last though, I knew I was onto something good because I'd seen the Isaiah figurals in a California collection and thus knew they were to be found. After a good deal of pained expressions, much sighing and sign language, a translator arrived and explained things for me. I was then given a name and address written in Japanese with instructions to have someone at my hotel call for me.

All of this was done and later that day I found myself the proud possessor of a complete set of twelve Isaiahs. The complete set was composed of four figurals and eight pitchers and pots. But as you can see from our pictures, the complete set now includes many more bottles. I imagine many of you will be amazed to know that there are now forty-four bottles in the full set. This group of 44 is broken down into the eleven people figurals, a half dozen



NEW



FROM



JAPAN









DAVID M. SPAID

animals and insects, and some twenty-seven pots, pitchers, vases, urns, and a drinking vessel.

The bottles are all made of the highest grade porcelain and are done in both high glaze and bisque finish...depending on which type the company feels shows off the bottle to its best advantage. Each one contains what is purported to be Chiquita Liqueur. However, Chiquita liqueur turns out to be both a delightful "Sweet Fresh Wine: and a "Rose Whiskey." What the rationale is for which type comes in what bottle I have not the faintest idea. I do know that all bottles are supposed to contain 50 ml which is roughly equivalent to our 1.6 oz. as 30 ml is usually considered to approximate an ounce.

Of course, no matter what the bottles contain, I can see most of you trying to calculate how much this set of 44 bottles would cost. Compared to the porcelain bottles now selling in the U.S., most of you would consider these to be extremely reasonable. The bottles are divided into five different groupings by the company and are meant to be sold for the following: A - 1,000 Yen, B - 800 Yen, C and D 700 Yen, and E - 650 Yen. With the Yen currently pegged at approximately 300 to the dollar that makes the least expensive bottle about $2.20 and the highest priced about $3.35. Certainly would be nice to buy bottles like that here, wouldn't it? Oh, I imagine you're thinking that the bottles pictured this time are the most expensive ones, aren't you? Well, you're wrong. One is in the A Series (the King Tut) and one (Kuan-Yin) is in the B Series. Let's now talk about the bottles and I'll give you names, numbers, and prices.

On the cover this time, we have Kuan-Yin (B3), the Gun Fighter (C4), and the Skier (E3). Kuan-Yin is the Chinese Goddess of Mercy. This particular bottle is a representation of the 12th Century Southern Sung Dynasty wooden statue of Kuan-Yin which is on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The Gun Fighter (sic) on bended knees with drawn guns is a marvelous bottle but would seem to be totally out of place in this series. He wears a red shirt, brown vest, tan pants, and black hat. The Skier was made to celebrate the winter Olympics which were held in Sapporo, Japan. This is not only the tallest of the bottles, but also one of the most colorful. He is attired in a red and white outfit with black gloves and boots, and travels on cream-colored skis.

That takes care of the cover bottles so let's turn to the ones on these pages. The three bottles which have been pictured previously in other publications are the Accordionist, the Mermaid, and King Tut (A7). These bottles were imported into the U.S. in very limited quantities and can now be found only in one or two stores. These three are from the original set of twelve and were remade to go in this much larger group of 44.

Before we get to our last four bottles, I must tell you that one exquisite piece isn't being pictured this time due to the fact that I could not get a decent picture. The bottle I'm speaking of is D2, the Mother of Pearl. This is a naked girl (Ama Diver) kneeling in front of a large oyster shell with what would appear to be a real pearl (very doubtful) beside her. Like the next two bottles we shall consider, this is also in bisque finish.

These other two bisque bottles are D3 or Bongo and D4 Turtle. I have no idea why the cryptic names when obviously it's a Bongo Player or what would appear to be a South Seas native. And then again, why is the other bottle designated "Turtle" when it's a baby riding a turtle through the water? Possibly in another article I'll be fortunate enough to have the answer.

Our last two bottles in this month's excursion into the world of Isaiahs are known as Iyomante (E1) and Prayer (E4). Iyomante depicts a man apparently fighting a bear, badger, or wild dog and is the only real action bottle in the series unless you count the Gun Fighter. I don't know what Iyomante means and unfortunately I can't tell you what Hakodate means either. So I am without clues on this bottle known as Prayer which so obviously depicts a Western or Occidental figure.

Next time we'll show you some fascinating animal and insect bottles. There's a Panda you'll fall in love with at first sight. Until then.....

--DMS--



ASIATIC GEMS



JOHN SULLIVAN

Among my collection of foreign bottles, none stand out quite as much as the beautiful Japanese whiskey miniatures. Not only the bottles (which of the nineteen different ones that I have, only one is a regular straight glass) but the labels are works of art. The creativity that is put into the design of the bottles is fantastic, as you can see from the photos. They all seem to have a vague resemblance to some European bottles, but there are unique differences that make these Japanese beauties stand by themselves.

Most of these bottles were never imported into the U.S. Suntory and Nikka are the most popular local brands in Japan and are readily available in department stores (B-1 level), specialty stores, and hotels. Another brand, Alice, is no longer being produced, but there should still be some left on some of the shelves in stores in Tokyo. Alice is also the company that put out some beautiful milk glass figurals.

To those of you who are glass collectors, I'm sure you would want to add these originally - shaped, beautifully embossed, artistically labeled beauties to your collection.

--J.S.--

Fascinating Figurals

by Tony Natelli

PART TWO

From 1959-1961, Luxardo issued many more miniature figurals. Most of the bottles were individual pieces; however, they were not part of a set such as the animals, fruits, and chess pieces.

The first Gondola with gondolier was a 1959 item and stood 4 1/4 inches high. It was painted black, orange, and yellow, but due to breakage problems regarding the stopper was redesigned and reissued in 1960. The 1960 version is six inches high and decorated in the exact colors as its smaller brother. In 1968, two more Gondolas were issued, both of these being approximately the same as the 1960 Gondola. One of the 1968 bottles which has the same coloring as the first two also has a gondolier a little larger and the other bottle is colored only in yellow with black trimming. It is often referred to by collectors as the all yellow Gondola and, since it is thought to have only been sold for a short time in New Mexico, will be harder to come by than the other three. All the Gondolas, as well as all the other bottles in this article, with two exceptions, were exported to the U.S.A. and aren't as rare as the miniatures discussed in part one.

In 1959 and 1960, three miniature ashtrays - two mosaic (one green, one in grey) and one featuring a Burmese dancer were produced and these proved very popular with collectors. They are six inches tall, can be displayed standing or may actually be used as ashtrays.

Around this time, Luxardo also issued the Paestum, Gambia, Nubian, and Venus Di Milo miniatures. All of these are well known to collectors and portray their subjects excellently. The Venus, in particular, is almost a perfect reproduction of the world famous art figure.

As far as can be determined, the Apothecary Jars were sold in the early 1960's in Italy but they were apparently unknown to U.S. collectors until 1969. They were imported here in 1970 in very limited quantities (estimates range from 65 to 97 sets) and some sets did not contain six different bottles. The bottle which arrived in the shortest supply was the "Cinnamomum" and this bottle was missing (replaced by a duplicate of one of the others) from many sets. These were sold in the U.S.A. complete with a wooden display rack and are five inches tall.

From the Apothecary Jars date of issue until 1972, no new Luxardo miniatures were produced (with the exception of the Gondolas), although the Gambia, Venus, and Nubian were reissued around 1968.

Then in 1972, a Pussycat was sold (1,000 pieces only) in Italy. This one is very similar to the unique 1959 Pussycat of which less than 30 were made. But it is slightly taller, wider, and has a different colored base. In addition, the 1959 Pussycat has brownish spots. This 1972 Cat is one of the two miniatures discussed previously that wasn't exported here; however, some traveling collectors have returned with them and so they reside in a number of collections here in the States.

Also in 1972, a Wildlife Series (Lion, White Bear, Wild Boar, Rhino, Hippo, and Bison) was produced signalling a full time return to miniatures by the Luxardo Company. Approximately 3,000 sets were produced for worldwide distribution, of which 792 sets were exported here.

The year 1973 saw the Mudbucket, a bottle which was sold only in Italy. This is a commemorative edition and only 500 pieces were produced. 250 of these are etched "Abano Terme" and 250 are etched "Monte Grotto Terme." They thought to honor the mud in these areas which supposedly has medicinal qualities. As with the non-exported Pussycat, this miniature has also found its way into American collectors' hands through travelers who have brought a few back. This, by the way, is not the first commemorative miniature issued by Luxardo. Two or more of the "Babies" might be found etched "Raffles Hotel - Singapore" but these "Babies" were also sold through normal channels without the etching.

In December of 1973, the newest series was exported here (in the same amounts as the Wildlife Series). These include a Bulldog, Frog, Owl, and yet



another Cat. This was the Domestic Life Animals set but some collectors refer to them as the farm animals.

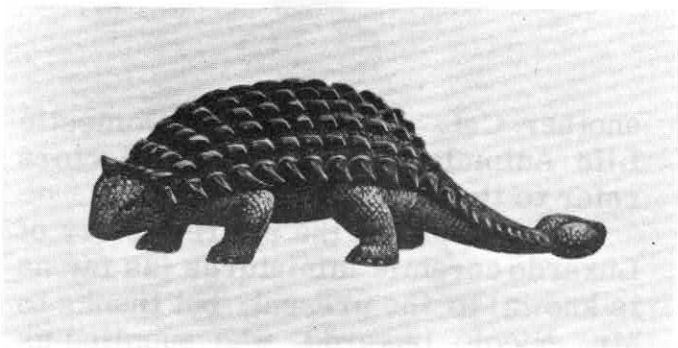
This completes the entire history of Luxardo ceramic miniatures (as far as is known) to the present, but thanks to Mr. Nicolo Luxardo, who supplied us with the photos and information, we can look a little into the future. The 1974 bottles will be prehistoric life animals and the set will consist of an Ankylosaurus, Brontosaurus, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Dimetrodon, and Tyrannosaurus. Judging from the photos, collectors certainly have something to look forward to. This subject is completely unique to miniature liquor bottles and like all Luxardos will no doubt be on the "most desired" lists of most all collectors.

--T.N.--

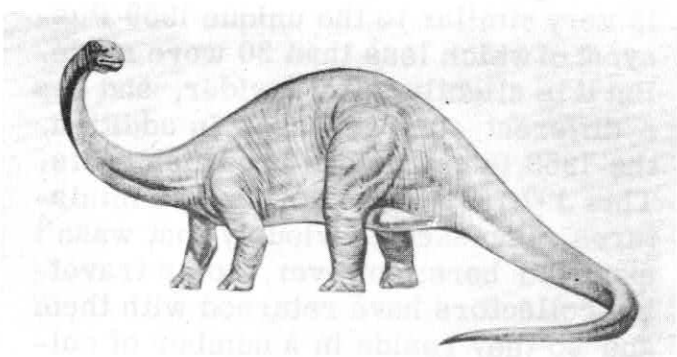


Luxardo

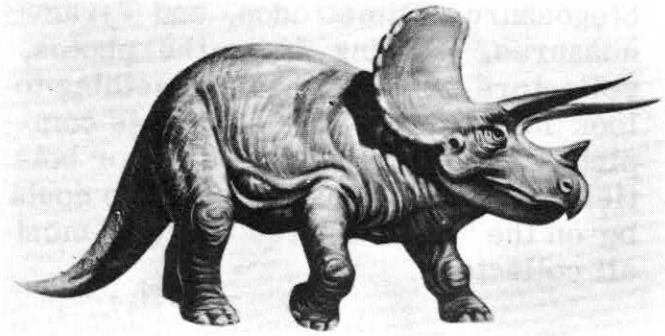
1974 PREHISTORIC LIFE MINIATURES



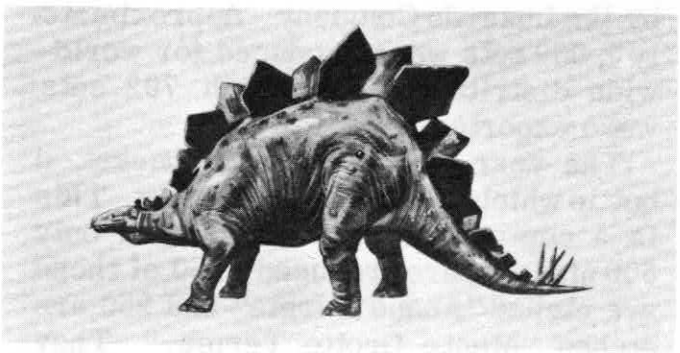
ANKYLOSAURUS



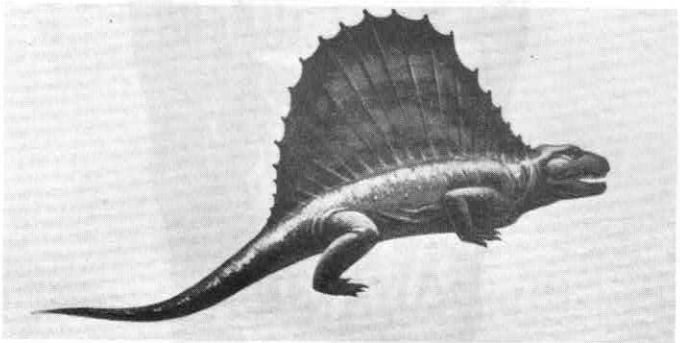
BRONTOSAURUS



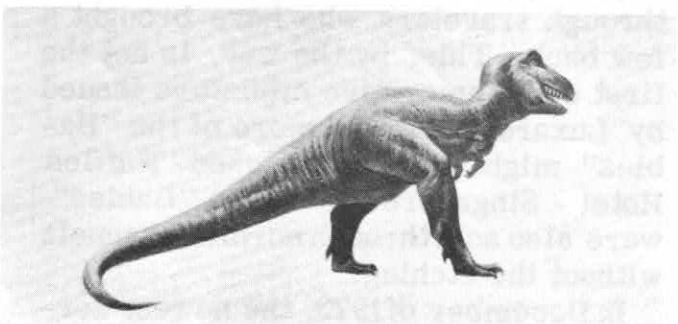
TRICERATOPS



STEGOSAURUS

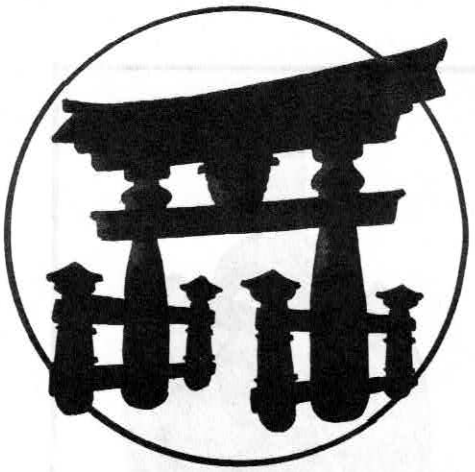


DIMETRODON



TYRANNOSAURUS

FIGURAL SNUFF BOTTLES



M. A. SPAID

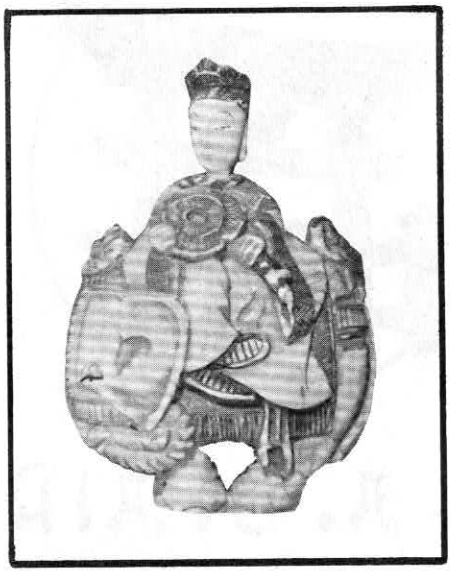
Last month I promised you an article on figural snuff bottles. You see, figural snuffs are truly interesting because these tiny bottles which are so beautiful to look at and admire and are really great works of art, were not practical for the carrying of snuff. It is the belief of many of my collector friends as well as many snuff bottle dealers that these bottles were made as cabinet pieces and were not carried by the avid user of snuff.

While figural bottles were made from practically all kinds of material such as amber, jade, lapis lazuli, malachite, turquoise, semi-precious gems of the quartz family, ivory, porcelain, etc., probably the most common material used making these tiny works of art was either ivory or porcelain.

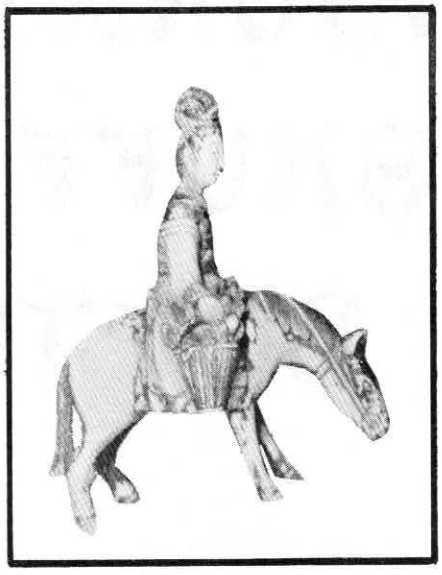
I have seen ivory figural bottles in many collections, and numerous times they have been described to me as being Chinese. In every case I have not disputed the origin; however, I have not been convinced in my own mind that they were made in China. These figural snuff bottles I believe were made in Japan. Unfortunately, I have no proof of that fact. After reading numerous articles and books on the early introduction of snuff to the Asian countries there wasn't any mention that the use of snuff was popular in Japan. Why then did I think that these snuff bottles were Japanese made? The answer is that I have read and re-read Chinese Snuff Bottles, the Adventure and Studies of a Collector by Lilla S. Perry.

Mrs. Perry was, without question, the Dean of Snuff Bottle Collectors. By publishing her book on Chinese snuff bottles, she was responsible or probably encouraged more people to collect snuff bottles than any other person. With the publishing of her book in 1960, the enthusiasm for collecting these tiny bottles has been so great that the value of snuff bottles has increased at a tremendous pace.

Lilla S. Perry died on Feb. 20, 1971, and while I do not know the details of how her marvelous collection of snuff bottles was disposed of, I was recently told by a well known California dealer that he had secured many of Mrs.

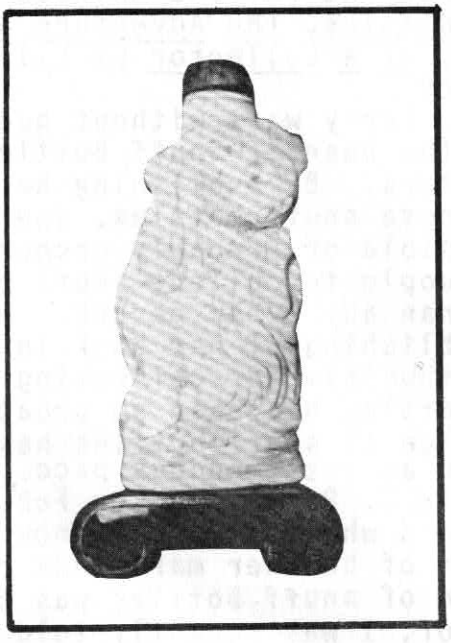


CHINA



-OR-





JAPAN



Perry's bottles and has them in his private collection. He also told me that collectors are constantly contacting him and offering fantastic prices for the bottles that were in Mrs. Perry's collection...but he will never part with them. I envy him; I'm certain I'd feel the same way.

I digress though and must return to my original subject of figural snuff bottles. Read Mrs. Perry's book and you may feel as I do. So, I believe it is safe to say that at least 90% of the ivory figural snuff bottles are Japanese made. However, this is not a true percentage if we consider all ivory snuff bottles and not just the figural snuff bottles. I think we might reverse this figure if we consider all ivory snuff bottles. The ivory figural bottles made prior to 1945 were made by the Chinese. After this date, it is reasonable to surmise that the Japanese (being fine carvers of ivory) capitalized on supplying the Chinese snuff bottle collectors with some very fine carved ivory figural snuff bottles. Enough said about ivory figural snuff bottles.

As long as I am making my judgements, I believe it is also safe to say that porcelain figural snuff bottles and other figural snuffs made of other materials such as those mentioned above were probably made entirely by the Chinese.

There are fine porcelain figural snuff bottles now being made by Chinese artisans in Hong Kong that are copies of old figural bottles. These are so skillfully made that it is almost impossible for the average collector to tell them from bottles made during the 18th and 19th centuries. These bottles sell from $100 to $200 each. At these prices I wouldn't hesitate to show them in any snuff bottle collection as they are truly works of art, individually handcrafted so that there are no two exactly alike. I am indeed sorry I do not have at least one in my collection that I could illustrate with this article. Hopefully, I may be able to obtain one in the near future.

I do, however, have the souvenir figural snuff bottle which was made in Hong Kong in 1970 for the members of the Snuff Bottle Society of Hong Kong. This fine porcelain snuff bottle with handpainted underglaze blue delineation has a lapis lazuli stopper with spoon attached. This bottle commemorates the second year of the founding of the society. On the back of the bottle in Chiese calligraphy is the name of the society and the date it was founded. A picture of this bottle appears on all of the society's publications. The mold for this bottle was made from the society's mascot bottle, a sandalwood carving of the famous Li Tieh Kuan (which means Lee Iron Crutch). He is one of the Eight Immortals or Eight Fairies. In fact he is their Chief and is characterized by walking with an iron crutch...which he also used to discomfort his enemies.

I also have in my collection a figural snuff bottle of a fish jumping from a lily pond. It is carved from a beautiful piece of lapis lazuli. An ivory spoon is attached to a coral stopper.

Another figural snuff bottle in my collection is a very dark iridescent black catseye. It is carved in the shape of a dog with a stopper in the shape of a ball carved from turquoise. This bottle and the above are contemporary but the carvings are so well done that they will always have a place in my collection. Who knows perhaps someday I may even find a fine jade figural bottle to add to my collection.

Next time we'll delve into the subject of the hornbill ivory snuff bottles. 'Til next issue...

--M.A.S.--

SKI COUNTRY: Contd.

mini collector who wishes to know more about the many bottles that are coming out and hope that you gain some knowledge and insight through the Ski Country column. I would appreciate hearing from you as to your opinions on what you would like to see written about the Ski Country series. Please write me in care of the magazine.

Coming up, the P. T. Barnum Circus Series.

--Dennis D. Kowalski--

FOR SALE:

Cobalt Washington Bust $8.00, Benoit Serres Eiffel Tower (corker) $11.00, Luxardo Ashtrays (two different) $7.00@, Marquis de Montesquieu $15.00, Rum Carioca Oxen and Cart $10.00, Drioli Murano Duck, Cat, Mouse, Dog, 2 diff. Teardrops $8.00@, Ocha $8.00, Torras Queen $10.00. Beers: six different Pabst $2.50@. All postpaid. Send for list of beers, figurals, and glass bottles for sale or trade. Jean Fugina, 1741-63rd Avenue, Sacramento, Calif. 95822. Ph. 916 422-3226.

WANTED TO TRADE: I have RAINIER & EDELWEISS embossed, RED TOP ALE, FLECKS in stubby size, and 75 other miniature beers to trade. Send your list and I will send you mine. Herbert A. Haydock, 1660 2nd Avenue So., Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494.



FOR SALE

SKI COUNTRY MINIS

Eagle $20; Peacock, Hawk, Condor, Mallard Duck $12; Ram, Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Goose, Peace Dove and Burro $13; Ladies of Leadville $20 pr.; Elephant $15. All bottles are postpaid.

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

MINIATURE COLLECTORS

The Miniature Bottle Mart

A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively to the Collector of Miniature Liquor Bottles

24 Gertrude Lane, West Haven, Connecticut 06516

"THE LARGEST PUBLICATION OF IT'S KIND IN THE WORLD"

SUBSCRIPTION.....$6.00 A YEAR

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.

LET'S TALK: Contd.

Dorothy Pottratz wrote: "We are at a disadvantage here in Iowa as we never see new bottles here or in adjoining states. Even the state of Wisconsin which used to get mini liquor figurals doesn't get them anymore. The salesmen tell them they all go west. I found none up there last fall."

Mrs. Pottratz might not have been so disappointed had she known of other collectors she might have visited on her trip or specialty stores she might have gone to. To my way of thinking there almost seems to be a conscientious effort on the part of many to keep our hobby as small and introspective as possible. Some stores advertise, some don't. Some collectors advertise, some don't. Come to your own conclusions.

Moving on. If you're in a local bottle club or trying to get one started, you should take note of the efforts of Bill and Betty Allen of the Lilliputian Club here in Southern California. The Allens not only collect miniature bottles but miniature anythings. So to promote interest in the club they made a marvelous display part of which is shown in the accompanying picture. This display is then used at bottle and hobby shows and anywhere they or the club thinks it will do some good. Good grief, that's a pretty clever form of advertising, isn't it? A tip of the sombrero to the Allens and their ingenuity.

Finally, we move into an area which I had hoped would be utilized more fully by many of you. I'm talking about plugging activities of your club or local bottle shows which is all perfectly free. This time those of you who live within driving distance should attend the North Star Historical Bottle Association and Minnesota's First Antique Bottle Club's Show and Sale on April 27 and 28 at Benilde High School, 2501 S. Highway 100, St. Louis Park, Minnesota (a western suburb of Minneapolis). The show hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Saturday and to 4 P.M. on Sunday. Information on absolutely anything can be obtained from the show chairman, 3567 Lowell St., Deephaven Minnesota 55391.

So that's it for this time. One last reminder that if you want to be included in that "Lonely Collectors" list, take pen in hand.




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 3RD EDITION SPECIAL:

McWILLIAMS COCKTAILS--from New Zealand. Previously $10, now 5 for just $5, 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.



KOBY'S KOLLECTABLE KORNER

acquired this item I have tried to contact this distiller but there is no answer or listing as of this date. The container is hexagon shaped with a flat front and back. With the glass stopper, it stands 4 1/2 inches high, 1 3/4 inches across and 1 1/4 inches deep. It came with a cork and the stopper was tied with a cloth ribbon around the neck. I removed the cork and glued in the glass stopper as shown in the picture. The tax stamp is the Series Y 1937 from Illinois, red & white in the shape of the state of Illinois. The contents are gold and are starting to evaporate. The bottle is a one piece mold and both it and the stopper are cut glass. The whiskey is 96 proof.

The second photo shows the four (of five) BARDSTOWN FIDDLES which I am sure some of you have a sample of. Though they are pictured in four different reference books, we are proud of them in that we have all four "under one roof" so to speak. THE OLD FIDDLE is still filled, with a Wisconsin green & white 3 1/8¢ tax stamp. THE OLD ANTHEM is originally sealed but has evaporated. It is a two year old while the OLD FIDDLE is a five year old. THE BOURBON SPRINGS has been opened. On the back there is a green & white Nevada 1¢ tax stamp dated April 1940. The tax stamp shows what would appear to be the state capitol building. THE BARD'S TOWN came with the red sombrero when the man bought it in Maryland in the early '40's. It is about 1/4 evaporated and has a Nov. 28, 1938, brown strip-like .01 1/2¢ tax stamp from Maryland.

In the next issue, we'll look at a few Manhattans.

--Bob Koby--

TENUTA'S

3205-52nd Street
Kenosha, Wisc. 53140

daily 8 am to 9 pm.
Sat & Sun. 8 am to 8 p.m.

To get to our store take Interstate I-94 North of Chicago. Exit Wis. State Hgwy. 158. Proceed for 5 min. to 32nd Ave.

SEND .25 for our NEW LIST

our mini bourbon



Private Stock genuine charcoal filtered Kentucky Straight Bourbon. 86 proof with commemorative early American car on label. .80¢

Wisc. WE LIKE IT HERE .80¢

+++"SKI COUNTRY"+++

* HAWK
* MT. EAGLE
* CONDOR
* PEACOCK
* WOODPECKER
* MALLARD DUCK
* PEACE DOVE
* CAN. GOOSE
* FOX ON LOG

+++"ART LIMITED"+++

* BLUE JAY
* KOALA BEAR

+++"GARNIER"+++
NEW HOUSES

$6.99 each
SET OF 6 $40.00

WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF MINIATURES IN THE MID-WEST AND WE ARE ALWAYS ADDING.....

ALL FULL BOTTLES

+++"FAMOUS FIRSTS"+++

* SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS
* WINNIE MAE
* MORMON WASP
* 1912 NATIONAL
* 1973 INDY

+++"BOTTLES BEAUTIFUL"+++

* SEWING MACHINE
* TELEPHONE
* GRAMAPHONE
* BUTTERFLY

W.F. BLOWN GLASS ANIMALS
12 assorted and they are beautiful

+++"NEW LUXARDOS"+++
(These are filled with liqueur)

* BULLDOG
* OWL
* CAT
* FROG
* GONDOLA
* NUBIAN GIRL
* GAMBI

IN STOCK

GARNIER...JUGS...
CARDS...BIRDS...
CHESS PIECES..DOGS..
FLOWERS....



SKI-COUNTRY BOTTLE CLUB of So. Calif.

President: ZEE GUIDOTTI

3148 NO. WALNUT GROVE • ROSEMEAD, CA. • (213) 288-3441



MOUNTAIN LION – $24.95



CANADIAN GOOSE – $29.95
Mini – $12.95

notice
AVAILABLE NOW!

MINI BURRO – $12.95



SKIER – $11.25 postpaid



PEACE DOVE – $29.95
Mini – $10.95

POSTAGE & INSURANCE
LARGE BOTTLES – $2.00 ea.
MINI BOTTLES – $1.00 ea.
SET – $2.50



RED HEADED DUCK
Available Soon



AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN
Available Soon



Mini – $14.95
Both for $46.75

ELEPHANT ON A DRUM – $37.95

NOTICE:
SKI–COUNTRY Future bottles sometimes take up to six months before released. So as not to tie up your money, the club will notify its members when they are in stock.

PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW



Once upon a time, there were 3 groups of HAMM'S BEARS ....

"THE" 1972 HAMM'S BEARS





Large **$24.95** plus 1.95 post. & ins.

Mini **$8.95** plus 1.25 post.& ins.



"THE" 1973 HAMM'S BEARS



Large **$14.95** plus 1.95 post. & ins.

Mini **$8.95** plus 1.25 post.& ins.

1974 HAMM'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY MUG



$4.95 plus 1.25 post. & ins.



"THE" MINI SALT & PEPPER SHAKERS **$6.95 pr.** plus 1.25 post. & ins.



$49.95 postpaid



TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW
P.O. BOX 42558
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90050

Pictorial Bottle Review

The 'PULSE of the BOTTLE WORLD' Since 1969

••• SIX DAY DELIVERY

PROUDLY PRESENTS...

a 2oz. MINIATURE of ELMER the GOLD CAMEL



$8.95 plus $1.25 postage per

Make checks payable to:
PICTORIAL BOTTLE REVIEW
P.O. BOX 42558
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