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The Miniature Bottle Collector

Vol. 2 No. 1

Jan.-Feb 1975

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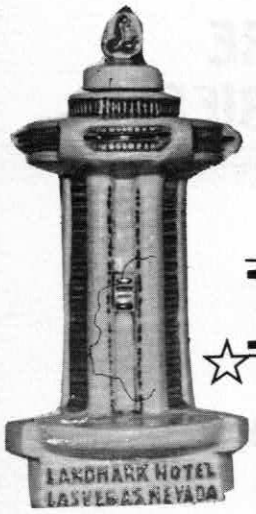
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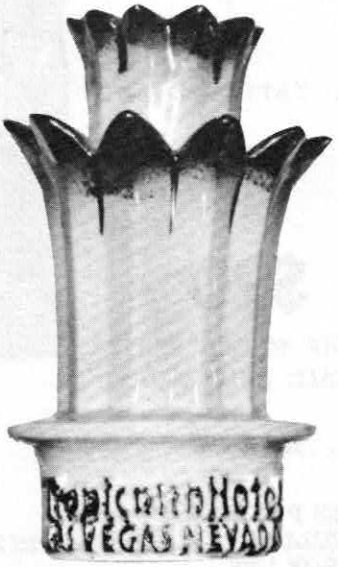


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The Miniature Bottle Collector

Vol.2 No.1

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OUR COVER

Our cover this time features three of the Old Store bottles from Italy. The first of our two-part story begins on page 6.

Editor: David M. Spaid Art: Mary L. Spaid

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ISAIAH: 1975 PREVIEW





UTAMARO GEISHAS









MORE TO COME!

LET'S TALK

Oh, boy, this was really a fast and busy two months. In the past few weeks, all kinds of interesting items have presented themselves. So, let's not waste--or mince--words.

We first heard from Connie Avery with both an article (you glass collectors, please take note) and a most intriguing piece of information. She wrote: "I have just reread Tony Natelli's second article on Luxardo bottles and find that he left out the story of the Luxardo Black Gondola (just to add to the confusion of Gondolas!). I quote from a letter from Nicolo Luxardo of Nov. 21, 1971: 'Going through some old files, I found that in 1959 - when Gondola was launched - we shipped to Hulse in San Francisco only 150 pieces of that shape painted in black only, as all real gondolas are painted in Venice. But that funeral color was not accepted, and so we switched to the bi-color that you know. Have you ever seen that [Black Gondola] in California? I have just one in my collection.'" We imagine that Connie and all our other figural collectors would love to have one in their collections...I know I would. So, once again, a tip of the hat for another interesting "Memo From Connie."

At about the same time, another piece of correspondance arrived from Bob Snyder. Bob had a great deal to say that I imagine you'll find very interesting. He wrote: "I wish I could write articles for the miniature collector, but my interest and research has been into the whiskey history prior to prohibition back to 1848. Starting in the March issue of the Old Bottle Magazine, I started writing for them because of their interest in old bottles. Miniature collectors who are interested in old bottles might be interested in obtaining the articles from this magazine (60¢ each). They are as follows: 1) March - Whiskey Brands, 2) April - Sixty-Five Years with Freiberg, 3) May - The Lost Beams, 4) June - Shot Glasses, 5) Sept. - I. W. Harper and October - Colonel Samuel Taylor Suit. I have one other article in the drafting stage. Maybe I can write in the future as I have some old ones miniature collectors have never seen that aren't in my books." Well, Bob, I know I can speak for everyone else and say that those particular ones which aren't pictured in your books are the very ones we're all waiting for. So, hopefully sometime in the near future..... (Note: O. B. M. address is: P. O. Box 243, Bend, Oregon 97701.)

Let's move on. In the course of reading about a score or more letters a day (and that's no exaggeration), every once in a while, some questions pop up which are marvelously intriguing. This is the second time I've mentioned Bobbie Neuwirth...but that's because she writes such great letters. In the middle of one letter, she asked the following questions: "Any idea of how many mini dealers and how many mini collectors in the USA? This might be determined from membership rosters of mini clubs...so when a 'limited edition' is made, how 'limited' is it really...if enough bottles are made to supply all but a few collectors? Of course, how many USA made minis go overseas? How many mini collectors are there in Italy, Argentina, England, and elsewhere? How 'limited' is a set of 2000 bottles or a set of 1200, which is obviously more 'limited?' Of course, there must be hundreds of U.S. mini collectors who belong to no club."

Well, the questions came rather fast and furiously there, didn't they? However, they all bear looking into. As to how many collectors there are, that's an incredible job just to estimate. To use somewhat of a strange comparative example, television executives feel that any individual who writes a letter about a particular program represents 50,000 other people. I use that because I feel that those who belong to the clubs and are actively involved are only the tip of the proverbial iceberg...how's that for mixing metaphors? Now to the idea of "limited editions"...what does constitute a limited edition in your opinion.

Another interesting subject was covered in a letter just recently received from collector Vic Visalli in New Jersey. He brings up that old problem about the mail service and what happens to magazines. He wrote: "As you see, I live in New Jersey and since the magazine is sent bulk rate mail, my copy arrives two to three weeks later than many others. Because of this, I miss out on many bottle finds available to me, for when I contact those who have advertised, I am told that the bottles have been taken for some time. Also, due to the delay, my magazine arrives partially destroyed.

So, how do we solve the problems? Vic has already been contacted but this is an area which has been touched in many letters. Here are the economics of it all. Since there are six copies a year and each copy costs a little above or below 8¢ bulk rate mail, that's a total of approximately 50¢ a year for postage. First class postage (which might take up to a week across the country) will be 50¢ per issue starting with this issue. Yes, that's a huge five ounces. So, I will suggest that anyone who wants to receive his or her copies by first class mail to send an extra two dollars. We all realize that is pretty ridiculous, but then so is our postage cost. However, there is one other way or offer which I'll make. Since the print cost per copy is very little once you get past 1000 copies, if you'll help push the subscriptions, I'll help with the postage. In short, anyone who brings in a new subscriber will receive the next six issues by first class mail. Even if that doesn't seem to mean too much to you, consider that each time you interest another collector, you've helped further the hobby and that particular collector just might be the one who wants to trade or sell that special bottle for which you've been hunting. It does work that way some times.

And now, speaking of "particular" collectors, here's our group who wanted to be included this time as lonely collectors.

Bob Greenfield	George R. Doyle	David Hood
4836 West Main St.	4234 W. 147th St.	5053 Bidwell
Skokie, IL 60076	Midlothian, IL 60445 (So. suburb of Chicago)	Brighton, MI 48116

This little service seems to be working because I've already heard of several new friendships which have been formed. And, once again, bottles have been swapped. So, don't forget, you never know who just might live almost around the corner.

OLD STORE

BY DAVID M. SPAID

Several months ago a group of miniature car bottles began to appear with great regularity here in the U.S. At the time there was a very minor "tempest in a teapot" about the quality of the bottles. Two words, cute and crude, were heard the most often. However, no matter the personal taste of the collectors involved, all agreed that the bottles were decidedly interesting.

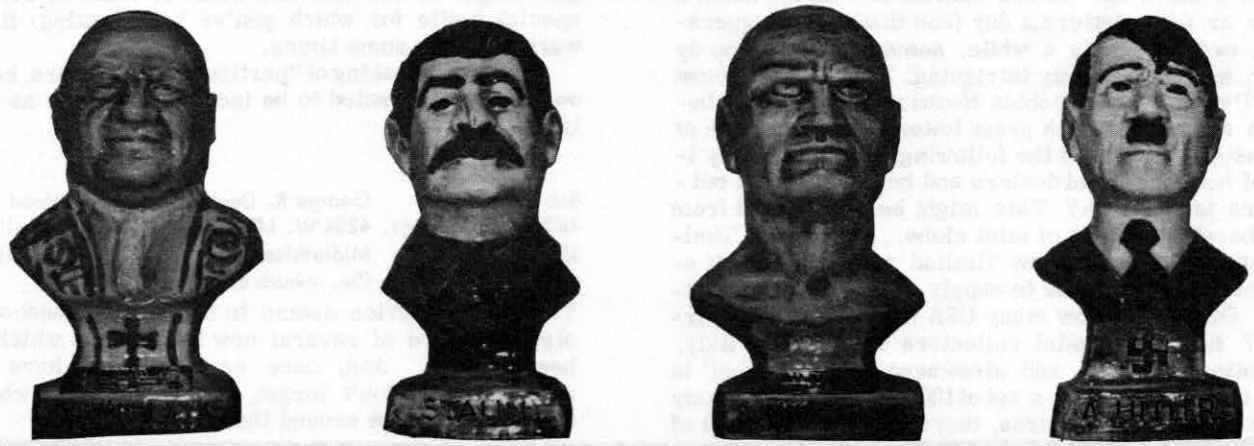
Naturally, the cars being discussed are the first seven Old Store bottles. Some were brought back from Italy by collectors while others were brought here specifically for trade by Italian dealers. The interest in the bottles comes mainly from two points: the fact that the little cars were made at all since cars have not been that popular a subject, and that the bottles contain Scotch. As you might know by now, all Old Store bottles so far have contained Scotch. You see, it's legal to use Scotch in Italy while the U.S. says that anything which states Scotch must come from Scotland.

Right after the set of little cars came an even more interesting set. This group of bottles was a set of busts of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Pope John. Exactly what Pope John is doing in the company of those other "characters" (the kindest term available) is not known. However, it's been rumored that these are only the first in a series of famous world leaders. The bottles were first seen in a rather anemic white; however, later they appeared in the multi-colored versions which are pictured for you. Many people who collect figurals and scotch bottles passed these by though because of the presence of Herr Hitler and Comrade Stalin. Interestingly enough, not many U.S. collectors were upset by the inclusion of Signor Mussolini. With these two groups of busts, there were now a total of fifteen Old Store bottles... and that was just the beginning.

It's very difficult to state exactly which bottles came next; however, another large group- this time a set of eight- soon appeared on the scene. This grouping contained the following: three clowns, three soldiers, a man with his hand on his head (for lack of a better name), and a woman. Most collectors took to these bottles a great deal more easily than they did to the cars and busts. The three clowns or harlequins were considered the best by most collectors and they also started something which has become a trend with Old Store. This "trend" is taking old large-size bottles and making miniatures of them. At least two of the three clowns were originally made years before in fifth size by Brams.

Three of the bottles which were released next were also miniature remakes. The American, Englishman, and Indian were originally Garniers in their Policemen of the World Series. At about the same time, another soldier (or Daniel Boone) was released. This particular bottle is rather unique due to its incredibly small base. If thise one come your way, you'd better place it somewhere so that it can't be easily knocked over.

That's it for this time due to space limitations. Next issue we'll finish up the Old Store bottles and provide you with a check list of all their bottles.





Recent Issues From Italy



GERMAN GIVE-AWAYS

by HAROLD GOETZ

My first give-aways were Tango, Santa Claus with a bottle in his hands and a bag of toys on his back, and a bisque toilet bowl on which was written "For Gentlemen Only." Also, each had a paper label with "Seasons Greetings" and the name of the saloon and its proprietor on it. I'll always have a special remembrance for this group as they were among 3,000 minis I purchased in early 1968. At that time, I was living in a studio apartment and many of my non-bottle collecting friends thought I was running a bottle museum on the side.

Having been a dis-illusioned Jim Beam collector, I knew very little of miniatures and less of give-aways, but I sensed a challenge and little did I dream then of where it would lead me. I soon learned that the earliest give-aways were made in the 1880's and were hand-blown glass figures with pewter caps. Among the most popular in those days were a clam, oyster, cigar, and pistol. Next came the bisque figures made in Germany.... examples of these were several types of pretzels, a turnip, hammer, billy club, anvil, blimp, etc. They were sold by the dozen to the saloons and cost approximately 20-30 cents each at the time.

The most popular by far and hardest to find though are the figures of people and the flasks with people embossed on the front side (and in some cases in the rear also). These come in three basic color patterns, multi-color (with a brown wood grain finish on the back side), solid tan, and solid light blue. The blue pieces would seem to be the most sought after by all collectors.

The majority of the give-aways I have obtained I've bought in collections. A few I've purchased at antique or bottle shows, but I have yet to find one in a flea market or swap meet here in the U. S. A. However, in Europe, I've found at least 12 or 13 in either of London or the Paris flea markets. Some I have never seen before or since. For example, one unusual piece was a flask in multi-color with a three-legged man and the inscription "A Present From The Isle Of Man." The three-legged man is a symbol of good fortune... any way you throw him, he will land on his feet.

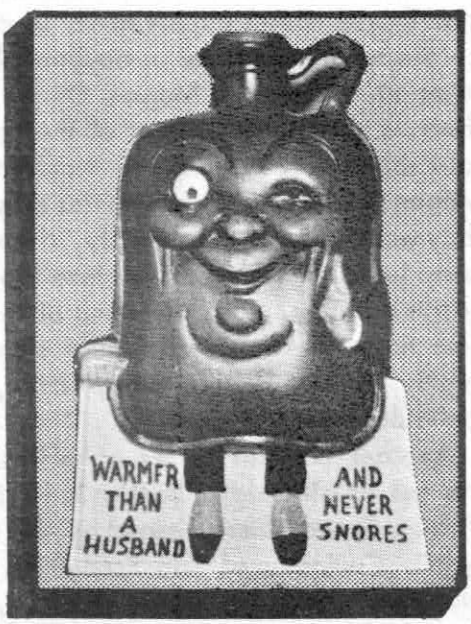
My personal collection of give-aways now numbers over 100 but each year I find fewer bottles to add. This is due mainly to the intense competition with bottle collectors of all types... antique bottle collectors, doll collectors, and also the ever present mini collector. If you do happen to spot some of these little beauties on your next flea market adventure, remember that ten years ago the average price per piece was about ten dollars. Who knows what the next ten years will bring for figurals which are truly rare and over sixty years old?


WHAT
ELSE
YOU
WANT?






NIGHT WALKER


WARMER
THAN
A
HUSBAND
AND
NEVER
SNORES

Tiny Topicals

by AL HALPERN

I have selected "military miniatures" for our first specific subject for a collection of topical mini bottles because -- if you'll pardon the pun -- I wanted to start off with a bang!

Probably the most popular set of bottles that would fit into the military category is the Concord Cannoneer set. The realism shown in these bottles captures anyone's eye. In view of the upcoming 200th anniversary of the United States these particular minis become even more popular since they are commemorative of the Battle of Concord on April 19, 1776. When the Cannoneer set was first issued -- and they were made in Japan, by the way -- it came out with Mogen David Wine labels on the bottles. As the story goes, the bottles were marketed by National Porcelain Company and the firm hoped to sell them to Mogen David Wine Company, but the company didn't buy them. The labels were already made, however, and since Mogen David didn't object to it, National Porcelain sold the bottles to anyone who was interested, with the Mogen David labels on them. Consequently, most of the bottles were sold empty. It is not true, incidentally, that Mogen David turned the bottles down because they were leakers. Apparently, the wine company just didn't want to get into the porcelain bottle business. Recently some of the Cannoneers have shown up on liquor store shelves, mostly in the Nevada area, filled, and with the MBC label on them.

Another popular series of military minis is the set of six soldier bottles containing California Cream Sherry issued by the Grenadier Spirits Company of San Francisco. Made in Nagoya, Japan, of fine porcelain, the first three in this series -- Brigadier General George S. Custer, Officers 3rd Guards Regiment, and First Officers Guard -- were marketed in 1972. Inorder to keep the figures intact, Grenadier had these designed with the stopper attached to the rear portion of the bottle and, consequently, no "break" in the lines of the figures. The bottle collectors objected to this treatment and made known their wish that the stopper should be an actual part of the figure. (A strange breed we bottle collectors -- we collect bottles but we don't want the bottles to look like bottles! Right?) Being considerate of the wishes of the mini collector, when Grenadier issued its second set of three bottles in 1973, the heads of the figures were the stoppers on the bottles. An interesting sidelight to the George Custer mini is the error in the spelling of the abbreviation for Brigadier on the front of the bottle. It should be BRIG and it came out BIRIS. I would venture a guess that the Japanese couldn't decipher the original instructions and took their best shot at what they thought it was. After all, the Japanese don't know General Custer from Tom Sawyer. When the bottle was first issued, some collectors thought they had a "rare" one-of-a-kind genuine misspelled find...and probably were disappointed when they learned that the misspelling existed on all the Custer bottles.

The glass figural bottle shown here has been known as either the Joan of Arc bottle or the Knight on Horseback. In either case, the bottle fits into the "military" category. This bottle was first issued by Castagnon in France, containing Cognac, and was rather a difficult bottle to find. In recent months, however, the identical bottle has appeared on the market containing Cornish Mead wine and, while it

A Look at Military Miniatures from Mogen David, Grenadier, McLech and others...

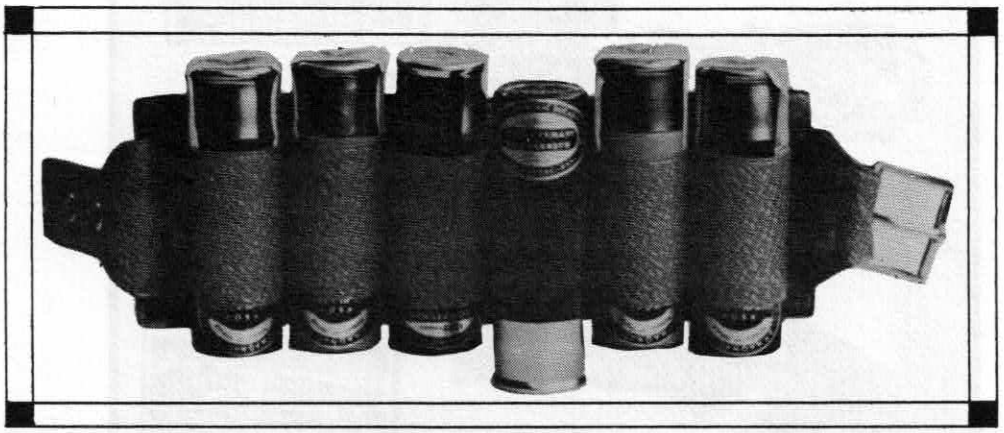
was never distributed through normal channels in the U.S., it nevertheless is now more readily available to collectors.

In 1969 McLech, a company in Scotland, issued several military figural bottles. One is a whimsical figure of a gnarled old Scottish warrior complete with tam, kilts, shield, sword, and battered face. Some collectors have been known to call him Mac the Knife. The other two bottles were issued as a set -- His & Hers Dueling Pistols. The smaller bottle (for "her", naturally) was filled with Coffee Rum Liqueur while the larger "his" pistol held Scotch.

One of the cleverest military additions to this topical collection is the cannon issued by Courvoisier of France in 1971. The base of the cannon, including the wheels, is a finely detailed plastic in black and is so designed that a miniature glass bottle of Courvoisier rests in a cradle so that the neck of the glass bottle forms the barrel and muzzle of the cannon. That's what I call a smart Frenchman with a mind to knowing how to merchandise his product.

There are a number of other military minis that could be added to the collection, such as the leatherette bandolier of Armagnac Shotgun Shells, the Manhattan Tank, the Cavalry Helmet, and the Garnier Faceless Soldiers but then these fall into the high-priced "hard-to-find" category, and you may not want to consider adding these until you have accumulated all the lower-priced bottles.

If you bottle bugs out there in "mini land" know of any others that could be added to a "military" collection, please let us know, will ya? ...ah...



ARMAGNAC SHOTGUN SHELLS

CONCORD CANNONEER

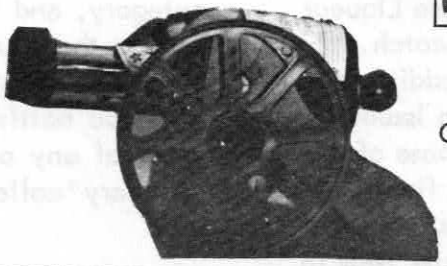


CASTAGNON
JOAN OF ARC



MCLECH
SCOTTISH WARRIER





COURVOISIER CANNON



LUXARDO MINIATURES

by CONNIE AVERY

Most miniature bottle collectors are interested in collecting figural bottles, but there are others who specialize in so-called regular line miniatures.

The two articles on Luxardo Miniatures published in the Miniature Bottle Collector, and written by Tony Natelli, thoroughly cover the famous Luxardo figural miniatures. These were issued through the 1950's and 1960's. Those who collect the Luxardo "regular line" miniatures will find that many are far older than any of their figural companions.

The House of Luxardo was founded in 1821 by Girolamo Luxardo at Zara in Dalmatia. It was in 1833 they developed the glass bottle still in use today: tall, slender, and wrapped in straw. This Maraschino bottle, their first, was designated as No. 1. Other styles followed and were numbered consecutively as they were designed and early brochures show them with their numbers. Many of these styles were also made in miniature, ever popular to their customers. And these early Zara miniatures are very desirable today.

Then came World War II and on Nov. 28, 1943, the Luxardo factory in Zara was totally destroyed. After the conclusion of the war, Giorgio Luxardo reestablished the family business in Torreglia, Italy in 1947, where it resides today.

Collectors interested in labels, will recognize that any Luxardo miniature with a Zara label was issued before 1943. Those with the Torreglia label were made after 1947. Those bearing also the Hulse label were imported to the U.S. between 1952 and 1962. The M.D.G. label was issued after 1968.

The miniature pottery Jug shown first in the photo is listed as No. 8 in an old Zara brochure, and is very like its larger sized bottle.

The straw-wrapped Maraschino Sauce, next in line, is of great interest to Nicolo Luxardo - who had never heard of it. (All Luxardo records were destroyed in the fire at Zara, except for a canvas sack filled with Luxardo recipes which was rowed in the dead of night across the Adriatic Sea to safety in Italy.) He wrote: "I was not aware that Luxardo had shipped a 'sauce' in the early years, I thought I was very cute in inventing a 'sauce' which I shipped to Raffetto Bros. of Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1958... It seems that I inherited some of my father's blood, which works out when necessary." He also wrote that the name of the importer, John Aquino of New York, was fully unknown to him.

The Anisette is similar in shape to No. 3 in an old Zara brochure (saved by a liquor store in Italy and returned to the Luxardos). The Cherry Brandy resembles No. 12. Mr. Luxardo believes this brochure was published about 1925.

A novel plastic package is sold today in Italy, holding 20 Luxardo miniatures. All the bottle shapes are the same, but with varying contents and bearing very colorful labels. These, of course, are from Torreglia. --C.A.--



Modern Plastic Container of Luxardo Miniatures 12 ¼"

Top Row:
1. Pottery Jug-Curacao, Zara.
2. Maraschino Sauce, Zara.
3. Maraschino, Hulse Import Co.
4. Maraschino, M. D. G. Imports
5. Cherry Brandy, Zara.
6. Anisette, Zara.

Bottom:
7. Apricot Luxardo, Hulse Imp.
8. Cherry Luxardo, Hulse Imp.
9. Ditto
10. Apricot Luxardo, Hulse Imp.
11. Ditto
12. Liquore Amaro. This is a recent issue.




LUXARDO
LUXARDO
LUXARDO



by

Ruth Jones

The first part of this article has to do with "relativity." I think that is the word. Two months ago I said the swan, sage grouse, and the redheaded duck would be in. Two of them made it, but the sage grouse still isn't here. This is what I mean by relativity, two months is a long time if you are waiting for a bottle and a very short time if you are going to write about it. Surely by the time you read this the sage grouse and maybe the clown will be out. I know those of you that get them empty, that is without tax stamps, get them much earlier, but that trip to Weston, Missouri, and back is a long haul. I have been expecting the horned owl for so long that I am not sure he isn't up in a tree some place. To all you owl collectors, and Ski Country, it has to be here before long.

Thought I would tell you a little about the bottles that are called by different names. Some differ in different parts of the country and some are called by different things right here. We don't try to get people mixed up, but it does happen. The first eagle was called "bald," "majestic," "Colorado majestic," and just plain eagle. The Red Shouldered Hawk has been called a falcon. The Golden Eagle was advertised that way and when it came out it had Mountain Eagle on the bottle. The Condor is often called a vulture--which it is--but the California Condor is almost extinct. There is, also, a Rocky Mountain Sheep, Ram and Goat, but it is a Ram. The ones that are called by more than one name confuse many people and they write frantically to be sure they get every one that has been put out. But regardless of what they are called, they are all beautiful.

Now for some information on the Circus Set brought out for the Barnum Festival. The Barnum Festival has, for more than 25 years, been a positive force in Bridgeport, Connecticut and its surrounding towns. The Festival has grown from a long weekend affair to a smoothly coordinated, universally sponsored potpouri of entertainment beginning in May and reaching a climax on the July 4th weekend. Sounds like a big bash to me. The parade is a major feature, with bands, military units, animals, clowns --- the whole works. Crowds line the streets. But the Festival parade offers something extra... thousands of spectator seats in the city's Kennedy Stadium through which the entire parade passes in review! There are many events to celebrate this affair and it certainly sounds like a lot of fun.

The first of the figurines honoring this great Festival is the elephant. It came out the first part of 1974, and I think it is safe to say, most of them have found a home in someone's collection. The next in the series is the colorful Ringmaster in his red coat, white breeches and black hat. The clown should be out very soon, and since there are many clown collectors, I am sure it will not be around very long. The Tiger on the Ball will follow in time, as will Tom Thumb and others. The big event for November is the breaking of the Tom Thumb mold in Sarasota, Florida, at the Circus Hall of Fame. The breaking of a mold sounds very impressive

to me, but I always wonder why the breaking of just one mold. I know they can't make all those little bottles from just one mold. I'm a little skeptical about that business. There were 1800 elephants, and sorry I don't have the figures for the Ringmaster, but I am sure there weren't more than 1800. The clown will be a 1500 issue and the Tiger on a Ball will be just 1200. That means that you better get "on the ball" and pick these up--they won't last long.

The sixth Indian Dancer has been approved and I hope that by the next issue I can show you a complete set of the Indians.

'Til the next issue--HAPPY HOLIDAYS--and all that stuff. Here it is the first of November and I don't really feel like wishing anyone Happy Holidays... I don't have any shopping done. If all the bottles that I have been told will be out "at the end of the year" do make it, you will have HAPPY HOLIDAY COLLECTING. 'Til next year...

--R. J.--

ski country circus series











BIMALS

by Darwin Williams

In this month's article, we will continue our look at miniature whiskies of the San Francisco area.

The first bottle pictured for you is a miniature of A. Fenkhausen & Co. Amandus Fenkhausen started a wholesale liquor business in San Francisco in 1861. During the years 1867 to 1874 and 1878 to 1882, he was in partnership with others, but the other years (from 1861 until his death in 1895), he was alone, and during this time only his name appeared on the bottles.

The embossment on this miniature is the same as the embossment on large bottles made by Fenkhausen during the period from 1883 to 1895. From 1883 to 1890, the bottles were made with a ring around the embossing, while from 1890 to 1895 they were made without a ring. Since the miniature does not have a ring around it, the tendency would be to date it with the earlier bottle, so I would probably guess that this bottle was made around 1890.

It is interesting to note that San Francisco is spelled "San Francisoo" on this bottle. I have not yet seen a variation of this bottle with the spelling corrected. This bottle is a shade over 5 1/2" tall.

Our second bottle is a miniature of Henry Campe & Co. Henry Campe was in the liquor business in San Francisco from 1866 to 1915. He was a retailer only until 1888. This mini is probably a later one, around 1915. This bottle is 3 3/4" tall.

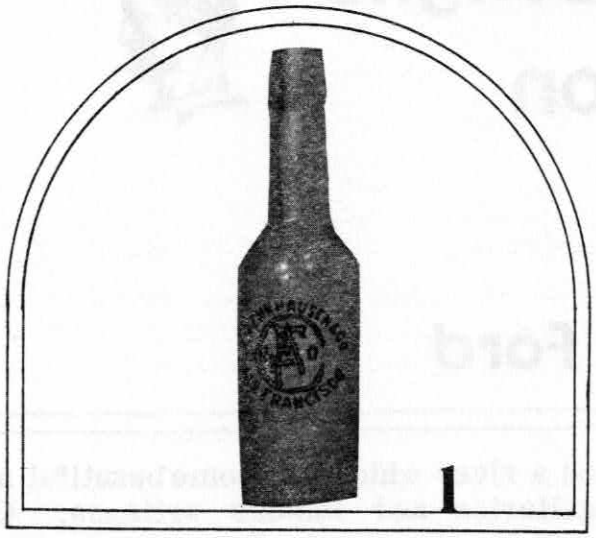
Another Campe miniature, not pictured, is a small amber bottle with "Old Campe Rye" embossed on the neck. I passed one of these up at one time, not knowing what it was. I won't make that mistake again.

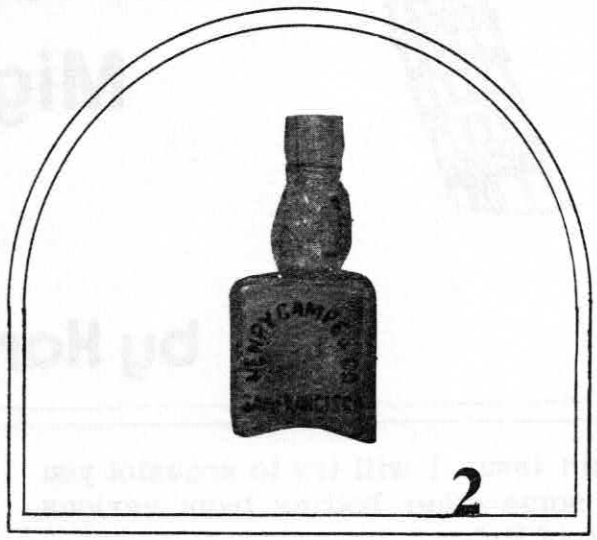
The third bottle this time is a Chesley's Jockey Club Whiskey miniature. George W. Chesley established a liquor importing warehouse and office in San Francisco in 1872. It was at that time that the Jockey Club brand was established. By the mid 1880's, bottles were being produced (for one year) in amber and then four years in clear glass. In 1891, George Chesley dies, and the company was taken over by E. A. Fargo and Company, but they never embossed the Jockey Club bottles. Since the miniature is made of clear glass, it was probably made around 1890. The bottle is 5 1/2" tall.

Our next bottle is in the interesting shape of a football, and was produced by Newman's College, San Francisco. Newman's College was not an institute of higher education, in the classical sense of the word, but was instead a tavern. Newman's College Inn was located at #1 Powell, in San Francisco, from 1912 to 1918. Maurice Newman was in the retail liquor business in 1892. He started a wholesale liquor business in 1912. The miniature was produced from 1912 until 1914. I have heard vague rumors to the effect that there is another variation to this miniature, but I have never seen any, or heard of a definite difference. The bottle was also made in a half pint size. The miniature is 4 1/4" tall.

The last miniature for us this time is a Jesse Moore & Co. miniature. In 1875, Henry B. Hunt entered into a partnership with C. Deweese (an agent of the Jesse Moore Company), to sell Jesse Moore whiskey in the West. In 1897, the company was consolidated and became the Jesse Moore Hunt Company. The bottle, 6" tall, is heavily embossed, stating: "Jesse Moore & Co., San Francisco." This miniature

from San Francisco...


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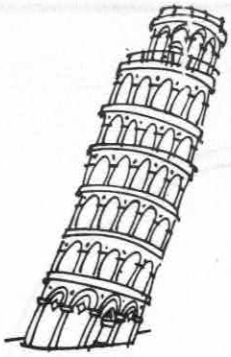

5

was produced from 1900 to 1905.

This pretty much concludes the San Francisco miniatures. There are a few odds and ends that I haven't mentioned, mainly because I don't have them. One that certainly is neither an odd or an end is the Phoenix whiskey miniature. This is generally considered to be the rarest San Francisco miniature, and among the rarest of the bimal miniatures. At this time, I will **not** go into any detail about this bottle, but I will in the future show one and give you some information at that time.

Next time we'll return to the beers, and look at some from other parts of the country... and even the world.

--D.W.--



Italiano Bottiglie Mignon



by Harry Ford

This issue I will try to acquaint you with some other bottles from various areas of Italy.

The first two pieces this time were made and bottled in Sicily by the San Filippo Company. Both have labels indicating they are "Liquor of the Etna." The Etna naturally is the famous volcano in the southern part of Italy.

The first of these two is a brown and white ceramic replica of an oil lamp. The second bottle is a very unusually shaped jug which is white with brown spots. Our picture attests to its uniqueness.

These were both found in Italy this past summer in both Rome and Florence. The oil lamp also came in a green and white color. There were only a few of these to be found... even in the stores which cater to the collectors.

Many of you are familiar with the jugs produced by the Certosini Company in Florence. The next two jugs are produced by Certosini, but are different in another way.

The first of the pair is a brightly colored jug which is inscribed "Ricorda Di Roma." Like the giveaways that advertised communities, this jug is a souvenir of a place in Rome that I hope to visit again soon.

The second jug has the word "Firenze" written on it. This is a picturesque city on a river which has some beautiful art galleries and famous artisans. Of course, the city is Florence, home of the Certosini Company.

The next glass bottle should be familiar to all of you. The glass tower is a souvenir of a city made famous by that leaning tower. Naturally, this time I'm talking about Pisa, Italy. The bottle was made by Mugnetti and contains Liquore Gioiello (whatever that is). The tower also comes in a ceramic version by Certosini...but at a very high price.

For those of you who like little people, I have a go-along here. I say "go-along" because this Grappi Monk goes along very well with the cute Certosini Monks. This little fellow is wearing a brown robe, has flesh colored skin and contains "Liquor of Friar's Bitters."

The last bottle is one for milk glass lovers. This was made by the Stock Company of Torino, Italy. It contains Egg Brandy and is probably about twenty-five years old. It was obtained in Belgium and is embossed "Stock." It is only one of the many magnificent milk glass bottles issued by Stock down through the years.

I hope you have enjoyed this short tour of Italy and I will try to show you some more new, old, and interesting bottles in future articles.

--H. F. --

San Filippo



Certosini



Mugnetti
Grappi
Stock



KOBY'S KOLLECTABLE KOLUMN

I imagine after seeing the pictures of the animals, harp and plane, the following Manhattan items might be a slight let down. But living in a state where collectors are scarce and getting unusual bottles is harder or rather getting harder all the time, these are as nice to me as the other Manhattans. The following bottles were in that collection of last summer which numbered 725.

The first bottle is a ceramic. It stands 3 1/3 inches high, is navy blue in color, and is an evaporated corker. It contained California Muscatel Wine. The writing in the lower right hand corner of the label reads "For Sale in Florida Only." There is also a round stamp on the bottom which reads "Manhattan Distributors, Miami." The alcoholic content is 19-21% by volume.

The second item is a pinch shape, clear glass, 3 3/4 inches high, metal twist cap, and has contents which are dark brown in color.

Item three is of the tear drop class or variety. On this label we run into three names of identification. The first is DE VONAIRE which was used by Paramount Distributing. Philip Blum & Company, Inc. was the bottler. And, of course, this one was bottled for Manhattan Distributing of Miami, Florida. Getting back to Philip Blum, this was the company which bottled for Paramount of Chicago. I stand corrected, however, I think I have seen LIONEL bottles that were also bottled and prepared by Philip Blum.

Our next item is a Manhattan bottled Grapefruit Cordial, artificially flavored. As with the original bottles, this one has the familiar gold background, red stripe, and gold and black letters that are identified with Manhattan bottles. We have two of these bottles, the other being a Chianti Cordial. These bottles have metal twist caps, one is red, one is green. I can only surmise they were meant to be used as salt and pepper shakers after the contents were gone. Both caps have holes in them. The base or drop of the bottle is somewhat wider than the De Vonaire. Both are wicker encased with the orange/white tassels. And, both stand 4 3/4 inches in height.

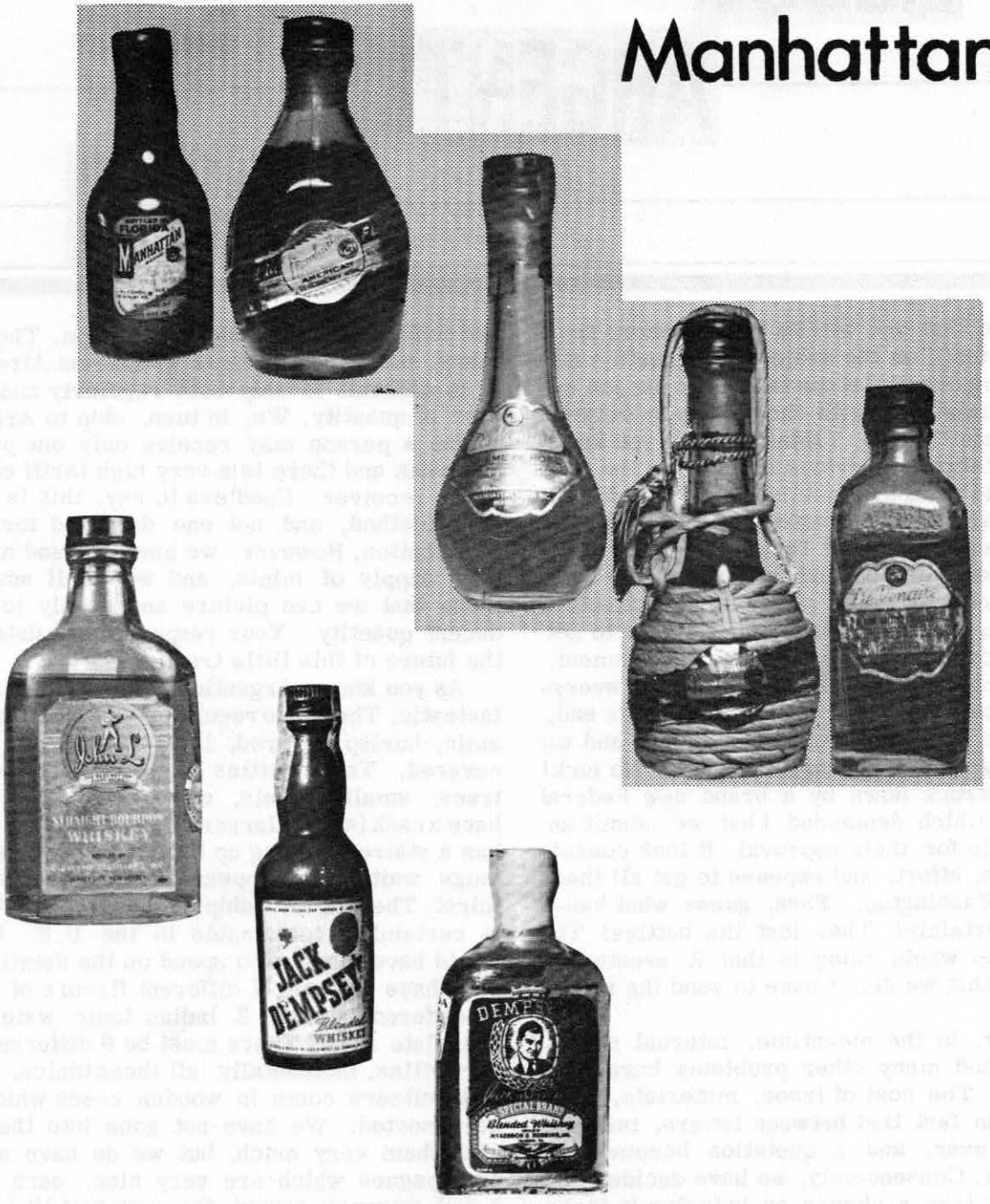
Our last Manhattan is a Rum Collins Cocktail, 34 proof, clear with a light brown contents. It is four inches tall, ridged sides and has an impregnated or bobbled back. Again, this bottle is similar to the Paramount with the three part label: DE VONAIRE Philip Blum bottler bottled for Manhattan. When we found this collection, it came up somewhere in the course of the conversation that these bottles were bought by the original owner somewhere between 1930 and 1935.

Now comes our small contribution among any former boxers who turned to mini collecting. If Pat McMullen is reading this, we are still looking for the Joe Louis bottle. If any of you "out in mini land" have a duplicate of the Joe Louis, drop Pat a line.

The John L straight bourbon whiskey was bottled by Oldetyme Distillers, Inc., Jersey City, N. J. It's 90 proof, one year and six months old, and distilled in Kentucky. The label is red with a gold border. The round circle that shows the boxer is gold. The caption on the streamer reads: the best bet for every round. The bottle is flat, clear, four inches tall and has a metal twist cap. The tax stamp visible on the right facing side is from Ohio. It's blue with a picture of the state of Ohio and unfortunately, I don't know the year.

Back to round two. The following two are

More From Manhattan



self - explanatory names, but the labels are somewhat different. The round Dempsey was blended and bottled by Jack Dempsey Co., Dundalk, Md., while the flat Dempsey (endorsed and signed by same) is distributed by McKesson & Robbins of New York. The round bottle is 4 1/2 inches tall, amber, has a metal twist cap, is 3 years old with 86.8 proof and has a Maryland 1939-1947 tax stamp.

The flat Dempsey is a SPECIAL BRAND. It's four inches tall, clear, 90 proof, two or more years old with a Florida 1 1/2 cent 1935-36 tax stamp. Also, this particular brand was bottled in Aladdin, Pa. The label has a gold border with a black background.

Until the next issue, I remain "miniaturely yours."

--B. K.--

ABOUT ARGENTINE MINIS

by
GINNY FAY

We hope that you will be hearing more from Alfredo Spinelli on the subject of Argentine minis, but temporarily let me take over his job and try to acquaint you with the goings-on between Argentina and the U. S. I think most of you know, if you have followed previous articles on the subject in David's various publications, that for the last two years we have been engaged in an almost futile attempt to import these delightful minis so that economically and geographically they would be more readily available to collectors all over the country. It took about a year to get label approval from the Federal Government, during which time they lost the labels, and everything had to be done all over again on our end. Finally the way looked perfectly clear, and we were ready to fire our opening salvo. No luck! We were struck down by a brand new Federal regulation which demanded that we submit an actual bottle for their approval. It took considerable time, effort, and expense to get all these bottles to Washington. Then, guess what happened? Certainly! They lost the bottles! The irony of the whole thing is that it eventually turned out that we didn't have to send the bottles in at all.

However, in the meantime, internal strife, inflation, and many other problems have beset Argentina. The cost of labor, materials, etc. is rising so fast that between letters, inflation has taken over, and a quotation becomes no longer firm. Consequently, we have decided that rather that take a chance on bringing in these minis through normal liquor channels, we will continue in our own small way to be your supplier and try to keep you abreast of developments as they happen.

If you have read my ads, you will know that for the last three years we have been bringing in these nips which have added so much to many of your collections. They are shipped in wooden boxes about the size of a case of liquor, and each box takes about three months to arrive by ship--then it is transferred to the U. S. mails and continues its journey to Boylston. There are many, many restrictions in Buenos Aires, and it is difficult to ship both regularly and in any kind of quantity. We, in turn, ship to Argentina where a person may receive only one package per week and there is a very high tariff charged to the receiver. Needless to say, this is a very slow method, and not one designed for much distribution. However, we have on hand a pretty good supply of minis, and we shall advertise these that we can picture and supply in fairly decent quantity. Your response will determine the future of this little trend.

As you know, Argentine miniatures are quite fantastic. They have regular glass, plastic, ceramic, burlap-covered, leather-covered, plush-covered. Their bottles made of wood look like trees, small barrels, casks, and kegs. They have a cask (a little larger than miniature) which has a staircase going up the side to two ceramic mugs waiting to appease the stairclimber's thirst. The workmanship of these wooden bottles is certainly unobtainable in the U. S. No one would have the time to spend on the detail. They also have at least 17 different flavors of sodas, 12 different beers, 2 Indian tonic waters and chocolate milk. There must be 9 different seltzer bottles. Incidentally, all these tonics, beers, and seltzers come in wooden cases which may be assorted. We have not gone into the wines with them very much, but we do have several champagnes which are very nice, each having a foil wrapper around the cork just like the big boys. They make excellent use of wicker and they have a lot of interesting jugs.

At the moment I have on hand several of their bottles which are newly manufactured and feel that this would be a good way to start. So please refer to my ad for what is available right now.

If any of you have any questions concerning these minis--or any others--please feel free to drop us a line. We will do our best to please you in any way we can. Thanks for listening. And have fun.

★ Gil Nation ★

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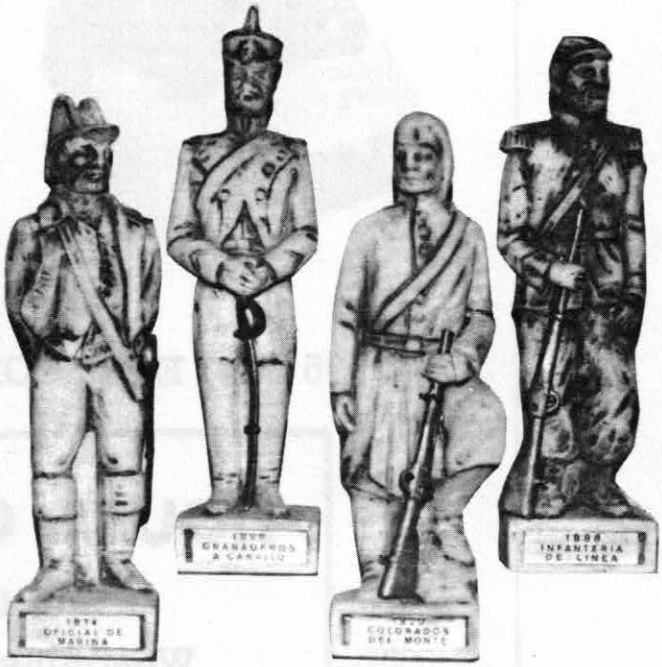
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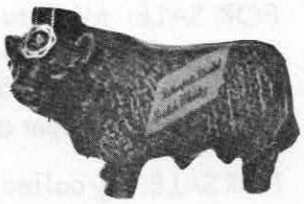
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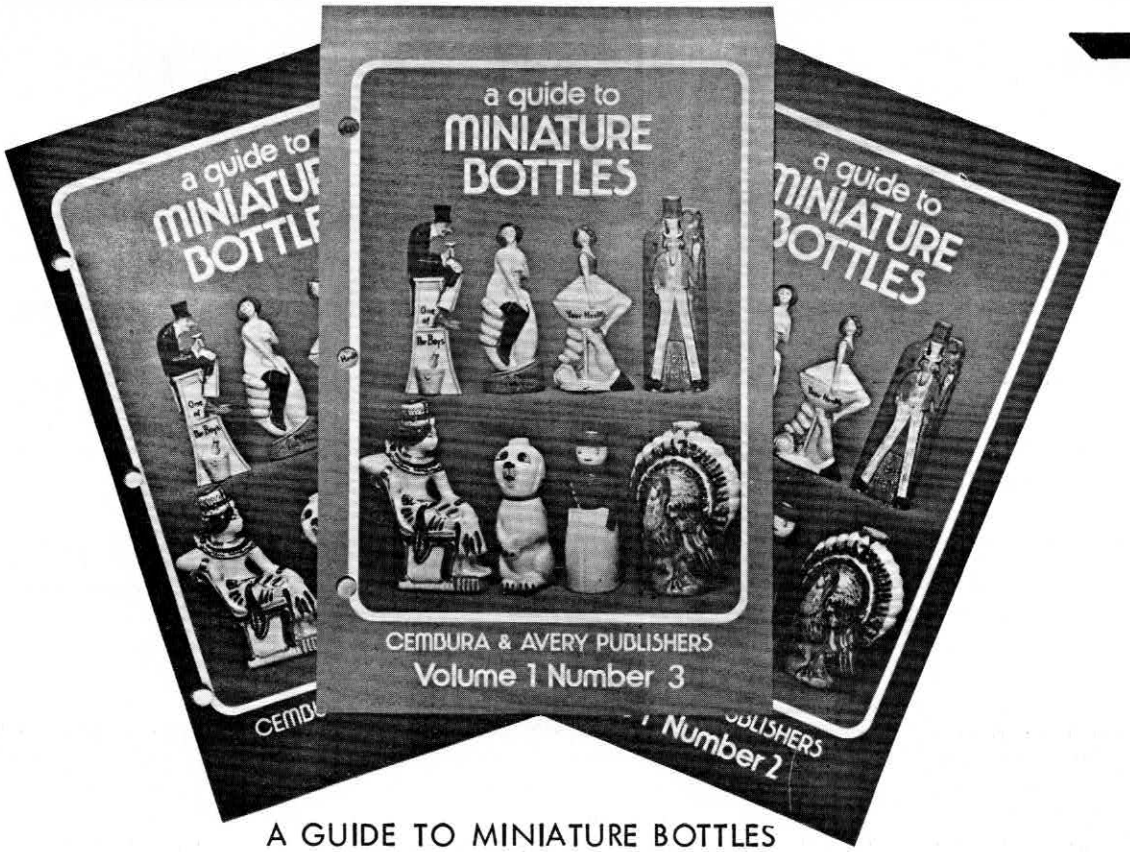
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