

THE

Nov. - Dec. 1981  
Vol. VIII No. 5

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

New From Wild Turkey!



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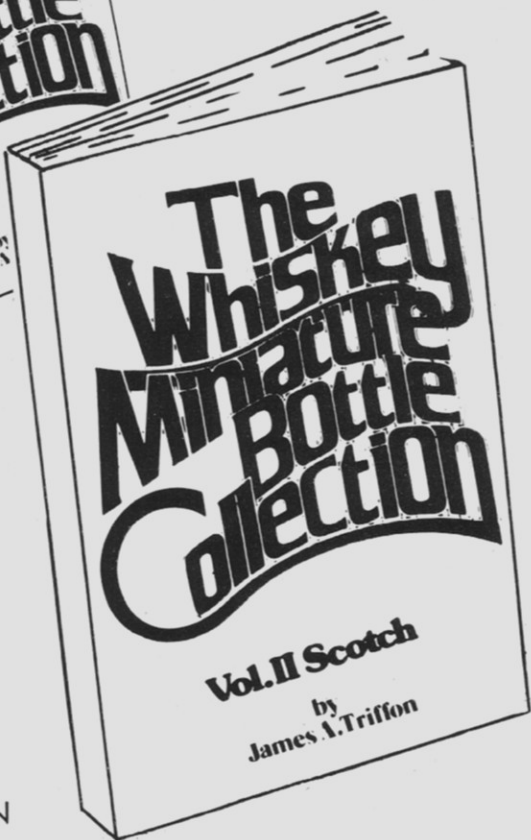
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# Let's Talk

Good grief, this is a tightly packed issue. We didn't have room left over for even our druthers!!!

I've taken a lot of flak about that Bell's Royal Wedding mini. According to the Bell's Company and they should know, it was not made in a miniature. So, I was given the wrong information.

I'd like to call your attention to the ad on page one. This was not a paid ad (sure wish it were) but was included to show you what's happening. It's certainly about time. If the United States could end its liquor paranoia, we'd all be the better for it!

Jim Triffon's book is now on most of your shelves and Jim has more time, so you'll be seeing his articles once again in 1982. Connie Avery's article on the new Garnier minis still has not arrived, but will!

Joe Levesque (pronounced Le-veck... if you've wondered) is back again with a real dilly... as is Fred Jinkens... and, Ada Felske. Next time John Johns will return and as usual, a few surprises.

Something which will not be a surprise next time will be an expanded Club Report. We've got the pictures from the New York show as well as information on the second Japanese club in Osaka and two (count 'em) clubs in New Zealand.

Finally, even without a special black border, I must make note of the passing of a collector's collector... Mr. E. J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was very well known in So. California bottle circles, as indeed he should have been. He began collecting in 1920 and never lost his enthusiasm. He was also responsible for the design of the Jim Beam Mission Club bottle and last year's Cyrus Noble U.S.C. Trojan. Mr. Murphy, you'll be missed.

THE

Nov. - Dec. 1981  
Vol. VIII, No. 6

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Art Director MARY L. SPAID

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## Our Cover

Yes, these are the first of the miniature Wild Turkey ceramics. These are exact replicas of the larger bottles introduced some years ago and come filled with 50 ml. of Wild Turkey 101-proof. The price runs from \$15-20 depending on the area in which you find them. If these are successful, the rest of the series will be produced and marketed at the rate of two per year.

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# Ski Country



by Ruth Jones

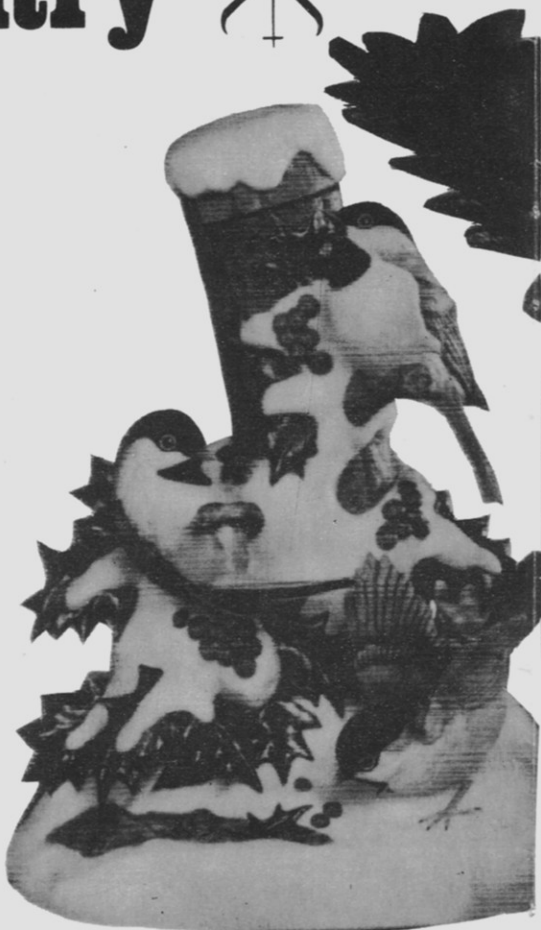
Oh, dear! I have been asked to get an article in "pronto", so here goes. After talking to the Foss Company, the next bottle out is the Phoenix Bird. It already has been released in Arizona and all we will be able to get here in Colorado will be empty. Guess I haven't been reading my newsletter as I should. Only 1044 were made, so hope everyone can get one.

Just found that article on the Phoenix Bird in the August issue of The Ski Country Collector. Quoting from that article: "According to ancient literature, the Phoenix Bird was as large as an eagle, with brilliant plumage of red and gold. Only one existed at a time and lived from 500 to 10,000 years. As it approached the end of its life, it built a special nest, in which the bird was consumed by fire. From the ashes another Phoenix was miraculously born." Barbara Foss created the design for the Phoenix Bird as well as the Wolf Dancer that has been out for a short time. The red with gold bird is very attractive. Red is harder to fire, and looking at my collection I see it isn't used a great deal.

I must make a correction on the number of Eagle on the Water bottles. It was 1800 instead of 1400.

Another matter I must pass on to you is that if you didn't get a chain with your Barred Owl, don't worry. It should not be used, anyway. I guess several bottles fell when hung with the chain. Use piano wire or something of that quality to hang your Barred Owl.

After the Phoenix Bird should be the Canvasback Duck, 1800 have been made and it should be out the end of November. The Christmas bottle is expected any time; it is probably at the distillery now. I asked about the Mountain Sheep and Stone Sheep. It looks as if they will appear in November or early December. As I understand it, they will be out at the same time. And... that takes us to 1982!



I expect to spend Christmas on a vacation cruise. I will be gone from December 12th to the 26th and that should get me out of a lot of work. Hopefully I will be able to find some new minis. Did you know that Bols blown glass animals are now \$9.50@, and I didn't see more than two or three in any store in Nassau last time. Also, if you have a Nassau Policeman, treasure it! There aren't any more, just some cheap plastic figures.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. 'Til 1982... think mini!

--R. J. --







# MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay



Since collectors often have a special fondness for their own or a certain geographical area, I organized the bottles in my book by states. This study features the mini beers from California.

Around the turn of the century, it was popular to produce miniature beer bottles for advertising novelties and as samples to assist and promote sales. Some of these minis were embossed, some were labeled, and some had both embossing and labels. Because these bottles were produced prior to national prohibition, they are referred to now as "Pre-Pro" mini beers: they actually contained real beer. Good collectors' specimens, with beer, cork closure, and labels still intact are extremely hard to find, and I must admit they are my favorites. Three excellent California pre-pro minis are pictured here. The Red Lion Lager Beer is a truly stunning specimen. Both the front label and the embossing on the reverse identify the distributor as The Aug. Lang Brewing Assoc. and also mention

Red Lion Ale & Porter Co., San Francisco. As far as pre-pro mini beers go, the John Wieland Lager Beer pictured is relatively common. The embossing on the reverse says, John Wieland's Export Beer, and the label identifies the source as San Francisco, CA. The embossing on the Tivoli Lager Beer says Fredericksburg Brewery - San Jose, CA. The ribbon tied around the neck isn't original, but it adds a well deserved touch of class.

Frankly, most California collectors find that Acme's are a dime a dozen. However, for the collecting purist there are some very interesting varieties. A favorite is the Acme Lager Beer. The fine print on the label says, California Brewing Assn., San Francisco, Calif. brewed by Cereal Product Refining Corp. The decal label has stunning graphics and color if you are lucky enough to find one in mint condition. The circa 1936 label comes on a 4 1/4 inch Muth bottle with an aluminum screw-on cap.

Seven variations of the Acme Beer



label are listed in my book. Of these, the stubbies (3 inch bottles) that say "non-fattening" in small print under the word Acme are the rarest. These are decal labels and can be found from either Acme Breweries-San Francisco, or Acme Brewing Co.-Los Angeles. The "non-fattening" version may have originated with the Bill's in Milwaukee. These bottles do not have manufacturer's marks on the bottom and had aluminum snap-on caps similar to ones used by Bill's during this period.

The versions without "non-fattening" on the label are on 3 inch Muth bottles with a different type of cap. Both say Acme Breweries; one version identifies Los Angeles while a second version lists both Los Angeles and San Francisco. The paper label version is found on 3 inch, 4 inch and 4 1/4 inch bottles; the labels show Acme Breweries-San Francisco. As these were produced by Bill's, they may have solid crown-type caps with water contents or salt and pepper caps. Wooden bottle-shaped openers were also made

with this label.

The Eastside Beer is found on 3 inch and 4 1/4 inch bottles. Last month this column reported the discovery of a large number of 1955 foil labels produced for Bill's but never used. As this was one of those found--look for it to show up on 4 inch bottles as well. This label is found with two different brewery names reflecting changes in ownership of the brewery; Pabst Brewing Co., Los Angeles (circa 1954) and Los Angeles Brewing Co., Los Angeles (circa 1950). Curiously, the older one is the more common of the two.

Falstaff Beer minis from the Falstaff Brewing Co., San Jose are found on 3 and 4 1/4 inch bottles. The foil labels are circa 1953-55. Again, as these labels were part of the cache of labels found, 4 inch versions may be expected to show up.

The John Wieland's Extra Pale Light Beer pictured is extremely rare. The large label is identical to the one used on the 1-Way (No Deposit, No Return) bottle; however, the 1-Way version has





no neck label. It's a 4 inch bottle with Muth markings.

Al Bernstein found a pair of these at a flea market while vacationing in California this summer and I managed to separate one of them from him for my own collection. Good find, Al.

An Acme Gold Label from Acme Breweries, San Francisco is found with a paper label on a 3 inch, Owens-Illinois, no deposit no return bottle. This version is quite scarce. These Owens 1-Way bottles are easy to recognize because of their distinctive small type.

A completely different paper label version of the Eastside mini beer is also found on the 3 inch Owens 1-Way bottle. This version lists the Los Angeles Brewing Co. and is circa 1947. It also is quite rare.

The 1-Way John Wielands label previously mentioned is also from the Pacific Brewing and Malting Co., San Jose. It's hard to find but is more common than the Acme Gold Label and

Eastside bottles.

Two Acme foil labels are found on unusual Muth 1-Way, no deposit no return bottles, also circa 1947. One label says "Acme Brewing Co., Los Angeles" and one says, "Acme Breweries, S. F."

Well, that's all for now except the news below. 'Til next time.

--Bob Kay--

### MINI BEER NEWS!!

I have several new discoveries to report:

1. A pre-pro mini beer (pictured)  
Lion Brewery Export Beer,  
circa 1900. Windisch-Mulhauser  
Brewing Co. (P) Cincinnati,  
Ohio; paper label; 5 1/2 inches  
Reported by: Alex Mullin of  
Collingdale, Pennsylvania

Thanks, Alex, for the report and a really super picture.

2. A micromini bottle lighter.  
(ref. page 126 MBB)  
Country Club Beer, c. 1950  
M. K. Goetz Brewing Co.  
St. Joseph, MO  
Reported by Scott Ryan house  
of St. Joseph, MO

3. Mini Coors Ceramic Mugs  
(ref. page 85 MBB, CO-9)  
Two more versions of these  
mugs have been reported with  
printing on the reverse: one  
says-Colorado State Fair 1933  
Another says-Black Diamond  
Jubilee, Walsenburg 1940.  
Walsenburg is a coal mining  
town in Colorado.  
Reported by Mrs. Wilma Mer-  
har of Littleton, Colorado.

4. A circa 1936 4 1/4 inch Muth  
mini beer.  
A bottle has been reported sim-  
ilar to KY-1, Fehr's Darby Ale,  
except this one says Fehr's  
Darby Mellow Ale. I haven't  
seen this one, but it sounds  
very interesting. Can anyone  
confirm this bottle? If so,  
please let me know.

Please drop me a line if you have any new discoveries to report for future mini beer news reports.

# Traveling In Great Britain...

YOU MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE!

by Ada Felske



This summer I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Ivy Grant of Stonegate, Sussex, and viewing her fabulous miniature bottle collection. Mrs. Grant is a charming, enthusiastic, dedicated mini bottle collector knowledgeable of each and every bottle in her collection. She was the 1980 Guinness Book of Records holder (as of Aug. 1, 1979) for her collection of mini bottles totaling 2,307 of unduplicated labels (MBC July-August 1980, but the name is Grant, not Watson).

Mrs. Grant and I had much in common to talk about and the following statements are in reply to my questions regarding her experiences collecting miniature bottles.

"I started collecting miniature bottles in 1974. A friend in Switzerland

gave me a presentation pack of six minis, two each of three different brands. I decided there must be more of these interesting little bottles around and it wasn't long until I was a miniature bottle collector for sure.

"My favorite bottle is the miniature of a quart-size Gaymers cider. I saw six of these miniatures in an off-license and asked to purchase them. The gentleman said they were not for sale, the bottles were no longer available and therefore would not part with them. I eventually found one miniature but now I have three different Gaymers English Cider miniatures. It was quite a challenge to get them. I am delighted to have them and they are the favorites of all my bottles. I first saw these miniature ciders while on holiday the sum-

mer of 1975 on the Norfolk broads and it took me three years to obtain the minis I have.

"Another bottle I have that is a great interest is a Grant's Royal which I have not seen in any other collection. I wrote to Grants at Dufftown and asked them about a Glenfiddich. They wrote me a very nice letter, adding that they were sending this miniature to me because my name was Grant. Because we had the honourable name of Grant they felt sure I would delight in having this miniature bottle in my collection. The label states, Grant's Royal, 12 year old, Sample, not for resale. So it is really quite a unique little bottle of which I am very proud.

"My collection consists mainly of the glass bottles. I have never been very keen on the figurals but I must admit the more I seem to have on my shelves, the more attractive they appear to be. Probably my greatest interest are the whiskies, perhaps because Scotland produces so many whiskies and my husband is a Scot. But I find I am becoming more interested in the figural miniature bottles now for I realize how pretty they are. I must say, many people that come to the house tend to be more taken by the figurals, especially the women.

"I have two teenage children, a husband, I go to work and am a very busy housewife. I have one day off a week from my job and I spend that day purely for bottles. I either go around to shops looking for miniature bottles to add to my collection or spend my time cataloging or admiring my bottles - anything to do with bottles. That is the one day I refuse to do shopping or any housework at all. (Hooray for her!!!)

"I like to think my bottle collecting does not interfere with my family's pleasure but they really are very good. My husband is particularly patient. He has given over two rooms in the house, recently knocked two rooms into one for me and lined the rooms with shelves so I think he is quite keen on my hobby. He does feel it is a great thing for a woman to have a hobby because it doesn't give them time to be bored or continually depressed as many seem to be. The children are very good about my hobby. My daughter looks for bottles I might like and if any of her

friends are going abroad, she will ask them to bring some back...the same for my son. I think at times he gets bored and would rather be playing football or reading football magazines (he is 14 1/2 years old) but I have been very fortunate with my family and I just hope they continue to be patient.

"After having my name in the 1980 Guinness Book of Records, for which I had only 2,307 miniature bottles, I now have over 8,000 in less than two years. My collection has increased tremendously as a result of holding this record. Lots of people, national newspapers and magazines have contacted me, therefore the collection has been widely publicized. People have been in touch with me offering bottles, some to sell, most wanting very little in return. My 1980 record has since been truly overtaken by a great friend, David Maund, with a 1981 record of 6,506 bottles. We have made a terrific number of friends as a result of the hobby and that has given the whole family a greater interest in general.

"We have just come back from holiday with 206 bottles collected in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and a few in Belgium. We found there were many miniature bottles obtainable on the continent, in Germany particularly. We found many Scottish whiskies in Germany that are not available here in England and it rather frustrates the English collectors that they should be available abroad yet not in their country of origin. Hopefully this may alter at a later date. Another interesting fact was that the whiskies are very much cheaper in Germany than they are here in England. I could get a miniature bottle for about 33 pence whereas here they are going for about a pound.

"While in Germany, we were near the town of Unkel and at your suggestion we tried to meet a fellow collector, Frank Gerlach. Unfortunately, he was at work but it was very interesting to meet his wife. She made us very welcome, which is another nice part of bottle collecting...the common bond of a hobby makes a stranger a friend."

I enjoyed meeting Mr. & Mrs. Grant Donna and Duncan. They were very friendly and very, very hospitable. By the time I left, I felt as if I had known them for years.

--A. F. --

# ARMAGNAC

By Fred Jinkens

Armagnac is the oldest of all the French Brandies. There are written records that date it back to the 15th century. This is over 200 years before Cognac was first distilled and 150 years before Calvados.

Like Cognac, Armagnac is governed and protected by French laws that were set up after the devastating Phylloxera (aphid, plant lice) attack that nearly destroyed all the grape vines in the Cognac and Armagnac regions.

The laws that govern the production of Armagnac are very strict and must be followed to the letter in order for the title "Armagnac" to be put on the bottle.

The Armagnac production area is located in the southwest of France. Within this region there are three different zones that make Armagnacs. Each zone claims to have the best product available.

The first zone is "Bas Armagnac", also called Black Armagnac. This zone is rich in dark oak and pine forest. The soil is sandy, and the scent of prunes can be detected from the Armagnac made in this region. The vineyards cover 11,800 hectares (2,741 acres) of land.

The second zone is called Tenareze. This zone covers 8,340 hectares of vineyards. The Armagnac from this zone has the smell of violets, which is a result of the clay soil that is so common to this area.

The last zone is Haut-Armagnac, also called "White Armagnac". This is the largest of all three zones. The Armagnac produced here is lighter and faster aging than the other two. The soil is chalky and has deposits of limestone throughout the hilly terrain.

Remember, to have Armagnac on the label the wines used in the distilling of the product must come from one of the three regions referenced. The distilling of Armagnac is done in a single stage in what is called an Alambic Ar-

magnacais. (This is a still that looks like a giant torch.) Before 1936, the Armagnac was distilled in pot stills using the double-distilling method, but after 1936, French laws banned the use of pot stills and stated that the production had to be done in a single stage. The vintners found it cheaper to distill only once and found by the new single method they could get more spirit out of the base wine. The only drawback to this method is that by distilling only once, more impurities were left in the finished product. The distillers stated that this gave the Armagnac a more rustic and earthy character, and that Armagnac is sometimes shocking when it is consumed, . . . but this is what sets it apart from all other Brandies.

In 1972 the laws were reversed on the distilling methods that could be used, but only a few vintners have returned to the double distilling methods of the past.

After the Armagnac is distilled it is put in wood barrels made of oak. The oak comes from the Monlezum Forest. This oak is very sappy and tannic, and once in the barrel the tannic substance blends in with the Armagnac. This is another reason Armagnac is so distinct in smell and flavor.

After five to ten years, the Armagnac is fully aged and is ready to be blended with other Armagnac to make the best possible product.

After bottling, the title Armagnac is ready to be put on the bottle. If it is a blend of two or more Armagnacs, the regular title "Armagnac" is added, but if it comes exclusively from one single zone, the title "Bas-Armagnac, Tenareze, or Haut-Armagnac" is put on the label depending on which area it comes from.

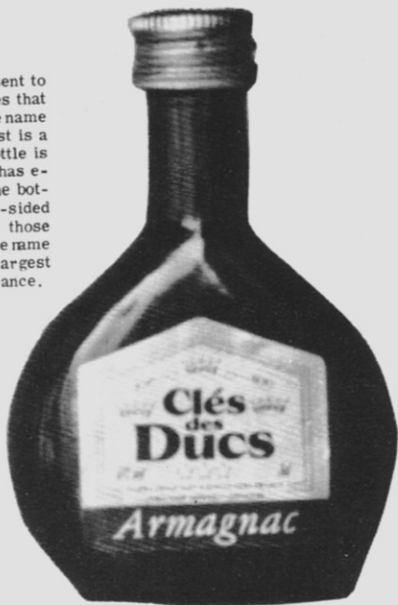
I would like to thank the "Bureau National Interprofessional De L'Armagnac" and "Izarra Distilleries" for their help and bottles that made this article possible.

--F. J. --





These two bottles were sent to me by Izarra Distilleries that bottle Armagnac under the name Clés des Ducs. The first is a V. S. O. P. The second bottle is a 3 star. Neither bottle has ever been imported and the bottles are traditional flat-sided basquaise bottles. For those who haven't recognized the name Izarra, it is one of the largest liqueur companies in France.



The first bottle is Clos Console, bottled by Benoit Serres & Lannepax. The Armagnac in the bottle is "Bas Armagnac". The second piece is San Gil, produced by Jean H. Pallas. This bottle was sold in Italy and I believe never imported.





**MEET THE COLLECTOR:**  

---

**ROY HOLDEN**



For our visit to a collector this issue, we travel to England to meet Mr. Roy Holden. The pictures certainly do speak for themselves and Roy has also written about his collection and collecting in general.

"Let me introduce myself. My name is Roy Holden and I'm from Southport, England. I have only been collecting miniature bottles for a short time compared with many of my collector friends, but I have acquired some great bottles in that time.

"I believe bottle collecting is a family hobby, as one can't really take over the house with wall shelves, cupboards, etc. except with the lady of the house's approval. Nor can you visit foreign countries and spend half the time on holiday without a family interest.

"I think there are three ways of collecting bottles: one, buying from shops; two, buying collections; and three, swapping with fellow collectors. I have adopted all three methods in my pursuit of the little devils. I have found to collect general miniatures is easy as there are so many, but I have found in time that most collectors specialize in a particular kind of bottle or ceramic. With Scotland being more or less on our doorstep, whisky is my first love, but I have many sought after bottles in my collection. To name a few, I have the first set of Schweppes cordials some fifty years old, also a full set of Stones fruit wines of which there are nine, and Robinsons full set of cordials. I have a collection of over three hundred miniature Guinness which are shown in the photograph.

"Some of the nicest bottles come from East European countries as there are some unique shapes. Also in the collection there are some old and new Brandies, Gins, Vodkas, and Liqueurs.

"To my first love - whisky - an early 20th century bottle is my oldest. It is called Golden Wedding. My latest bottles are the commemorative ones for the Royal Wedding last July. Very shortly I hope to have my own whisky on the market, so keep a look-out, you Scotch collectors. It will, if all goes to plan, be a unique bottle!

"The photograph shows part of my whisky collection, ceramic flagons, and the Guinness beer bottles. Displaying bottles is the biggest problem to the hobby; you need a large room or rooms so you can see each label. I have one room just devoted to the collection with open shelves and cabinets.

"In the future I hope to write some articles on individual bottles of whisky in my collection, their age, and history."

We'll be waiting for those articles, Roy. Meanwhile, we'll be closely looking over the bottles in these photos to identify what we can.



## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by Vic Visalli



A straight whiskey and a bourbon are featured this month.

The 3 Musketeers Straight Whiskey is a product of the Lionel Distilleries of Chicago, and as all whiskey collectors know, Lionel Distillery bottles are certainly desirable; however, they are not impossible to obtain. The 3 Musketeers features a gold, red, black and white label picturing...you guessed it...the Three Musketeers. It is a clear flask, embossed with the word



Lionel on top of the bottle and is circa 1934.

The Double Eagle Bourbon is Bottled in Bond by Distillers Corp. Ltd., Montreal, Canada. Its rather attractive label is red, gold, and grey with two eagles pictured along with six gold medals. The glass is amber in color. This bottle is dated 1929. Again, as with the Lionel Distillery bottles, the DCL's are also very desirable.

More next time. --V.V.--

# A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Now there are really some wild stories that circulate around Boozeville, especially during a full moon. So when someone reported seeing this (egad, what is it?), everyone thought that it was just another hallucination. (I must mention the proud owner of this choice giveaway is Linda Bernstein of Chicago, Illinois.)

The bottle is all blue and white. As you can see, it is done with much detail. It is 5 1/8 inches tall and has the crown mark along with "Made in Germany" printed within a rectangle all on the bottom of the piece. Unfortunately, the cork cover is missing but this would be in the shape of a bottle top from the shoulder up. So this thing would be holding a smaller bottle which in turn would double as the neck to the moon bottle. "Don't get full like I am" is printed on the base. "Good Whiskey" is on the smaller bottle that he is holding.

This type of bottle would have been used by a bartender to jokingly get rid of a customer who was getting too full. He would put a shot of whiskey in it and give it to the customer telling him that was his last drink and to take it home and save it for the morning.

Corks are a definite problem on many bottles. If they get loose, wrap one or more layers of masking tape around them until they fit snugly back in place. If the cork is broken off, get a new cork that fits the bottle. In order to get it into the ceramic cover, you may have to squeeze it down to size with a pair of pliers. When it will go in, add some Elmers glue and let it sit up. If it's not right, Elmers glue will always soak out with water and then just try it all over again.

Thank you, Linda, for sharing your wonderful bottle with us. We will all be on the lookout for a full moon!

--L. M. --



## CANADIAN BEERS

Recently I was shown the sample bottles pictured here. I was delighted as I'm certain you will be, too. Mr. Jean Longpre of Creation Minalcol of Montreal, Quebec, showed me the mini bottles as well as a complete set of miniature labels.

The bottles themselves are exact replicas of the larger bottles (note the picture with the hands holding the normal and mini O'Keefe Ales) and the labels are also reproduced with both

excellent color and clarity. These labels are not "shrinks" as many of you might think, but actual miniature versions.

The Labatt 50, Molson Export (with which many American beer lovers are now becoming familiar), and O'Keefe Ale will be the first issued. They will be sold as a set of three and the price will be extremely reasonable! They'll be available after the first of the year and I imagine they'll sell very quickly!





# TRAVELING COLLECTORS

by John and Jean Lewis

We have just returned from a four-week European vacation, collecting more than 250 minis along the way. Our travels took us to Germany, Austria, Northern Italy, Switzerland, and the City of London. In recounting some of the details of mini collecting, we share our experiences with those interested in a trip combining travel and mini collecting.

In preparing for our trip, we were most fortunate to meet at a bottle convention and subsequently correspond with Ada K. Felske, a mini dealer from California who travels to Scotland quite frequently. She graciously furnished us with information on places to stay and the names and addresses of a number of excellent dealers in Scotland; also, correspondence with Erik Bjorkelund of Aberdeen, Scotland, added to Mrs. Felske's invaluable list and, in addition, produced a map of the Whisky Trail. In further preparation, since regulations of our tour allowed for only one suitcase each,

John packed two folding cases inside his large bag to hold minis.

The trip was full of surprises. Could one imagine finding a Gran Duque d'Alba 40-year old mini brandy in Munich, or Staropolski jugs at the produce market in Vienna?

A major frustration began on a Sunday afternoon in Salzburg, where, after a guided walking tour, we were given free time. Unfortunately, several shops displaying a set of beautiful violin-shaped bottles were closed. On to Vienna, where we spotted them in a shop window from the tour bus... but did not write down the address. The following day we missed a tour of the Opera House while chasing down a number of streets in a futile attempt to find the elusive violins. Fortunately, we did spot them in a shop two days later in Lienz and purchased a set of four.

Our tour guide strongly advised us not to buy any minis until we reached Italy because of selection and price. A week seemed like an eternity to wait!





Since we were confronted by desirable purchases daily, we did not heed his advice. But, yes, Italy had a fantastic selection, reasonably priced, and the bottles included many liqueurs with fruit swimming inside. How did all that fruit get into those minis?

Big problem in Italy - erratic Italian drivers! John was hit a glancing blow while rushing to change dollars into lire to buy more minis before our tour bus left Bolzano.

We found very few bottles in Switzerland; however, our luggage was becoming quite heavy now.

When our conducted tour terminated in Geneva, we flew to Scotland and rented a car in Glasgow. Scotland is truly a collector's paradise! During our eight day stay, we purchased more than 100 different malt whiskies and scotches, including Sheep Dip and Pig's Nose, and had we room in our suitcases could have added several hundred more scotch blends.

A visit to the castles of Blair Atholl and Inverlochy produced private label minis. In Edinburgh, stopping at Deacon Brodie's pub for a pint and lunch, we spotted a miniature of the Deacon himself filled with Scotch. We now regret buying only one, as this figural was never seen again.

"The Whisky Trail" - the only one of its kind in the world - and in a setting of mountains and moors - proved to be most interesting. The distinctive shaping of the malt kiln roof was the

landmark we looked for in guiding us to six distilleries: Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, Glenfarclas, Tamdhu, Glengarioch, and Glen Grant. Guided tours disclosed the step-by-step process in the making of malt whisky. Samples were offered in the tasting room and we were able to buy minis at all of the distilleries. Driving on the left side of the road after a few samples did present a problem, but we survived.

On to London for a week. We were initially disappointed at the lack of bottles; however, we did pick up a dozen different Charles-Diana wedding commemoratives at various shops and two Bols delft blue at Harrods. We were unable to locate more than a few Gin bottles.

The minis arrived home with us in good condition, with the exception of two leakers.

We used lists from miniature bottle collectors and our own lists to prevent buying duplicates. Each evening we would label the bottles as to date, location and price. We wrapped each bottle separately in newspaper, placing them in large plastic garbage bags, then surrounding them with clothing in tightly packed suitcases.

Customs in New York became suspicious; however, upon showing membership cards in several miniature bottle clubs, the inspector shook his head in disbelief and waved us through.

Here are some suggestions we came up with we wanted to share with you for your next trip:

1. Check with collectors and dealers, both locally and at bottle conventions, for names and addresses of dealers located in your travel itinerary.
2. Provide for additional baggage and plastic garbage bags to carry and pack bottles securely.
3. Label bottles as to date, location and price.
4. Keep lists to prevent duplicates.
5. Be prepared to jot down the street name (and number, if possible) of the stores you might want to return to at a later time.
6. When you see a bottle you want at a price you are willing to pay, but it! Don't shop around - you may not see it again. And, if you especially like it, consider buying a duplicate for trade or as a gift.

--John and Jean--

# French Liqueurs

JOSEPH LEVESQUE



France is the world leader in Liqueur production and consumption. We are all familiar with the old standbys such as Benedictine, Cointreau, Chartreuse, Grand Marnier, etc. . . . They are widely advertised and distributed in the U. S. A. However, there are other Liqueurs produced in France of which the average American knows very little. Some are sold in France only, some are exported in limited quantities.

Today's Liqueurs are the normal development of the elixirs and remedies of the 16th and 17th centuries. But Liqueurs really came into their own with the introduction of sugar cane in the 18th century.

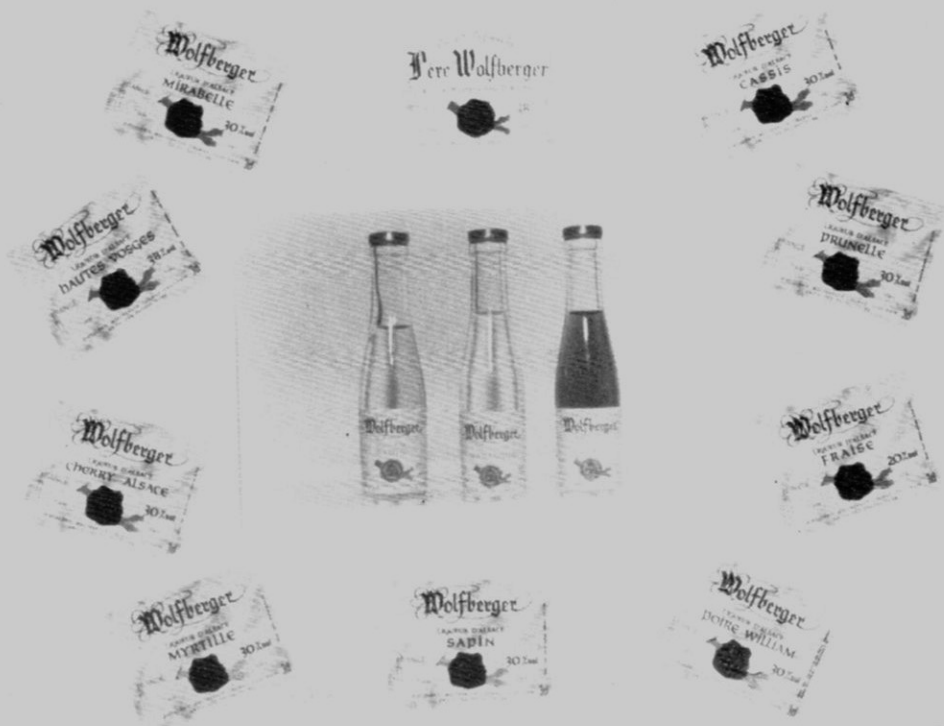
In most cases, Liqueur is fermented fruit mash which is distilled, or a distilled mash which is flavored by maceration, and made smooth by sugar. It is consumed only occasionally and very few cases are known of alcoholic abuse of Liqueurs. It is often regarded as a lady's drink on account of its sweetness and lower alcoholic content,

but nowadays, you wouldn't believe it. In recent years, there has been a tendency to reduce the sugar content in order to bring out sharpness of flavor. One thing for sure, you will never find artificial flavoring in French products.

These Liqueurs are made in endless form: fruits, nuts, berries, roots, herbs, leaves and even pine needles. But they seem to have missed out on one category: Vegetables! Wouldn't you like to taste Liqueur de Carotte? or Liqueur de Cucumber? or Liqueur de Tomato? (Goodbye, Bloody Mary). This would make a fine project for a young entrepreneur.

On the more serious side, I have chosen two representative Liqueur producers: Vedrenne from Burgundy, and Wolfberger from Alsace. Their miniature labels are shown here and will give you a good cross section of what is being produced in France. Some of these labels should be available at the Los Angeles Fair in February.

--Joseph Levesque--





## French Liqueurs

Continued





Jerry and Lynn Cohen-"The Miniature Collector's Friend"

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By Robert E. Kay

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TO TRADE: Our club members want to exchange... whiskey, brandy, spir-its, etc. in straight glass bottles. Write to "Osaka Miniature Bottle Club" c/o T. Shiratsuchi, 1-11-2, Hakucho, Habikino-shi, Osaka 583, Japan

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NOTICE: Beginner Canadian collector, interested in limited trading. Please contact Darrell Leybourne, 26 Underhill Drive, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3A 2J4.

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