

THE

VOL. X No. 4
No. 58 1983

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

MEET MR. MICAWBER



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AUGUST 1, 1983

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CALVERT

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LIONSTONE

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PICKING

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Let's Talk

Don't know if it's as hot where you are as it is here in Southern California, but I hope not! If it is, sit back, turn the fan on to high and read about bottles.

First off, apologies are due to Mike Olson whose name was inadvertently lost from the Mel-o's Minis column last time. This time we have George Lisenko with the first of several articles on vodka and also pictures of some stunning new bottles from England.

For those of you who have wondered about that insurance carrier Dr. Cowan wrote about, wonder no more. It's the St. Paul Fire and Marine out of St. Paul, Minnesota. A big thank you to Dr. Cowan for that.

Many of you have also written to ask what happened to Pictorial Bottle Review, our sister publication. Early this year it was sold to the Modern Bottle Collectors, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas. Almost as soon as the ink was dry, they resold it along with their own MBCI publication to individuals in Leavenworth, KS. It appears certain responsibilities are not being met, so direct any letters to: M B C I, 2908 10th Avenue, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Somewhere along the line there was a total lack of communication as obligations must be met!

Now, while you were on vacation this summer did you find those special bottles you've been looking for? Hope you did as there are more and more releases available. What's New will be back next time to show you some of them. However, remember that you make the difference. Continually remind your retailer that wholesalers must be prodded...again and again!!

See you in the cool this fall.

--DMS--

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Art Director MARY L. SPAID

Features

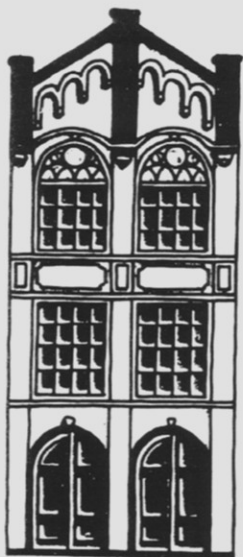
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Our Cover

On this summer cover we find the first issue of Pickwick International in Derby, England. You'll read all about it on pages 16 and 17, but before you get there you should know that this is one of two Royal Doulton pieces created for Pickwick. To the best of knowledge, this is the first time since 1949 that Doulton has created a miniature toby mug for a liquor company. Now turn to p. 16.

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The Kaiser's Canal



De Keizersgracht
No. 102

The remonstrant church at the Keizersgracht 102 is a rather unobtrusive building for the passersby, because the visible part on the canal is not wider than a normal dwelling-house. The size of the inside church cannot be estimated from the canal. Built initially as a refuge-church it could be reached only via corridors ending at the canal and closed by a door, which looked like a normal front-door. Only in the 19th century has the present hall been built in No. 102.

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De Keizersgracht
No. 100

Dwelling-house of about 1625. The house was built by Pieter Simonsz van de Schellingh. Since the beginning of the 18th century in possession of the remonstrant community. In the year 1820 the house was renovated and got its present appearance. Gable with real cornice and two-winged door on the left side with double decoration-window. Formerly the house had been used as sacristy-habitation.



De Keizersgracht
No. 104

Dwelling-house erected in the year 1632 by the carpenter Lambert Massa. In 1642 Claes Harmensz Roothoet became its owner. It is said that a hatter first dwelled here. In 1742 the house was inhabited by Joh. van Dribergen, a professor of the Remonstrants.

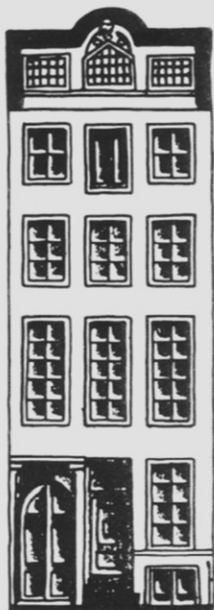


De Keizersgracht N^o 106

For the regents of the remonstrants community this merchant-house was rebuilt in approx. 1760. The old house was property of Mr. Roothoet in 1642.

De Keizersgracht N^o 108

This merchant-house was built in 1738 for the remonstrant community and has not been reconstructed greatly since then. The real estate for this house was bought in 1615 by Cornelis Joosten.



De Keizersgracht N^o 110

It was the merchant Hendrik Taddel, who renovated this house in 1754. With a neck-gable, the building is in the style of Louis XV (rococo). In 1772 it came into the possession of the remonstrants community. The real estate had been bought in 1615 by Aris Jacobsz Slipende Aep and built by the glass-painter Jan Jacobsz. The house is named "The castle of London".



The miniature collection by Royal Goedewaagen.

The hobby of collecting "Historical things" acquires more and more fans.

In the Miniature collection of "Historical buildings" the ROYAL FAC-TORIES GOEDEWAAGEN, Gouda/Netherlands, present to the connoisseur an edition, which is unique.

Hands of artists formed in carefully detailed work the buildings No. 100 to 110 of the famous "Keizersgracht" in Amsterdam, and with perfect traditional artisan work, there has been created with every replica a collector's object of lasting value.

This unusual edition, which consists at the moment of six replicas, will be expanded permanently. Ask for new models in your speciality-shop - and look for the trade-mark, which is your guarantee of buying the original GOEDEWAAGEN historical building series.

VODKA:

THE SECOND TIME AROUND

by George Lisenko



After a long lay off in Miniature Bottle Collecting and long overdue, I am back for my second go around. Since I had over 300 different VODKAS nine years ago, it is only right that I get back in what I really love best.

Hopefully, you'll be hearing from me here and there with pictures of different brand names, shapes, sizes, nationalities, etc. But now I've been back in the thick of collecting for four months. After spending many hours on the phone around the world and many, many letters, here is the result: 600 VODKAS! It's been Christmas every day for me and I love every minute of it!

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME VODKAS NOW!

First off, the vodka figurals pictured are from Italy while the two jugs are from Poland. I have been told that the four figurals were used as stoppers for larger bottles. As you can see, it did not take the Italians too long to make good use of them. All four are mounted on wooden bases and contain VLAHOV Vodka. The first is a man's head which is meant to represent a pilot or aviator. The second is a man with a very large top hat. The third and fourth are dog and cat (Siamese type) heads. Don't you think they fit very nicely in any collection?



The next two are the vases or jugs. First is a green vase with a little mountain school girl attached around the neck and second is a grey-black vase with a little boy in typical Polish dress (attached to the neck). The two glass bottles compliment the ceramics. All are from Polmos of Poland and contain Hunter's Vodka and Zubrowka respectively.

At this time I would like to say thanks in a big way to the following collectors who helped me to keep my drive and enthusiasm: Harry & Caraleen Ford, CA; Lee Weiss, CA; Jim Triffon, CA; John Sullivan, TX; Fred Jinkens, CA; Harold Goetz, CA; John Decker, IL;

Don Wodicka, WI; Barry Kaplan, NV; Ada Felske, CA; Al Manual, NY; Mike Rosen, MD; Ed Carter, MD; Mike Malter, FL; Steve Kellison, VA; Joseph Levesque, OK; John Lewis, LA; Burt Klee, IL; Taizo Shiratsuchi, Japan; Valerie Bergman, New Zealand; Dan Power, Australia; Arthur Helfer, West Germany; Leonard Heitkonig, Holland; Bill Rankin, So. Africa; Ande Sassi, Italy; and many, many more.

Special thanks to David Spaid, Linus Earl, and Ford's Liquor Store.

WHO SAYS COLLECTORS DON'T CARE? 'Til next time,

--George "Vodka" Lisenko--

melo's minis

by Mike Olsen

In this article I would like to feature some of the miniatures produced by the Calvert Distilling Co. Calvert's was founded in 1933 on the site of the Old Maryland Distillery and has been owned by Seagrams since 1939.

The finest examples of Calvert's minis are the Old Drum blended Whiskey series which consist (to the best of my knowledge) of two types and five major variations... along with many minor variations. I will picture the major variations, with minor ones being the difference of proof, age of contents, color or type of cap and location of distillery.

The first type, bottles one and two, are clear glass, 90 proof, oval shaped flats and have an eagle embossed around the labels. Bottle one has a "drummer" on the label and a black plastic screw cap, while bottle two has a "cavalier" on the label and a metal (red or gold) screw cap.

The second type, bottles three, four and five, are round, 90 proof, and are embossed to resemble a drum. Bottle three is brown glass and was distilled by Calvert's and has a cavalier on the label. Bottle four is a brown glass, taller, and was distilled by Maryland Distillery, Inc. Bottle five is clear glass and was also distilled by Maryland Distillery, Inc. All of these bottles were produced in the 1930's and I would rank them in order of scarcity as bottle three being the most common, followed by bottle two, one, four, and then bottle five which is by far the rarest.

Calvert's also produced many variations of Lord Calvert Blended Whiskey which picture the Lord Calvert cavalier on the label. Bottle six has a unique shape, is 86.8 proof, and came



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

with a little paper booklet proclaiming its virtues. Bottle seven is a flat version, 86 proof and has "ribbed" embossing. This bottle is from 1957 and, I think, the last bottle produced by Calvert which had a cavalier logo on the label. Bottle eight is the Canadian version and was bottled in Canada unlike the later Canadian Lord Calvert which is imported in bulk and bottled in the U.S.

Bottles nine, ten, eleven, and then twelve are the most familiar versions of Lord Calvert and were produced in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Bot-

tle nine has gold foil over the cap and is the only time I know of that Calvert used foil. Also, the portrait on bottle eleven shows a closer view with the arm missing.

It is variations such as these that make the hobby of mini collecting even more enjoyable to me. Without them my whiskey collection would be a great deal smaller.

As always, if anyone would like further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me.

Until next time MELO...

DUG PICKING'S BROTHEL SERIES



Now that Joy of Paris has been out and well received, you can start planning on the nineteenth and twentieth bottles to be released in the series. The next bottle due out is KITTY'S GUEST RANCH which is in the environs of Carson City, Nevada. It will be ready in September and is a 1200 issue.

The last bottle for 1983 is THE GREEN LANTERN and it will be available in late November or early December. The Green Lantern is found in Ely, Nevada. The design on this one

is really quite stunning with the lantern all in green while the girl is shown with contrasting blonde hair.

If you've noticed, the design work on the more recent bottles has been exceptionally good. And, for those of you who are price conscious (which is about 99.9% of us), all of Dug's bottles have been reasonably priced... at the first sale level. First sale must be indicated as the prices on most of the older bottles have skyrocketed. In case you'd like to know, the Moonlight Ranch is now selling for well over \$200!



A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque

This KOSHER COGNAC was produced in the 1930's by GODET in LaRoche, a big seaport on the west coast of France. As far as can be determined, it was never exported to the U.S. The label reads as follows: KOSHER COGNAC FOR PASSOVER. The fact that it was written in English might indicate it was meant for export to England. The Hebrew on the Star of David repeats the English title: Kasher Cognac for Passover. The back label reads as follows: "I hereby certify that this spirit is strictly Kasher and has been processed under Rabbinical Supervision. Signed: Ernest Ginsburger, Grand Rabbi, Bayonne."

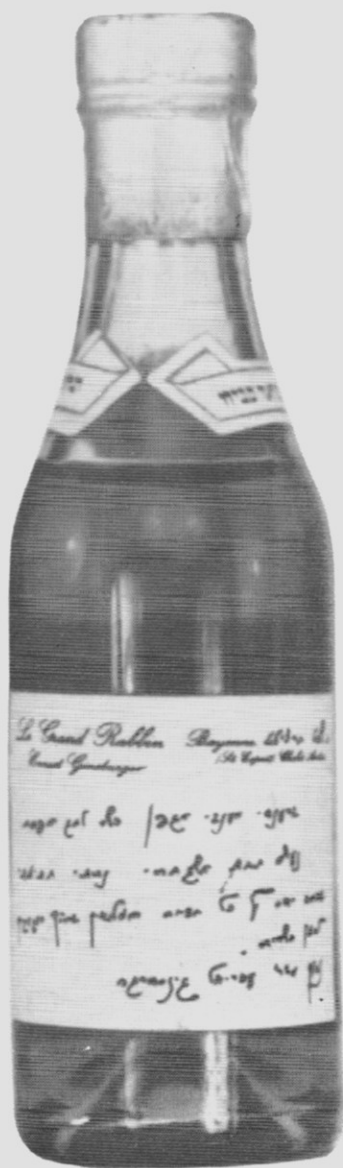
Cognac firms have produced many unusual labels through the years, and it is quite logical that a Kasher Cognac would make its appearance. But there is more to it than just a label. All processed foods and food products to be used during Passover require the certification (Hechsher) of a recognized Rabbinic authority. This is to insure no Chametz went into the processing

or ingredients and that the production was done in equipment specially "Kashed" for Pesach. Besides such products as matzah, cakes, and macaroons, Pesach certification is also required for such items as candy, soft drinks, wines, liquors, milk and milk products, and canned and dried fruits.

While in LaRoche last year, I stopped in at the Godet headquarters to see if they still produced any Kasher Cognac. Monsieur Godet stated that this particular miniature was produced before the war, in the 1930's. Since he was a young man in elementary school at the time, he couldn't provide me with any more information, but he did remember his father working with the Grand Rabbi to produce this Cognac. All other inquiries on this bottle proved fruitless.

On a scale from 1 to 10 for rare miniature Cognacs, I would rate this bottle as 9.

--Joseph Levesque--
The Cognac Newsletter





MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay

Pabst has made a lot of news lately with the recent takeover by Heilemans and the planned spinoff of unneeded breweries into a new Pabst Brewing Co. The first Pabst Brewing Co. started in 1899 although the roots of the company go back to 1844 when the Best and Company Brewery was first established. This grand old company, rich in tradition, produced some really nice mini bottles. First let's consider the prepro versions.

The mini Bohemian Beer by the Philip Best Brg. Co. is really special because it dates to 1899 or earlier. This was before the name was changed to Pabst. The second bottle pictured is after the name change. While these may not be in the best of condition, I treasure them because they are so old and overlap the historical name change and, last but not least, they are miniature. It's a miracle the labels survived on the bottles for almost 100 years.

In 1882, when bottle beer sales were still insignificant, Pabst began the practice of hand-tying a piece of blue ribbon around the neck of their extra quality light beer called "Select". This was simply an experiment but it proved to be one of the most important in the company's history. The beer was not renamed Blue Ribbon until the late 1890's but the name Blue Ribbon was often used by customers when ordering Best's or Pabst's beer. By 1892 the brand and the bottle had become so popular that the company was buying over 300,000 yards of ribbon annually -- still tied by hand around the necks of the sloping shouldered clear glass bottles. (I'd love to find a slope shouldered pre-prohibition mini blob top with the silk ribbon on it.) In Pabst's case, the blue ribbon really put bottled beer on the map.



In 1933, with the repeal of prohibition, Pabst again put blue ribbons on their premium brand Blue Ribbon Ale (in green glass bottles) and Blue Ribbon Beer (in brown or amber glass bottles). These minis with real silk ribbons (pictured) bring back a lot of tradition and represent something special in my collection. They are quite accurate mini-scale replicas of the full size bottles produced in the 1933-36 era. The stubby versions may or may not be fake, I'm just not sure. These bottles pictured trace the Pabst Blue Ribbon labels used from 1933 to about 1960. After 1960 Pabst minis vanished, and of course, the company has seen some real hard times of late.

Till next time, . . . --Bob Kay--



Pickwick

INTERNATIONAL WHISKY CERAMICS

by David M. Spaid



As you've already noted from the cover, the bottles from Pickwick International Whisky Ceramics in Derby, England, are nothing short of sensational. Just when you thought you'd never see another figural which wasn't done in bisque, along come these marvelous high glaze pieces from Pickwick. The cover bottles of Mr. Micawber are, of course, from the Royal Doulton company. The other two bottles seen here are Staffordshire.

Let's discuss Mr. Micawber first. This piece, in both styles, is the initial offering in the Dickens' character whisky jugs designed and produced by Royal Doulton. Mr. Micawber if you remember is a character from David Copperfield.

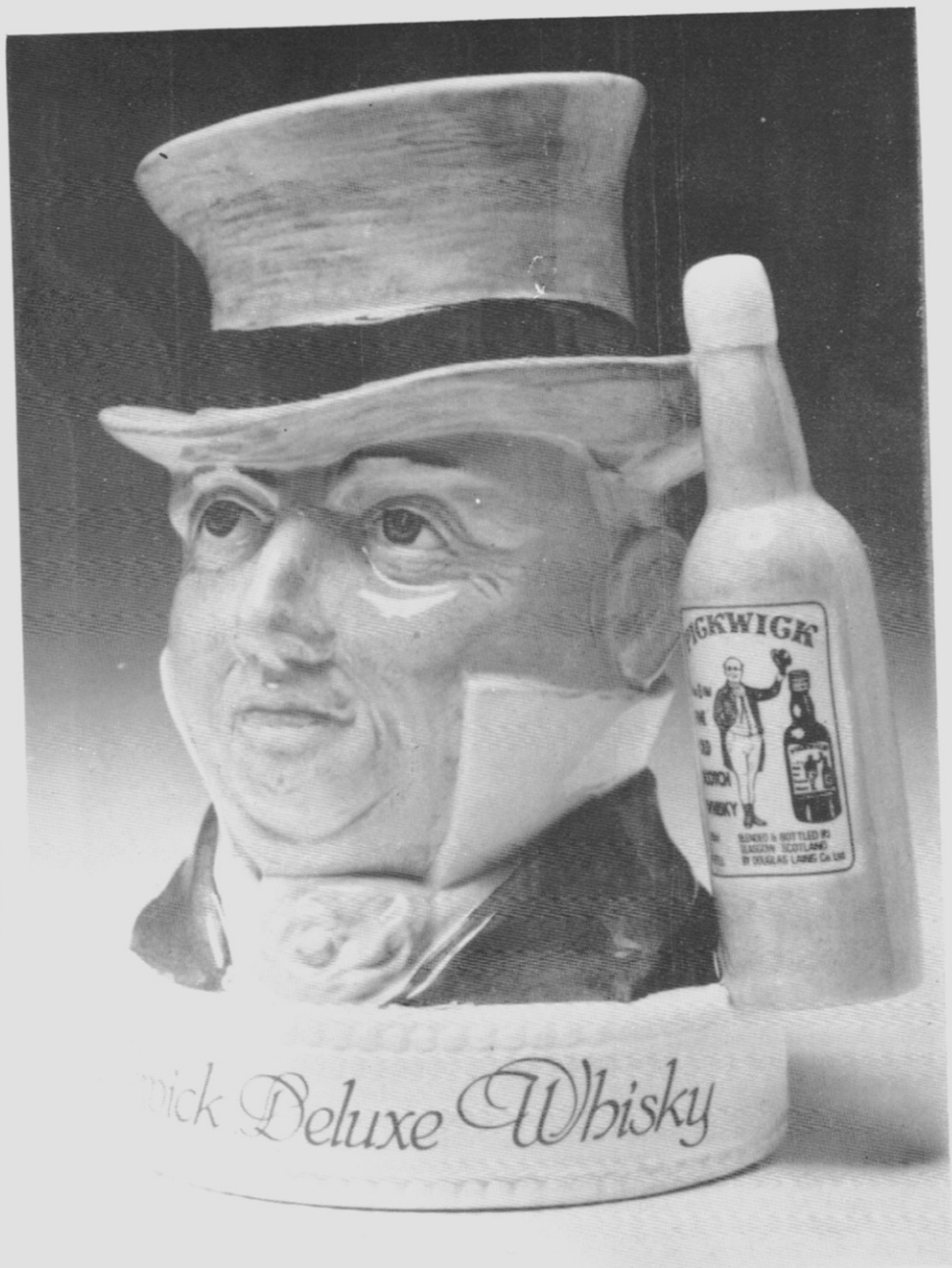
The second bottle in the series will be a most interesting one in that it will have two faces. This is the Mr. Pickwick/Sam Weller decanter and those two characters come from Dickens' work, the Pickwick Papers. Number four in the series will also be a character from Pickwick Papers and this

is The Town Crier of Eatanswill. Number three (which we skipped) is Old Mr. Turveydrop from Bleak House.

While we're on the subject of Royal Doulton decanters, you'll also be interested in knowing that in the very near future Pickwick will be issuing a very special set of four bottles. I can tell you that one of these pieces will be Uncle Sam!

Moving on now to the other decanters, we have Mr. Aly Sloper. He is the first in the "Boozers" collection. These are famous characters from the past whose names are associated with drinking. Two versions are being issued, one with whisky and the other with ale. Each piece is limited to an issue of 1000 decanters. There will be eight in the series and they'll be released over the next twelve-eighteen months.

These would appear to be exceptional bottles from the color photographs. It is hoped that they will be brought into the U.S. so that collectors here may also appreciate them. --DMS--



© 1954

Scotch for the Connoisseur

by Roy Holden



Well, here we go again with article number five...six more Scotch for the Connoisseur. Our first bottle is called Athol Brose and has a very colourful tartan label. It was distributed by Coverdale & Co. Ltd. of London in the early 1960's. There is also a miniature flagon put out at the same time by The Athol Brose Co. Ltd. of Inverness. Recently there has been a new version of Dunkeld Athol Brose Liqueur, put out by Gordon & Macphail of Elgin at 35 volume. The latter is completely

different from the original bottle of Dunkeld Athol Brose put out by the Dunkeld Athol Brose Blenders of Mitchell St., Glasgow, in the 1950's.

Like our last bottle, there are old and newish versions of The Old Black Swan. Most collectors will have the dark coloured flask put out by Nicolson & Co. of London in the early '70's. The one pictured is a real gem of the same brand. You can see the age by the fact that the proof is marked as 30 under proof. I was very lucky how I



acquired this particular bottle, along with several more scotch, gin, rum, and liqueurs. From time to time I call at this particular hotel on the outskirts of Southport for a drink. This one evening to my amazement the cabinet where there were 400+ thirty year old miniatures was empty. On further enquiries to the lady behind the bar, I was told that the hotel had changed hands that very day, and the first job to the staff was to get rid of the dust collectors in the cabinet. She told me the bottles

were in cardboard boxes in the cellar, so I asked her if I could speak to the boss. Cutting a long story short, he sold me the entire collection at a rather inflated price. He was not so daft when it came to selling. Anyway this is just one from that collection. Hope you liked it.

Our third bottle is not that old, but it is rather difficult to find. It was put out to celebrate 200 years in the small north-east Scottish town of Fochabers which is in the Speyside region of Scot-



land.

Great Britain is steeped in history and our next bottle is named after one of our famous sailors, Francis Drake. It was put out by Langside Distilleries of Glasgow. They have recently produced several new miniatures which have been on sale in the shops in Scotland.

Our fifth bottle, Yellow Label, by Stewarts of Aberdeen was produced in the 1960's and is quite attractive in

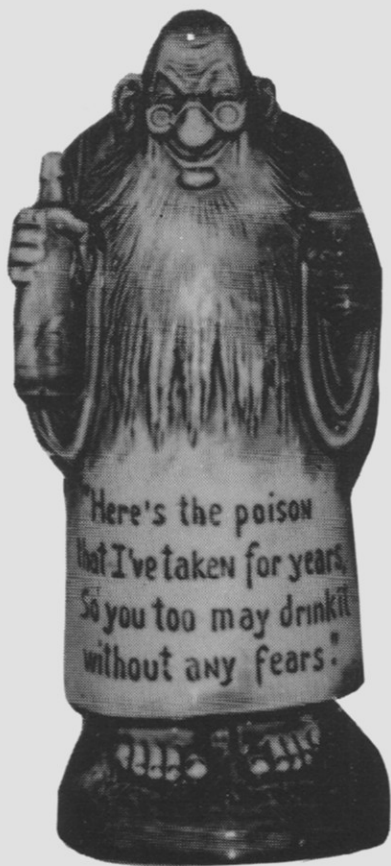
colour as its name depicts.

We finish this issue with Old Timer, a truly great bottle. Like all bottles, this has a story behind it. This one I acquired when I visited the show in Naples last year while on holiday in Sorrento...and, I might add, it cost quite a few lira.

Well, that's all for this time. Hope to be back in the autumn with some more Scotch for the Connoisseur.

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



We have seen some strange people in Boozeville over the years. But here is the one who takes the cake!

This old boy only gets into town twice a year to buy things that he can't grow or make. This time he needs sugar and salt. He makes all his own booze and grows his own corn. Naturally he lives on a very small amount of money.

This photo shows a very unusual bottle. If you have this one in your collection, you have a real prize. On the front of his robe is printed "Here's the poison that I've taken for years,

So you too may drink it without any fears." Another variation of this is a bottle which states: "Having drunk for Eighty Years This Poison cannot make me fears." Usually found in a 6 1/4" size, it comes in both blue and brown.

Anyway, this fellow seems very healthy for his age. Here he comes now on his way back home. "Hello there, Old Timer. Oh, yes, I would like a sample of your white lightning. Wooow, that's smooth but ever so flavorful."

--L. M. --

KOBY'S

Kollectable Kolumn

by Bob Koby

Shalom:

"This whiskey is 21 months old" reads the label on UNIVERSITY CLUB by the James B. Beam Company. The Illinois red/white Series Y1936 tax stamp dates this one for us. And, you should know there is also a flask or flat version available.

FOUR DECADES is 7 1/2 years old which is a most interesting age. It was made in 1935 by the T. W. Samuels Company and then bottled in 1942. It certainly is too bad the bottle is evaporated.

Next I thought you might be interested in seeing four flavors from the R. Jelinek Company in Czechoslovakia. They are (since the photos are a little dim): Blackberry, Cherry, Raspberry, and Strawberry. This is a most uniquely shaped bottle.

The P. GARNIER CASSIS and the ANISETTE (which I'm not showing the front of so that you may see the Indiana tax stamp on the back) are two more good old bottles. Each of these bottles has paper stickers with the words "Lawrenceburg, Ind. 9 22 39" on them so it appears that some years ago Indiana did permit the sale of miniatures as they now do.

The CREME DE CURACAO is from Alexis Godillot, Jr. of France. I would like to call your attention to the half moon label just above the larger one. It reads "Made in bottled in France." The liqueur is 12 per cent alcohol but the label also reads "French Flavoring Sauce". Does that mean it was made for cooking... or drinking?

--R. K.--





I Want To Buy:

BARSOTTINI:

Set of 10 figures
Harlequins, Samurai
Elephant

BARATUCCI:

Vase and Jugs
Bear

BOLS:

Woman #6

BRAMS:

Pirates, Elephant,
Sultan on a Horse
and any others

GOEBEL:

Boy and Girl

HAWAIIAN DIST.

1st set of 3 figurals

ISAIAH:

Spirit of '76
Buddha, Samurai, and
Pagoda Series

KLM HOUSES:

25, 28, 29, 31, 34,
35 and 36

RAMIREZ:

Amphoras, Pot, and
Blue Lady as shown in
Snyder III, p. 47

ROBJ:

All bottles

RON VIRGIN:

Mexican Man on Base

RYNBENDE:

Ballerina (both old & new)
Drakenstein House
Pink Elephant

I Want To Sell

RYNBENDE:

Bulldog (ceramic)
Blown Glass
Rooster
Goose
Etc., etc., etc.

DUPONT:

Blown Glass Dog

ROYAL SHIELD:

Vases (4 dif.)
Cow, Pig
Goose, Swan
Dog, Elephant

FRATELLI VLAHOV:

1960 Olympic Set

MAB:

Fish

GIVEAWAYS:

Many different

MANHATTAN:

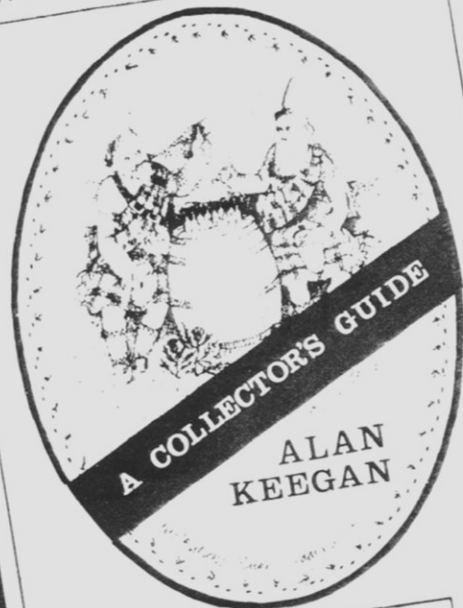
Pinocchio Set of 10
Vase w/Grapes
Dutch Girl
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THE CLUB REPORT



Many of you seemed interested in the report of custom's duty here last issue. Let's hope that one of these days sanity prevails and liquor laws are made at least somewhat uniform and to the betterment of collecting!

The "Report" this time is on the June Lilliputian show in Los Angeles. Tony Dobyns of Black Jack, Missouri, took some excellent pictures and I hope they reproduce well here. There were a great many we could have shown but the two or three here should tell the tale.

Approximately sixty sellers' tables

and hourly raffles gave collectors a great time on both Saturday and Sunday. As with the other shows in Chicago, New York and Pennsylvania, collectors came from afar to search for bottles they needed. Next year the show will be the second weekend in June...so mark your calendars.

Something else to mark your calendars for are the two events advertised at the beginning of the magazine. The New York show and the Del-Val show are always special get-togethers. Get together with old friends, and better yet...old bottles!

The Club DIRECTORY

USA

Del-Val Miniature Bottle Club: c/o Mr. Norm Luber, 653 Parlin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19116.

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FOREIGN

Mini Bottle Club of New South Wales: c/o Mr. Dan Power, Box A-1 PO, So. Enfield 2133, New South Wales, Australia.

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Club Mini Barman: c/o Mr. Pierre LaSalle, c.p. 126 Rosemont, Montreal Quebec H1X 3B6 Canada.

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