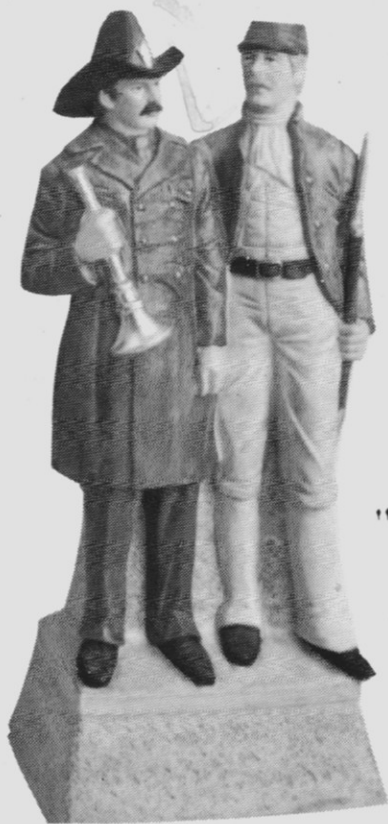


THE

VOL. XI No. 4

No. 64 1984

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



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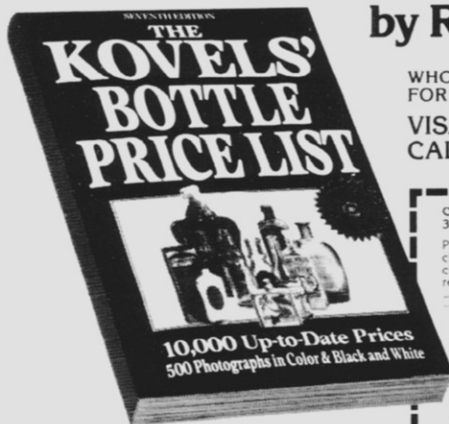
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Let's Talk

Boy, talk about the dog days of summer. If it were any hotter out here in Southern California, they'd be roasting the proverbial egg on the sidewalk. Anyway, hope you had a good vacation and found lots of bottles you've been looking for.

Of note in the bottle world lately are two concerns which should interest all of us. The first has to do with our old nemesis, phony or faked bottles. There's currently a lot of talk on both sides of the Atlantic about the number of "strange" scotches which have been turning up.

This is a problem which we faced ten years ago for a two or three year period but then seemed to disappear. Now it's back, so buyer beware. Know your bottles and the person who is selling or trading. And, this isn't confined to straight glass. I recently received a counterfeit Logan Scotch molded glass ship. I knew in advance it was not issued by the company but it's an excellent bottle. The only problem is that on the label where it's supposed to say "to her majesty" the label came out "tomer muesy". 'Nuf said!

The other area of concern has to do with plastic bottles. Yes, they're rearing their ugly little heads (and bodies) again and this time, we aren't going to win. I say "win" believing that 99.9% of all collectors prefer the glass bottles. Since the U. S. government now approves and the airlines are jumping for joy due to the fuel conserved from the lack of weight due to liquor bottles, watch for more and more plastic bottles. There are currently a lot of good ones, but they still aren't glass!

See you hopefully in October with more news. --DMS--

THE

Vol. XI No. 4
No. 64 1984

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Art Director/TED OTIS

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Our Cover

It's always nice to have firsts! The first this time is the new Fireman Soldier mini decanter from Mount Hope Winery in Pennsylvania. This is a limited edition of 2400 pieces and was released in late summer. The bottle was inspired by a monument erected in Gettysburg National Park to honor the firefighter. In the Civil War, Fireman Soldiers enlisted and fought as a unit throughout the War!

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WHAT'S NEW

Old, Odd, or Unusual

by James Triffon

Have You Seen





These ?





MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay

There are several "sleepers" mixed in with the mini beers pictured here. Can you identify them? For example, there are three Barbarossa minis pictured. While they may look similar in the photo, there is an important difference. It's the type of label used. They are either foil paper (very shiny surface), plain paper or decal. The decal label is the sleeper -- it's very difficult to find, while the foil label is the most common.

The same holds true for the Red Top Ales, the decal is again the sleeper. Three different Glueks are also pictured. This time all three are decals but only one is the sleeper. It's the stubby one. Of all the Gluek minis I've seen or heard about, I've only heard of one of these... a really super bottle.

The three Drewrys bottles all have the same paper label: only the sizes differ. The 4 1/4 inch version (the tallest) is the sleeper, while the 4 inch version (the middle size) is the most common.

Of the Carling Black Label minis, the stubby bottle with a black decal label and a neck label is a real sleeper. I only know of one of these. If you happen to find one, you have a very rare mini.

Till next time. --Bob Kay--



FIND THE SLEEPER





A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



This issue of Boozeville will honor the dance hall girls of the gold rush days.

One of their jobs in the saloons was to get the customer to buy them a drink. The bartender would have a special whiskey bottle with colored water to serve the "girls". This way they could drink all night and not get drunk. But the customer paid full price for both his and her drinks.

The bottle shown here is, of course, the Lady's Leg. There aren't a lot of these around. They look to be an early style of giveaway circa 1900 or before.

This bottle is 7 1/4 inches high. It's dressed in the famous Can-Can dance costume. The bottle is multicolor bisque, black shoes, light blue bow as is the garter, flesh colored stocking, white panty leg and light blue dress. The cork is in the heel of the shoe.

Like they say, you can't stand on one leg, but the customer who was given this bottle surely had a leg up on the next drink.

--L. M. --

melo's minis

by Mike Olson

Question: What has twenty-eight roses and makes this collector happy? Answer: Seven Four Roses Rye minis.

In this article I would like to feature three bottles from the 1930's with metallic foil labels, along with a nice variety of Four Roses Rye. I have always felt that foil labels were very attractive and colorful. The following bottles will bear this out.

Bottle number one is Belden Stratford Straight Kentucky Whiskey bottled by Philip Blum and Co., Chicago, IL. It is 100 proof, over nine months old, has a silver foil label with "hot pink" and black printing and was made about 1934. Bottle number two has everything a bottle collector looks for: a virtually unknown brand name, a different shaped and colorful label, a unique bottle shape and a traceable date of distilling and/or bottling. This bottle is Vandalia Bourbon Whiskey, A Blend blended and then bottled by Chateaux Cordial Co., Chicago, U.S.A. It is 90 proof, two ounces, has a gold foil label printed in black with red stripes, was distilled Spring 1934 and has a yellow and red 1934 Illinois tax stamp.

Bottle number three is Pride of Nelson Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey "Sour Mash" bottled by Fairfield Distillery, Inc., Bardstown, Kentucky. It is 90 proof (painted over 100 proof), four years old, has a silver foil label printed in black and white with a red diagonal stripe and was made about 1938.

Rye Whiskey production has somewhat paralleled miniature production since the repeal of prohibition. Both had their heyday in the 1930's and have been declining steadily since the 1950's. At that time (1930's), most of the major distillers produced or bottled one or several brands of Rye Whiskey. To-

day only a few distillers are still making Rye Whiskey and Jim Beam is probably the only American distiller producing a miniature rye.

The last seven bottles are Four Roses Rye A Blend of Straight Whiskeys blended and bottled by Frankfort Distilleries, Inc., Louisville, KY and Baltimore, MD. Bottle number four is a flat bottle, embossed with roses and has a small brown and gold foil label. It is 90 proof, 3 1/2 years old and has a 1936 Florida tax stamp.

The next bottle is a curved, tapered flat bottle with a "large" green and gold label. It is 90 proof, five years old, has a green screw cap and was made in 1941. Bottle number six is also a curved, tapered flat bottle with a "small" green and gold label. It is 90 proof, five years old, has a brown screw cap and was made in 1941. The seventh bottle is round, embossed with roses and has a green and silver foil label. It is 90 proof, four years old and was made in 1938.

In the last three bottles, number eight is a round, smooth bottle with a green and silver foil label. It is 90 proof, four years old and has a 1940 Florida tax stamp. The ninth bottle is 90 proof, five years old, has a "large" green and gold label and was made about 1940. Bottle number ten is 90 proof, four years old, has a "small" green and gold label and was made about 1940 also.

I think these last seven bottles make two good points. First, collecting bottle/label variations is worthwhile and secondly, trying to maintain a list that is usable is very difficult to do.

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

Until next time... MELO



A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque

AIGUEBELLE

The religious Orders have been credited with saving civilization in the dark ages. They have also played an important part in the development of distilled spirits. As early as 1100, monks were using distilled plum juice as a remedy for malaria. In the late 1600, France was criss-crossed by a large number of monasteries making their own liquors. The majority of the great classical French wines of today had their origins in the monastic Orders. However, political, religious, cultural and economic evolution have dealt a death blow to monasteries. There are less than ten French monasteries today producing wine and only three or four producing distilled spirits. As far as I can determine, Aiguebelle is the only French monastery of men currently producing miniatures.

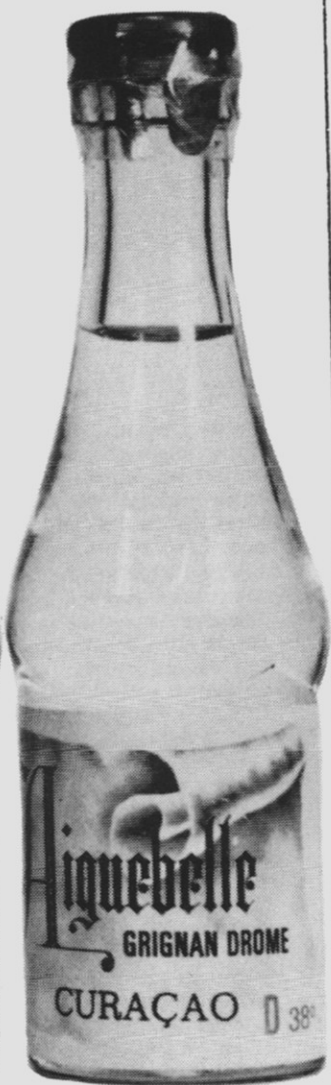
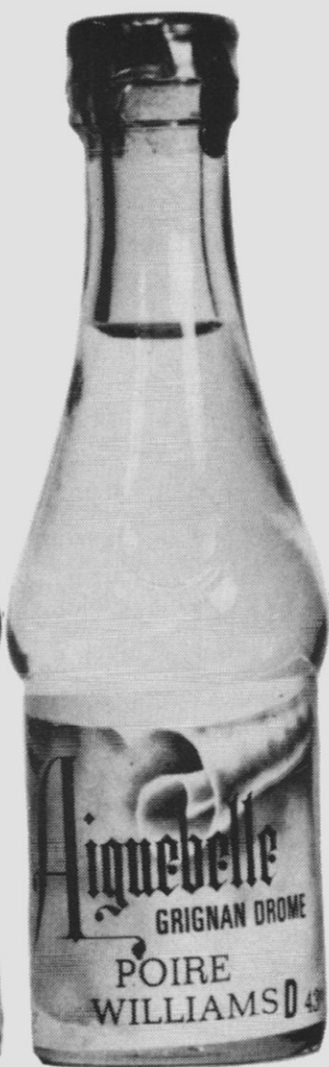
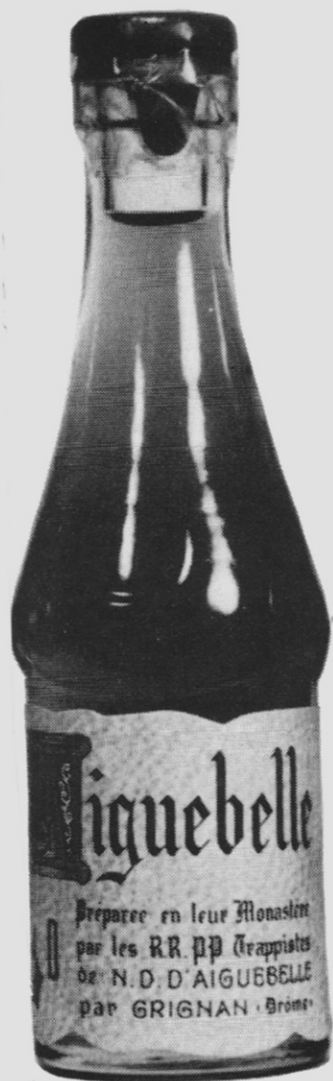
Of course, you will immediately think of Benedictine and Chartreuse. Benedictine has long been owned by commercial interests. Only the name remains "religious". Chartreuse, although owned by the monks, is manufactured by secular interests several miles from the monastery. Only the formula is known by three monks, who commute to the distillery each day.

AIGUEBELLE belongs to the Trappist Order, the most austere and strict Order in the Catholic Church. The monks make a vow of silence and never

leave their Monastery, and their economy is basically agrarian. Trappists always build their monasteries in remote and sometimes forsaken places. After months of searching in books, maps, guides and correspondence, including misdirection from the French Govt. Tourist Office, I finally found Our Lady of Aiguebelle in a remote area of South Central France. The Romanesque Monastery is in remarkable state of preservation and the white monks still sing the Psalms and carry on the same monastic routine as they have for centuries. They also produce a variety of liqueurs in standard size bottles. The most famous is called "AIGUEBELLE", a green liqueur, a powerful bouquet with a hint of mint. It contains 35 plants - flowers, herbs, cloves, roots - which are picked and distilled by the monks themselves in copper stills and then matured in glass lined vats. At the time of my visit in the summer of '81, they had only three minis available: Aiguebelle, Poire Williams and Curacao.

It is very sad to realize that these minis represent the last remaining vestige of a once great monastic distilling tradition which spanned over nine centuries.

--Joseph Levesque--
The Cognac Newsletter



CREAM of the Crop

As promised, here is part two of the article on the cream liqueurs which have been tempting the world's after dinner palate. The Royal Tara and the Grand Marnier didn't make it this issue, but we'll no doubt have them in a future "What's New" column. If you take those two and then add in everything from last time as well as the ones shown here, you'll have a total of sixteen different brand names and twenty-two with the variations (the tall, round Carolans was not pictured either). But now to the business at hand.

Demi-Tasse is a coffee cream liqueur and seems to have been somewhat successful. When the great shake up comes, it will be interesting to see if this brand sustains. It's a rather nice bottle with a well done label.

Waterford Cream is available in two versions. The flask type was the first sold and it evidently was successful enough to warrant the company to then produce the second, taller bottle. This is done in a cut-glass or crystal type decanter and is possibly one of the nicest glass bottles to come out in the last few years. Due to the low alcohol content (34 proof... 17 percent), this miniature may be found in some of the wine shops in controlled states where we don't normally look for minis.

The Venetian Cream has been around for two and a half years now as it was first issued in January of 1982. This

one is from Italy and has a very well designed and executed label. It's available probably 99% of everywhere minis are sold.

The next three bottles I find quite interesting. These are the MacGregors: New Zealand Cream Liqueur in two variations and the Mullingar Rum Cream. I have yet to taste any of these as they're not available in any size in the U.S.; however, I'd certainly like to savor that Mullingar. Anything with a name like that must be tasted. In any case, the bottle is an interesting shape and the labels are quite attractive. What then makes these bottles intriguing to me? Well, they're plastic. Yes, they're part of a large set of bottles made by MacGregor in New Zealand and they're all in plastic. Some have wonderful names like Deer Velvet Liqueur. In another article or two, we'll soon picture all of these bottles.

Last in our group of eight is the Myer's Original Rum Cream. If you're familiar with the rich taste of Myer's regular rum, you'll know that this one is a winner in the drinking department. The bottle itself is also attractive and the label pictures one of the old, three masted "rum runners".

Hope you've enjoyed this look at a group of bottles which have created their own category within the liqueur division.

--DMS--



Scotch For The Connoisseur

by Roy Holden

Well, back to England this time with the exception of our last bottle which comes from Mexico. People can be misled I think in the whereabouts of bottles as they think all Scotch miniatures come from Scotland. Looking up old lists of desirable bottles wanted by collectors, a large proportion come from English firms who used to use them for promotional purposes. I have featured five of these bottles this time.

Our first bottle tells you its name when you simply look at the label... ROSE'S. The only shame is that you can't see it in colour, but take my word that it's a lovely apricot rose surrounded with a green rosette of leaves. The brand was put out by E. J. Rose & Co. Ltd. of Quaker Street in London in the 1950's. It would really put a "rosy" picture to any collection.

Century Vat was a celebration bottle, marking one hundred years of the Grocery firm Unwins who used to have chains of stores up and down England some years ago. Like the Rose's label, colour would enhance this label, too. (Sorry to keep mentioning this, David.) The whisky barrel in the center is a real photograph of an oak barrel and the lettering is depicted by starting each word in red and then having the rest in black. The whole label is on a cream background with a dark edge. This is truly a great bottle to have in any Scotch collection.

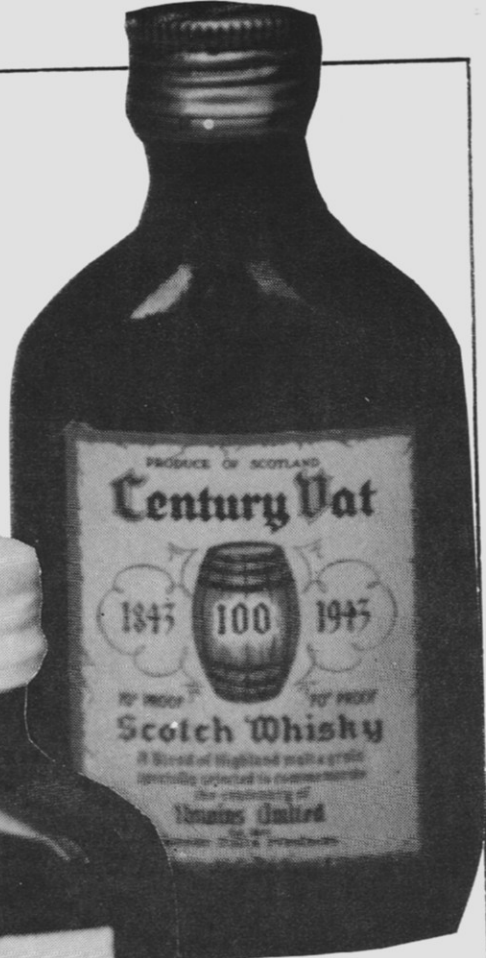
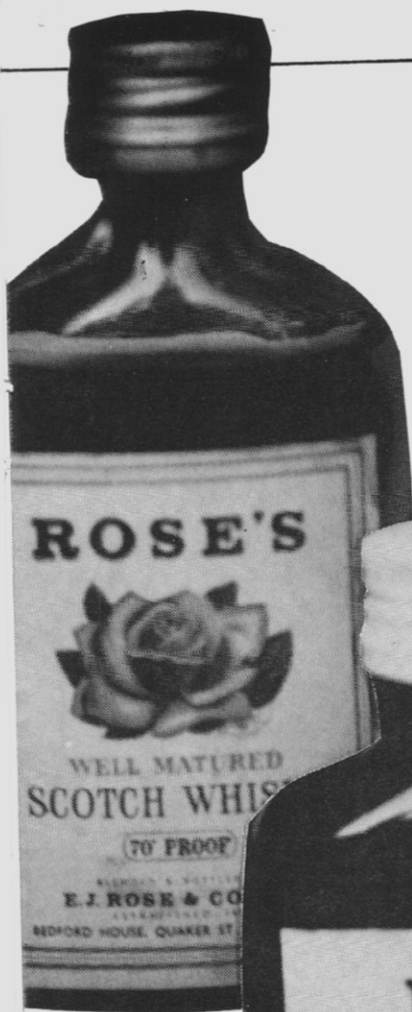
Now we go from colour to Black and White for our next bottle for the label is just that. This however does not distract from the rareness of it. J & T was put out by the firm of those initials: Julian & Trower. It is from the late 1950's and is a brown flask like many bottles from that era.

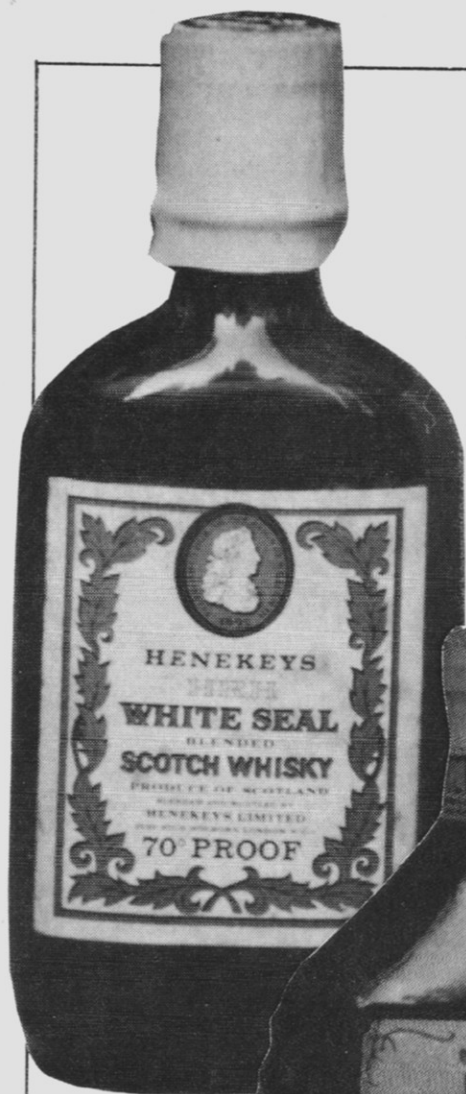
Henekeys White Seal, our fourth bottle, is one of many put out by that firm who had premises in central London some years ago in Holborn. According to the label, they were first established in the reign of William the Third. Truly another bottle which fits our heading.

Our fifth bottle Cranmer is a beauty put out by Turner Roche & Co. Ltd. of West London in the early 1950's. Funny thing, it's the only one this issue to have a cork top. The cover is red and the label cream with black writing with a pair of swords crossed at the top of the label.

Once again number six is here and what a unique bottle it is. Called Uncle Mac, it is a product of the well known Mexican company, Destileria Francesca. The bottle is brown, the label yellow with red and black writing and since it is a Scotch from Mexico certainly a bottle for the connoisseur.

I hope you've enjoyed these six. There will be more next time... and the time after that. Soon Christmas will be upon us once again. --R. H. --





DOR



Pictured for you are three bottles from A. E. DOR a company which was founded in 1858 by Amedee-Edouard Dor. If he were alive today, I think he might have been a mini bottle collector because he specialized in collecting fine old cognacs. Many of the barrels of cognac that he kept may still be found in the family cellar.

The first two bottles are of the Three Star variety and I do believe that the first bottle is a bit older than the second. The last or third bottle is a bit

of a marketing marvel. Four Aces was put out to rival the great whiskey firms at the time. The importer was Four Aces Liquor Corporation of Boston, Mass.

It's interesting that the crest of the company is the same in the first two bottles. Then look at the top of the crest on the third bottle where a little something extra was added... the four aces!

Fred Jinkens
The Cognac Newsletter

MINI WORLD



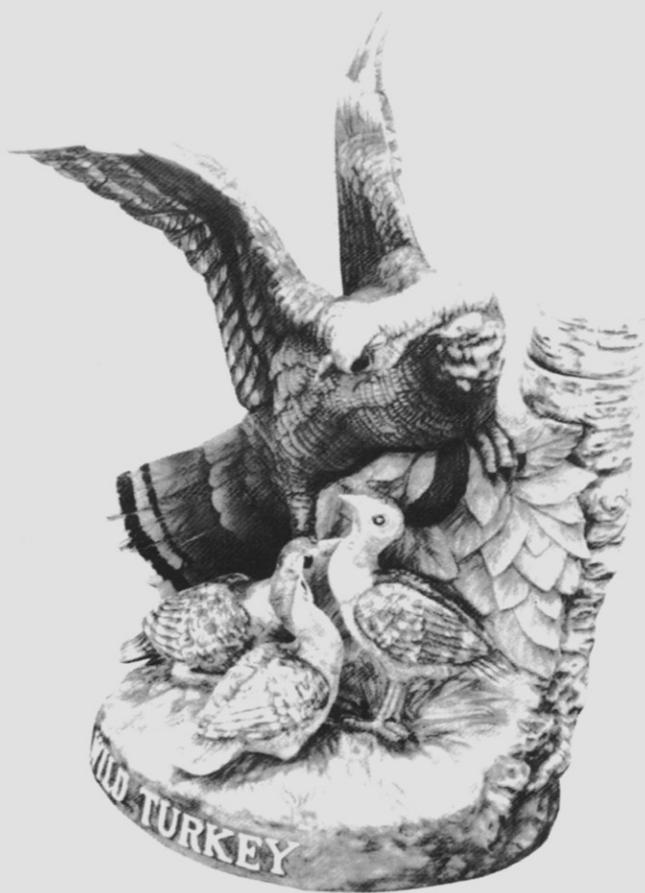
From time to time I get requests to publish articles which appeared some time ago. Usually this is because the person is interested in certain bottles and knows that an article was printed previously. From time to time we may use a picture or two if it's expedient such as the Thistle and the Rose article which was done by Dorothy Hooper.

This time you'll notice the picture below and if you've been with us long enough and your memory is good enough, you'll remember this "oldie". Exactly ten years ago to this very is-

sue. Al Cembura wrote an article about collecting in South America. This is one of the pictures from his article. The reason it's being shown again is that there seems to be renewed interest in Argentine bottles and three people recently have asked about some of the bottles in this picture. Forcoll jugs and vases seem to be the major items which appear.

Anyway, thought everyone might enjoy seeing some older bottles and possibly learning a bit more about them.

Wild Turkey



This is the first time that Wild Turkey has made an appearance in these pages this year, but it won't be the last. This piece, Turkey with Poults, will be issued (in 750 and 50 ml sizes) in October in quite limited issues. At the same time, the Turkey in Flight mini will be released. Next time we'll show you that one as well as feature the first two Wild Turkey miniatures which were issued earlier this year.



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Kiski Mini Beam & Spec. Club: c/o Mr. John D. Ferchak, Jr., 816 Cranberry Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146.

Lilliputian Miniature Bottle Club: c/o Mrs. Lee Weiss, 5626 Corning Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

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The Miniature Cognac Club: c/o Mr. Joseph Levesque, 7212 Seminole Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

Northeast Mini Bottle Club: c/o Mr. Al Manuel, 1225 McDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230.

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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.

Greater Edmonston Miniature Liquor Bottle Collectors Association: c/o Mr. Brian Hutchings, Box 1327, Morinville, Alberta T0G 1P0 Canada.

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

The Mini Bottle Club: c/o Mr. David L. Maund, Hoyle House, Upham St., Upham, Hants, England.

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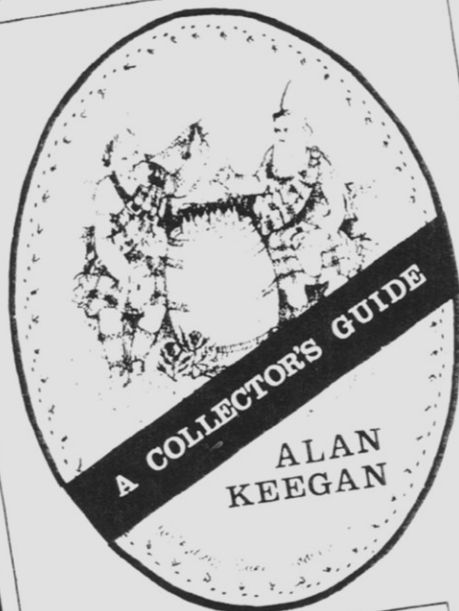
The Northern Alcoholic Club: c/o Ms. Erica Mulder, P. O. Box 60155, Titirangi, Auckland 7, New Zealand.

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