

THE

VOL. XII No. 1
No. 67 1985

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

NEW...from Dug's Decanters



Midwest Miniature Bottle Collectors
Presents

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Friday Night: April 12, 1985 **Club Meeting**
Time: 8:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Friday Night: April 12, 1985 **Midnight Madness**
Time: 10:00 P.M. to Midnight (2 Hours Only)
M.M.B.C. Members Only

Saturday: April 13, 1985 **Opening Day**
Time: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Admission: \$1.00 per Adult. Members Free

Saturday Night: April 13, 1985 **MMBC Banquet**
Time: 7:00 P.M.

Saturday Night: **The Mini Auction**
Time: 9:00 P.M. following the Banquet

Sunday: April 14, 1985 **Closing Day**
Time: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

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Let's Talk

We've made it to volume no. twelve and we're hell bent for another six issues. For some time now we've been talking about volumes and issues instead of months. This is because a subscription is currently six issues per year. When that year begins and ends depends on when the subscription was begun.

Since it is impossible to depend on the mail (except that we know it will come late...if at all), no months are put on the issues. The last issue #66 was mailed on Jan. 21st. This issue will go out April 10th at the absolute latest.

We're working with the idea of one entire issue devoted to WHO'S WHO IN MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTING. How does that sound? All the particulars could be worked out so that only the information you wanted printed would be used. If there is interest (which means that I'll have to hear from some of you by letter), we'll attempt to work with the various clubs.

This is something which is done in almost every hobby I've ever heard of. This way people know what you specialize in and what your interests are. We definitely don't want to get into any contests per se; however, wouldn't it be nice to know the size of certain collections. What is the largest number of bourbons, scotches, vodkas (you win, George!), cognacs, etc.?

Well, it's an idea and we think a darn good one. Unfortunately I can't take the credit for it as Joseph Levesque suggested this to me recently. Now, what is needed are your contributions. Show us a little spirit and we'll produce one heck of a special issue.

That's it for this time. See you in Chicago! --DMS--

THE

Vol. XII No. 1
No. 67 1985

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Art Director/TED OTIS

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Our Cover

Yes, this is Mustang #2. This is the third of the Mustang bottles because there are three Mustang brothels. Mustang #2 is the largest legal brothel in the world and is located just five miles from Reno, Nevada. This decanter will be available in the very near future and no doubt will sell out just as quickly as its predecessors. Now, would you believe that Mustang #2 has tour bus parking?

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CHIISAI BIN

SEAGULLS...

**Bargain
Corner**



PICKWICK SET,



WHAT'S NEW

Old, Odd, or Unusual

by James Triffon

I have for this article seven new bottles from Japan. New, meaning several months, but also new to the collectors in America.

There are three whiskies, two brandies, one wine and one "spirit". I shall start with the wine bottle, a miniature jug of apple wine, 50 ml and 29 proof. The jug is emerald green in color, by Nikka of Japan. Next is "Old Deluxe", a clear, colorless "spirit" of some kind, 60 ml in size and proof unknown. There is a front and back decal label in black, gold and red printing, with black predominant. The bottle is unique in design and size, of clear glass, and recessed horizontal and vertical lines on the slightly hexagonal shape.

Two brandies are next. The Tokachi Brandy V.S.O.P. is in a dark green glass bottle of 50 ml capacity, and 80 proof. The front label states: Tokachikeda Viticulture and Enology Experiment Station, Hokkaido, Japan.

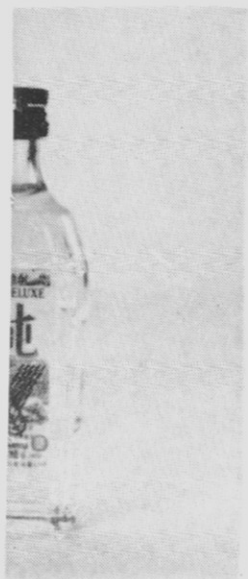
Suntory Brandy V.S.O.P. is in a clear glass, decanter style bottle, of beautiful style and design. The contents are 86 proof and of 50 ml capacity. Suntory Limited issued a V.S.O.P. brandy in a miniature decanter style bottle of entirely different design in the early 1970's.

The last three bottles are whiskies of three different distillers. "Emblem" Premium Whisky by Kirin-Seagram is in a clear glass, short, rectangular bottle, with the corners chamfered, and the top sharply angled to a round neck.



The contents are 50 ml capacity and 86 proof. The last two bottles are rather plain and undistinctive in design, with the "shape" a little out of the ordinary. "Mild Nikka Whisky", blended and bottled by the Nikka Whisky Distilling Co., Ltd., is 86 proof and 50 ml capacity.

Last is "Silky" Suntory Reserve Whisky, blended and bottled by Suntory Limited, Japan. This is also 50 ml and 86 proof, and like the previous whisky described, a very plain label. Both bottles are clear glass, a little on the short, squat side, round and tapering up to a slender neck. Two very nice looking bottles when compared to the standard cylindrical shapes issued in the U.S. --J. A. T. --



VODKA

by George Lisenko

This is a "distillation" of my vodka list. It is by no means the number that I actually have as that changes almost daily...or, atleast I'd like it to change daily. This list represents (in most cases) one of each brand name. There are exceptions. For example, both the Smirnoff and Smirnoff Silver are listed. And, there are others.

In some cases brands have been omitted only because it is practically impossible to translate the label. However, this list should give you a darn good idea of what is out there. Naturally if you've got some that don't appear on this list... PLEASE write!

--G. L.--

1. A. H. Wanders
2. A B C
3. Absolut
4. Akdov
5. Alice
6. Allstedter
7. Ambassadeur
8. Anjuska
9. Apostolska
10. Arrow
11. Augusta
12. Avelle
13. Aybpobckar
14. Antonio Coll
15. Asfour Eau de Vie
16. Batschari
17. Baby Bomba
18. Baihonur
19. Balalaika
20. Bartolome Canellas
21. Baltic
22. Balzam Ettehadieh
23. Banovich
24. Barclay's
25. Bardinet
26. Bardinet - Kiprisky
27. Bartender (Essence)
28. Barvok
29. Barinov - Zip
30. Bass River - Skipper's Choice
31. Bearfang (Czysta)
32. Beheunahka Ocobar
33. Beltion
34. Bernkasteler Burghof
35. Bercker & Ostmann
36. Binboga
37. Bodschanoff
38. Boero
39. Bokma de Fijne Jonge
40. Bols
41. Bols - Bolskaya
42. Bols - Rogoschin
43. Bols - Rogoschin Neus
44. Bogka
45. Boaka
46. Boarikoff
47. Bolchoi
48. Bolscioi
49. Bolshoi
50. Borloff
51. Borodin
52. Borzoi - Dry Imperial
53. Borzoi - English
54. Borzoi - Imperial
55. Borzoi - Wolfhound
56. Burrough's Borzoi
57. Burrough's English
58. Buchter
59. Brosskaya
60. Bokobsa

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 61. Caldwell's | 120. Eroszka |
| 62. Canell as | 121. Ewald Jager & Co. |
| 63. Camel - Grain Dry | 122. Explorer |
| 64. Carnowski | 123. Eye Opener |
| 65. Catherine of Russia | |
| 66. Cava - Rhodes | 124. Farbstoff |
| 67. Carbo | 125. Fabrica Ancora |
| 68. Cavalier | 126. Forcoll (Ceramic) |
| 69. Cetenoff | 127. Factory Whistle |
| 70. Club | 128. Finlandia |
| 71. Chateaux | 129. Fijodor |
| 72. Cloc | 130. Five Flags |
| 73. Clelands | 131. Fleischmann's |
| 74. Cinzano | 132. Fockink |
| 75. Cinyaya Golovka | 133. Friedman - The Patron's |
| 76. Cnbnpckar (Sibirskaja) | 134. Fuentes |
| 77. College Inn | 135. Fugger |
| 78. Consul | |
| 79. Corby - Grand Duke | 136. Georgi |
| 80. Corfu Dane | 137. G. Tombolini |
| 81. Cosmonaut | 138. G. Vetter |
| 82. Cossack | 139. Gessler |
| 83. Count Czarnoff | 140. Gibson - Cossack |
| 84. Count Pushkin | 141. Gilbey's |
| 85. Crown Russe | 142. Gilka |
| 86. Curtis | 143. Gimbel's Private Selection |
| 87. Cucchi (ceramic vase) | 144. Gimsy (Essence) |
| 88. Czar | 145. Giori |
| 89. Czar - Imperial | 146. Giro |
| 90. Czar Alexander | 147. Glens Wasserle |
| 91. Czarina | 148. Glenmore |
| 92. Czarov | 149. Gogotine |
| 93. Cytrynowka (Au Citron) | 150. Golden Eagle |
| 94. Crystal Krystal | 151. Golden Stallion |
| 95. Cpeaue | 152. Goratschow |
| 96. Cusenier | 153. Goratschow Subrowka |
| | 154. Gordon's |
| 97. Danski | 155. Gorizia |
| 98. Dark Eyes | 156. Gorlovka |
| 99. Davako | 157. Gorki |
| 100. Daub & Koch | 158. Gozio |
| 101. De Kuyper | 159. Gradowskaya |
| 102. Der Lachs | 160. Graf Keglevich |
| 103. Dello Zar | 161. Graf St. Keglevich |
| 104. Delmonico | 162. Grand Duke |
| 105. Die Kraft - Der Natur | 163. Grand Etoile (Essence) |
| 106. Dimi | 164. Grant's Imperial |
| 107. Distiller's Pride | 165. Greizer |
| 108. Don Cossack | 166. Gunter Breuer |
| 109. Doppelschluck | |
| 110. Doronoff | 167. H. Negal |
| 111. Dr. Kohut | 168. Hamilton's |
| 112. Duscheleit | 169. Hanacka Jemna |
| 113. Dzakuin (Royale) | 170. Hasse - Citrone "32" |
| | 171. Hans Moser |
| 114. E. G. Engel | 172. Hans Moser Orloff |
| 115. Eggers Sohn - Russischer | 173. Hansen |
| 116. Ekstrakt | 174. Harrods |
| 117. Eliasz (Luksusowa) | 175. Hawaiian (Tiki) |
| 118. Eristoff | 176. Heinrich |
| 119. Eristow | 177. Henri Vallet |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 178. Hermes | 237. Kulov |
| 179. Hiram Walker | 238. Lekkerland Vertrieb |
| 180. Hiram Walker Crystal | 239. Landwirth's |
| 181. Hosie - Polnischer Wyborowa | 240. Landy Freres |
| 182. Huzzar | 241. Lautergold - Graser |
| 183. I. I. Ickiler | 242. Lastotchka "D" |
| 184. Iara | 243. Lepsza |
| 185. Ibrosska | 244. Limona |
| 186. Ibrosskaya | 245. Linonel |
| 187. Ideal | 246. Long Drink |
| 188. Igor Principe | 247. Loza-Lozavaca |
| 189. Imperial | 248. Lubinsky |
| 190. Imperial Products | 249. Luboff |
| 191. Importer's Brand | 250. Lujo |
| 192. Iskra | 251. Luksusowa |
| 193. Ivanoff | 252. Luxardo |
| 194. Ivanovna | 253. M. G. |
| 195. Iwanoff | 254. M. H. Gordon's |
| 196. Iwans | 255. M*A*S*H* |
| 197. Iyanough's Choice | 256. Macy's |
| 198. Izmira | 257. Majorska |
| 199. Jacquins | 258. Malakoff |
| 200. Jarzebiak | 259. Mampe |
| 201. Julius Meinl | 260. Mampe White Elephant |
| 202. Jubuleupsch Ocobar | 261. Many, Blanc & Co. |
| 203. Kalinka | 262. Marin |
| 204. Kantorowicz | 263. Marquis |
| 205. Kappy's | 264. Masquers English |
| 206. Kar Tagoff | 265. Matka Kosaken |
| 207. Karinskaya | 266. McCall's Genuine |
| 208. Karloff | 267. McCormick |
| 209. Katiuska | 268. Meagher's Dimitri |
| 210. Katutxi | 269. Meisterstolz |
| 211. Keglevich | 270. Melnikow - Fritz
Juckemoller |
| 212. Keglevich "D" | 271. Moskobckar Ocobar |
| 213. Kenzikoff | 272. Mochobchnn |
| 214. Keuck - Keuckoff | 273. Mochoboknn |
| 215. Keuck - Keuckow | 274. Mocna Strong |
| 216. Kharkov | 275. Monde (Egyptian Vase) |
| 217. Kimnoff | 276. Monopolowa |
| 218. Kobak | 277. Montesskaya |
| 219. Kojack | 278. Moonshine |
| 220. Kord | 279. Mopoxoar |
| 221. Kord Zubrovka | 280. Morosoff |
| 222. Koltoff | 281. Morton |
| 223. Korsakoff | 282. Moskov |
| 224. Kofkenkorva | 283. Moskovskaia |
| 225. Koukoula | 284. Moskovskaya Moscovita |
| 226. Krakus | 285. Moskovskaya de Moscou |
| 227. Krasnaja | 286. Moskovskaya Vodka Russe |
| 228. Kremlin | 287. Moskovskaya Russischer |
| 229. Krepkaya | 288. Mounier C. Tonabarb |
| 230. Krilof | 289. Mountain Valley Brand |
| 231. Krinskaya | 290. Mr. Boston Dry Liqueur |
| 232. Kristall | 291. Mysliwska |
| 233. Kristaline | 292. Nach Original Rezepten |
| 234. Kubanskaya | 293. Napka |
| 235. Kulakoff | 294. Naskorowje |
| 236. Kulon Legesseg | |

295. Neptune
 296. Nereditza
 297. Nevsky (Igor Raskolniks)
 298. Newport De Luxe
 299. Nicholoff
 300. Nicholoff "Dutch"
 301. Nicaloff-
 302. Nicolaiev
 303. Nikita
 304. Nikolai
 305. Likolai Legitima
 306. Nikolanova
 307. Nobska
 308. Nordoff
 309. Nuyens
 310. Nykolyslyn

 311. Odessa
 312. Okhotnichya
 313. Old Ivan
 314. Old Mr. Boston
 315. Old Krupnik
 316. Olifant
 317. Omega
 318. One-eyed
 319. Orloff
 320. Oso Negro
 321. Osolin - Rodina
 322. Oud Amsterdam
 323. O. V. Blackenhagen
 324. O. V. Blackenhagen -
 Czar Alexander
 325. Oy Alkoholilike AB Dry

 326. Panstwowy Luksusows
 327. Panstwowy Wyborowa
 328. Panstwowy Zytnia
 329. Paradise
 330. Parenta
 331. Parrot Brand
 332. Pekpackar
 333. Pertsovka
 334. Peters
 335. Pilides
 336. Pieprzowka "D"
 337. Piomyssos
 338. Pirouzeh Ettihadieh
 339. Pjotr
 340. Pocchhekar
 341. Polmoz - Cherry
 342. Poniatowski "D"
 343. Potter's
 344. Pride of Baltimore
 345. Presovska
 346. Pully
 347. Pure White "Sample"
 348. Puschkin
 349. Pushka

 350. R. Jelinek
 351. Real Condor

 352. Relska
 353. Relsky
 354. Remoff
 355. Renee
 356. Reval Pure
 357. Rhenus
 358. Riga Genuine
 359. Right's
 360. Rimanto Potato
 361. Robka
 362. Robka Cherry
 363. Rola GMHB
 364. Romanoff
 365. Rostov
 366. Rother GMBH
 367. Royal Weinbrand
 368. Royal Gate
 369. Rusalca
 370. Rushkin "42"
 371. Russei ka
 372. Russkaja
 373. Russkaya Pycckar
 374. Russian
 375. Russian (Barrel)

 376. S. Faustino
 377. Samovar
 378. Sassano & Pagani
 379. Sarajevo (Tarragona)
 380. Saratov
 381. Sarewo (Von Stolnikoff)
 382. Seagers
 383. Seagram's
 384. Schenley
 385. Schenley Deluxe
 386. Schmidt
 387. Schober & Co.
 388. Sechsamster
 389. Seliko Jemna
 390. Sermeq
 391. Serranov Original
 392. Serschin
 393. Serschin Schilkin
 394. Shalakof Autentica
 395. Shalakof Russian
 396. Sibora Furst
 397. Simpson's
 398. Simpson's Magnum
 399. Simpson's Essens
 400. Ski Country
 401. Skol
 402. Skaidrioji
 403. Slavijanskaya
 404. Slova
 405. Si gl
 406. Smirnoff
 407. Smirnoff de Czar
 408. Smirnoff Silver
 409. Sokolowa
 410. Soplica
 411. Special Dutch

412. Spilennaya Gora
 413. Spirit of '76
 414. Starka Ctapap
 415. Starka Imp.
 416. Starka Panstwowy
 417. St. Nicholas
 418. Stienka Razin
 419. Staropolska
 420. Ste. P. Smirnoff
 421. Stefanof Imperial
 422. Stock
 423. Stolichnaya
 424. Stolovaya
 425. Stredoceska Jenna
 426. Stroganoff (Chateau Glen)
 427. Stroganoff (5 Star)
 428. Strogoff
 429. Strothmann Reines Mildes
 430. Suntory
 431. Suntory Banzai
 432. Suntory Mild
 433. Superfino
 434. Suvaroff Imperiale

 435. Taaka
 436. Tabu
 437. Tamara (Paul Poschke)
 438. Tarnowski
 439. Tarrasch
 440. Tarnowska
 441. Tekel
 442. Ten Acres
 443. Terravill Stienka Razin
 444. Teucke & Koenig
 445. Tfohka Vodka Russe
 446. The American
 447. Tiger
 448. Tovarich
 449. Tovar
 450. Tovarisch
 451. Tovarscki
 452. Towarisch
 453. Trink Wasser
 454. Troika
 455. Turkish State
 456. Turov
 457. Tsarevitch "D"
 458. Tvarscki
 459. Twice Crowned
 460. Ullrich Qualitats
 461. Ullrich's

 462. V. J.
 463. V. M. Ramirez
 464. Valskaya
 465. Van Berckels
 466. Vila Montana
 467. Vintager
 468. Vladimir
 469. Vladivar Imperial
 470. Vlahov

 471. Vlahov Caracev
 472. Vlahov Samokov
 473. Vlahov Pavlovka
 474. Vlahov Zukovka
 475. Vodka City
 476. Volga
 477. Vostock
 478. Vyborva

 479. W. L. S. (Drunk Russian)
 480. Westminster
 481. W F
 482. Wynand Fockink
 483. Whitehall - Royalty
 484. Whitehall - Sovereign
 485. Wilko Brenneri Kaarst
 486. Winiak - Luksusowy
 487. Wisers International
 488. Wisniowka
 489. Wisniowka Panstwowy
 490. Wittenkamper
 491. Wlayka
 492. Wm. Packer
 493. Wolfe's
 494. Wolfschmidt
 495. Wolfschmidt "Exile"
 496. Wolfschmidt Genuine
 497. Wolfschmidt Original
 498. Wolfschmidt Seagram
 499. Woronaya
 500. Wunderlich
 501. Wyborowa
 502. Wyborowa Panstwowy
 503. Wyborowa Hosie Polnischer

 504. Zamoyski Pure
 505. Zar
 506. Zar Special
 507. Zara
 508. Zarenwitsch
 509. Zaresky Imperator
 510. Zarevich
 511. Zarina
 512. Zaroff
 513. Zhivago
 514. Znackova Jenna
 515. Zubrowka Grasovka
 516. Zubrowka Polonaise
 517. Zytinia Panstwowy
 518. Zytinia Polmos
 519. Zytinia Special Rye
 520. Zytniowka

MOUNT HOPE

Estate & Winery



It hasn't been that long, so the name Mount Hope should still be in mind. This is their newest bottle, a miniature version of the larger Firefighter which was issued four years ago and was a huge success. This new mini will be available shortly and will no doubt meet with the same success as did its larger counterpart.

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI

In 1984 sales of whiskies in Japan decreased to 70% of what they were in the previous year. Then Suntory Limited, the biggest distiller of whisky in Japan, brought out some new types of whiskies to the market. These were the YAMAZAKI PURE MALT mentioned in the last issue and two new ones, SILKY and ELK.

The first is Suntory Reserve Silky and the two pieces are slightly different as you can see. The one on the left appeared in Sept. of 1984 as a sample while the other was on the market in Feb. of 1985. The second is a complete facsimile, 10 cm tall and containing 50 ml at 48% alcohol.

Elk, in the next picture, is the first Rye Whisky in Japan in many, many years. This bottle is a round, green glass bottle 11.6 cm tall. It is bottled at 40% alcohol, 50 ml contents and sports a light green cap. The label is very odd. There are a red squirrel, an owl, an eagle and hawthorn...no elk. We look forward to it being available in the stores here soon.

The third bottle, HI NIKKA, was released recently to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Nikka Whisky Distilling Co. In a square, clear glass, it is 10.8 cm tall with 50 ml contents at 39% alcohol. The full sized bottle has red letters of "50th Anniversary" under Nikka Whisky on the label. The cream-colored label has a red belt with "HI".

GRAND OLD PARR has a new label. This new one is "Deluxe" and not "Aged 12 Years" as has been the bottle sold here previously in Japan.

The last bottle, PRINCE SPECIAL SCOTCH WHISKY, was blended and bottled for the Prince Hotels here in Japan by the Red Lion Blending Co. in Scotland. It is available only at the Prince Hotels. The square, clean bottle is covered on three sides by the label like Jack Daniels. It contains 47 ml at 43% alcohol. The label is very beautiful in black, red and gold.

See you soon with more bottles!

-- T. S. --



A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque

This AIGUEBELLE miniature liqueur was acquired at a bottle show last year. It attracted me because I had visited the AIGUEBELLE Trappist Abbey in France several years ago (see MBC #64, Fall 1984) and because the bottle resembled the well known Rouyer Cognac angelic bottle. Obviously, the bottle was purchased from the same glass works.

On the back of the bottle, there is a narrow strip label which has been torn off, and part of the printing is as follows: **** fluid ounces. Artificially colored - 110 Proof. **** Rev. Trappist Fathers in their Monastery, Grignan (Drome) France. **** Co., Inc. 52 Stone Street, New York, NY, 1-247. Even though my label is incomplete, the information is authentic and provides credibility to the bottle, and indicates it was once imported in the U. S. which was news to me. This bottle has intrigued me to some degree, and after several months of investigative research, I have come up with the real story behind the formation of the TRAPPIST ORDER, the producers of AIGUEBELLE. This story is mind-boggling as well as amusing, and it is a pleasure to share it with the readers of the MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR.

Madame de Montbazon was one of the prettiest ladies ever to grace the French court in the days of LOUIS XIV. At the death of her husband, she retired to the city of Tours in order to be close to her lover, a young curate by the name of Armand-Jean le Bouthillier de Rance.

In April 1657, Mme de Montbazon fell ill with a type of measles and died. Two carpenters were called in to measure the body and build a casket. They had been tipping most of the day, and fell a little short of their specifications. Madame de Montbazon would not fit in the casket.

Being by themselves, and pretty well lit by this time, they shrugged their

shoulders, spit in their hands, sharpened their saw, and sawed the head off. They gently placed the head on a chair, fitted the body in the casket, and walked away. (Presumably to replenish their spirits.)

In the meantime, Father de Rance had heard of his mistress' illness and in all haste, came to her room. He was so shocked by what he saw that he was inconsolable for five full years and consulted astrologers, occultists and the likes. Finally, in 1622, he retired to the Abbey of La Trappe which he owned. There, he founded an offshoot of the Benedictine Order known as the Cistercians of the Strict Observance, or better known as TRAPPISTS. He lived at La Trappe for 33 years, in prayer, penance, hard work, and exhorting his followers to "remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin". As a reminder of that "last end", he kept a skull in his cell. That skull was the head of Madame de Montbazon.

And so it was, de Rance owned the Cistercian Abbey of La Trappe even though he had led a dissolute life many miles away and was not even a member of the Order. But in the end, religious values prevailed, even though they may have been accelerated by macabre circumstances. De Rance himself wrote the Trappist Rule which became known throughout the world. The greatest Trappist writer of all times, an American by the name of Thomas Merton, wrote that Trappist mentality is akin to "a suicide squad". Trappists live a life of complete silence, and abstain from eating meat, though they will have fish twice a week. (After all, St. Peter was a fisherman.) In southern Europe, they are allowed a cup of wine with their meals; in northern Europe, a mug of beer. To those of Anglo-Saxon and puritan background, this may appear as a complete contradiction, but it is perfectly within the realm of cultural conventions of the times.



It's a wonder Father de Rance did not sleep in a casket - that surely would have made him "remember his last end". A legend claims that a certain Order of monks sleep in their casket every night, and in the daytime, they use it as a desk, but all research on this subject comes to a dead end.

The TRAPPIST Order became one of the most austere and most industrious Order in the Catholic Church. They reached their apogee just before the French Revolution and never completely recovered from the sinister butcheries of the Revolution. Today, many Trappist Abbeys have closed their door. There are at least 12 Trappist Abbeys in the U. S., but none produce a commercial alcoholic beverage - it is considered too mundane a pursuit.

In Belgium, several TRAPPIST ABBEYS produce beer and some of it is exported to the U. S. During the Los Angeles Miniature Bottle Show last year, I visited the LIQUOR BARN and acquired four different kinds of TRAPPIST BEER. I don't know if it is available in miniature, but it is certainly a challenge to miniature beer collectors. If you're a beer drinker, try it, you might like it. And while you're slowly sipping that beer, just remember that like most families, the TRAPPIST family has a skeleton in its closet.

Joseph Levesque
The Cognac Newsletter



BOLS

Every once in a while comments are made or letters received which ask about bottles which have been pictured in one source or another or at one time or another. Recently several queries were made about the Bols Uncle Sam. So, with that in mind, I thought it high time to dig out some pictures of the famous, but seldom seen, Bols figurals.

Shown for you (in no particular order) are: Maryanne, Uncle Sam, John Bull, Bahama Policeman, Santa Claus or Father Christmas and the set of Dutch Girls. The larger Spakenburg (Woman with goose) is but one of a set of the same figurals in the larger size. There is also a different Santa Claus, a Viasa (Airlines) House and many others. Hope you enjoy this look at some extremely rare bottles.

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STARTING a French mini collection

The biggest problem for most collectors seems to be the lack of adequate shelf space to display their collection; therefore, they decide to specialize in certain categories. For the collector who may have extra shelf space for a limited French collection, I may offer a few suggestions. After all, France is THE great nation of wines, spirits and liqueurs and no collection can be complete without a representative cross section of French minis.

Along with the U.S., the French liquor industry is probably the most regulated in the world. France is a very sophisticated country and their minis are reliable and top quality. There is a greater variety of straight glass minis available in France than in the U.S.; however, the U.S. leads the way in figurals and ceramics.

If you seek to limit your collection to the more valuable and meaningful minis, then you might consider the following:

WINES: The production of the great classical wines of Burgundy and Bordeaux and other areas, and the terrific prices they command, does not lend itself to packaging or distribution of minis. Therefore, the availability of French mini wines is minimal. If you ever find a French mini wine with an "Appellation Controllee" label, hang on, because it is valuable. The chances are that it is a "limited sample" of a classified wine, and not a commercially distributed mini.

COGNAC, ARMAGNAC AND CALVADOS: These are the three major

categories of spirits. By law, they are each produced in a very limited area, the labels are very simple to read, and a good selection is available in the U.S.

MARC, EAU-de-VIE, and MIRABELLE: These may be classified as the three minor categories, but still very important in the lives of Frenchmen. Marc is at its best from Burgundy, Eau-de-Vie from Alsace, and Mirabelle from Lorraine.

LIQUEURS: These are available in all sizes, all tastes, all pocketbooks. Some are advertised and distributed in the U.S. Many more are available only in France. France probably has more old classical liqueurs than any other country. Only your own available shelf space and your own preference will determine the extent of your French Liqueur acquisitions.

The question arises: Where are the French minis available? If you are fortunate enough to make a trip to France, make sure to visit the wine and liquor shop at the Charles de Gaulle Airport. You'll find a good selection of minis there. And, of course, there are minis at the usual tourist spots in France. However, the French are highly provincial and it is difficult to find a good cross-section of French minis in any one area.

In this country, you'll find French minis in certain States; at the Mini Fairs; or watch the Classified Ads in MBC or in your mini club publication.

--Joseph Levesque--

Scotch For The Connoisseur

by Roy Holden

Well, Spring is here again and I hope the bottles that are featured in this issue fill you with that Spring feeling. All are brands, except one, which were in the United Kingdom some years ago.

Bottle number one is again a brewery bottle. Mackies of Birkenhead were large wine and spirit merchants some years back and their Royal Assent is just one example of the fine selection they had. The one here is 70 proof and was put out some twenty years ago. To give you some idea of its location, Birkenhead is across from Liverpool on the River Mersey.

Brewery bottles continue with our number two piece, The Anchor Blend. This was put out by Hull Brewery Company Ltd. in the 1950's and is rarely seen today. The label is orange with an anchor in the centre. The funny thing is that both these first two bottles are on a parallel line across England. One is on the west coast while the other is on

Forsyth's is also from the Lancashire area. Close to Manchester is a town by the name of Oldham where this bottle came from. It was put out by Forsyth's of Yorkshire Street in the 1940's and is 30 under proof. Like many from this era, the bottle is a brown flask

with a red Scottish lion on the top of the label.

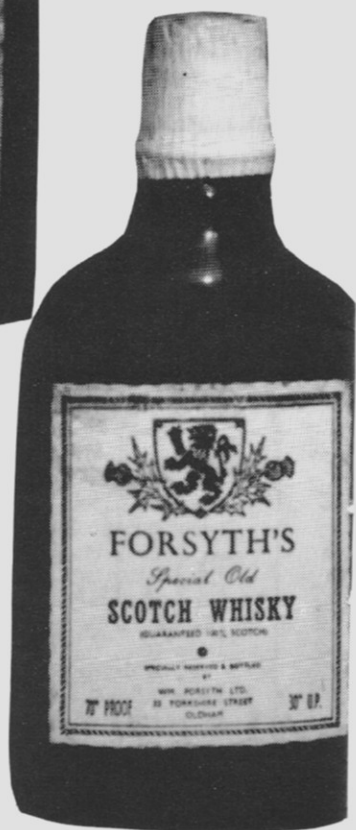
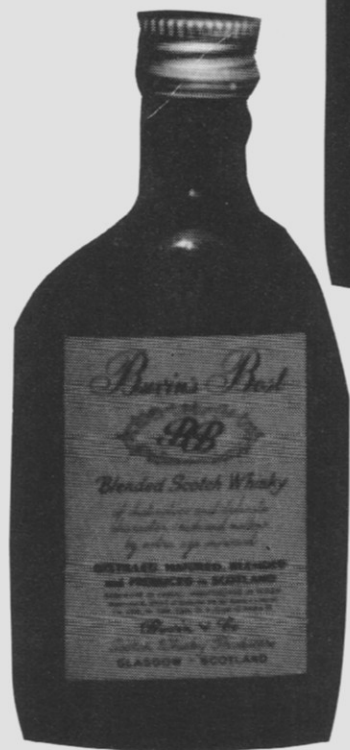
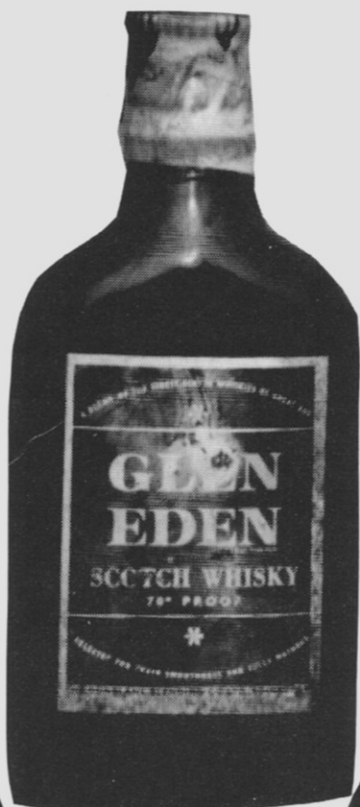
Buvin's Best is another unique name which was introduced in the 1960's from a Glasgow office of the same name. The bottle is again a brown flask, probably the easiest of the six featured to find today.

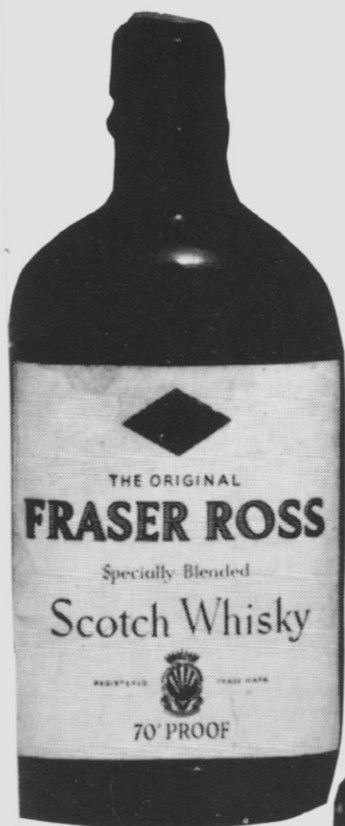
Fraser Ross or Fraser Vat 10 is another great bottle from the 1940's. This brand was produced by Smeeds of Portsmouth on the English south coast. They have several variations but all are difficult to find today.

Finally we come to Glen Eden, our last bottle this issue. It is again a brown flask. This blend was put out by The Dunblane Blending Company of Edinburgh in the 1950's. Again, a bottle only found in advance collections.

Each issue I try to feature bottles which are not shown in other publications or even in Jim Triffon's fine Scotch book. This makes it more interesting, I'm certain. Hope to be back in early summer with six more Scotch for the Connoisseur. Don't forget! Any collectors wishing to trade Scotch can contact me in Southport, England.

--R. H. --





FROM THE
ORIENT



Last August and September, my wife and I traveled to Hong Kong and then Tokyo on a business trip. Naturally during the extra time we could muster, we looked hither and yon for new bottles.

There was very little new or of interest in Hong Kong except for the exquisite Janneau cobalt blue Eagle. The bottle is made in both 750 ml and this 50 ml version by Bernardaud of Limoges, France contains e(X)cellent (O)ld Grande Fine Armagnac and the picture doesn't do it justice... to quote the old cliché.

The remainder of the bottles were found in Tokyo. The glass bottle which didn't come out too well for the article is a heart which contains Suntory V. S. O. P. Brandy. The box states that it is a "Heart - Especially For You." Need I mention that this was a specialty item for St. Valentine's Day!

The Bell decanter is from Nikka and contains Apple Wine. The stem of the bell is the stopper. This bottle also

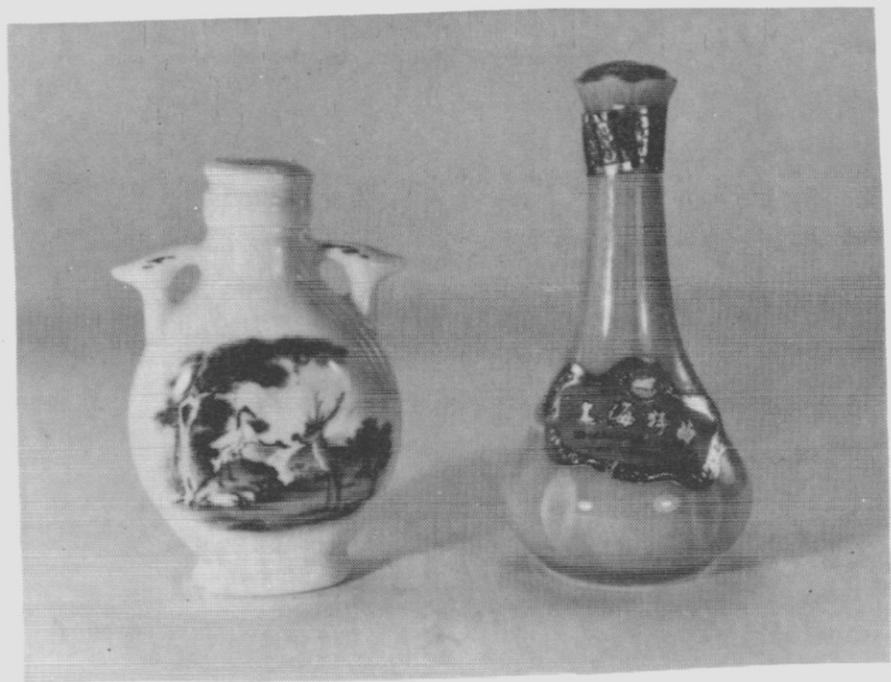
comes with a little music box like those found in greeting cards. Short of pulverizing it (stomping and freezing did not work!), the music box plays on and on and on. As far as I know, it played all the way home in the plane, through custom's clearance and far into the night... after night... after night. It's a marvelous bottle, but the music box was a bit much.

The last two bottles are from China. The taller of the two was a gift which was hand carried from Shanghai and contains Shanshai Tequ (I think). It is 4 1/4" tall in a lovely celadon color with a foil label in red and gold. This is a very attractive vase.

The last bottle was from China but had been imported into Japan. It is a white vase with a nature scene decal and is quite nice. It also contains wine as it seems the Chinese only bottle beer and wine.

Hope you've enjoyed a little visit to the Orient.

--DMS--





Jerry Cohen

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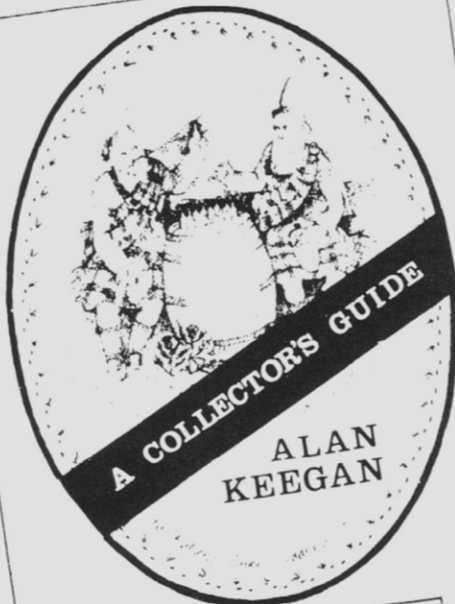
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