

THE

VOL. XIII No.4  
No. 76 1986

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

FROM  
HAWAII



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MARCH, 1986

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Blue Bird Plaque	F	55	Mountain Sheep	M	18	Swan	F	22			
Bobcat	F	35	Passenger Pigeon	M	31	Turkey	F	22			
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Buffalo Stampede	F	22	Phoenix Bird	M	20	Billy Boxer	M	8			
Chukar Partridge	F	32	Prairie Falcon	M	25	Fanny Fox	M	8			
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Great Spirit	F	65	Submarine	M	28	Tom Volunteers	F	17			
Gyr Falcon	F	35	Stone Sheep	M	31	MO. Tigers	F	17			
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Indian Chief #1	F	85	Wolf Dancer	M	31						
Indian Chief #2	F	106									
LOOKOUT Indian	F	57									
Headovlark	F	22	<b>CYRUS NOBLE</b>			<b>MC CORMICK</b>					
Male Merganser	F	35	Blacksmith	F	37	Elvis #2 (Pink)	F	30			
Mountain Sheep	F	45	Burro	F	37	Elvis #3 (Black)	F	30			
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Polar Bear	F	50	MUSIC MAN	F	17	Bald Eagle	F	67			
Prairie Falcon	F	42	California Seal	F	22	Stephen Austin	F	20			
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Badger	M	15	King's African	F	15	Ben Franklin	M	15			
Barred Owl Plaque	M	34	3rd New York	F	25	John Hancock	M	15			
Barrel Racer	M	15	Napoleon	F	10	Patrick Henry	M	15			
Bobcat	M	15	Pancho & Fierro	F	27	Thos. Jefferson	M	15			
Bob Cratchit	M	15	Pancho on-a-Horse	HG	75	Canada Goose	M	25			
Buffalo Dancer	M	17	Father's Gift	F	17	Pheasant	M	25			
Buffalo Stampede	M	15	"Frosty"	F	17	Gambel's Quail	M	25			
Bull Rider	M	15	Stonevall Jackson	F	25	Wood Duck	M	25			
Chicadee	M	22	Teddy Roosevelt	F	22	Lindbergh	M	20			
Chukar Partridge	M	15	Texas Ranger	F	22						
Canvasback D.U.	M	15	Jeanne D'Arc	F	22						
Fintail D.U.	M	22	Fray Serra	T	60						
Widgeon D.U.	M	15	Father's Gift	M	10						
Wood Duck D.U.	M	20	1st. VA. Volunteers	M	15						
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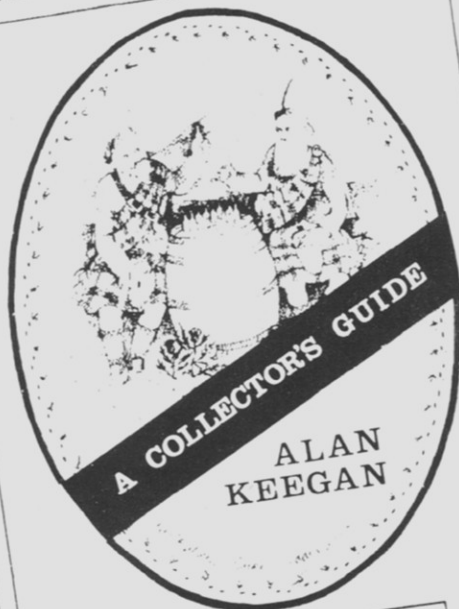
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# Let's Talk

Fall is here and we may actually have caught up a bit as this issue should make it to everyone before the end of October. In any case, the last page is going to the printer on Oct. 2nd, so judge accordingly!

This issue is notable for both what's here and what's not. Roy Holden's article got mangled at the print shop and had to be redone but couldn't make it so you scotch collectors will find it here next time. We do have the end of the Chartreuse story for you from Joe Levesque, a new column from George Jinkens and the majority of our old standbys.

Next time in #77 we'll have Jim Triffon with the first of several articles on tequila, a visit to a Canadian collector, and regular articles from Bob Kay, George Jinkens, Mike O. or Melo, Joe Levesque and Taizo Shiratsuchi. Our double seven issue is certain to be a real winner.

**A SNEAK PEAK:** For those of you who relish the figurals, the word is that in 1987 Wild Turkey will have three minis available. They will stand on their own or all fit together to form a tableau. We'll have the first pix early in '87.

Two items of interest and a little "plugola" as it used to be known. If you collect swizzle sticks (stirs, muddlers, etc.) you might be interested in joining the International Swizzle Stick Collectors Association. It's \$7.50 a year and you can write to Ray Hoare (also a mini collector) at 5600 Claude Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5E 2M6 Canada. And, if you want to join a German club with a very informative bulletin write to the Mini - flaschenclub in the Directory. It's in German, but lots of pix!

See you during the holidays.

--DMS--

THE

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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

## Features

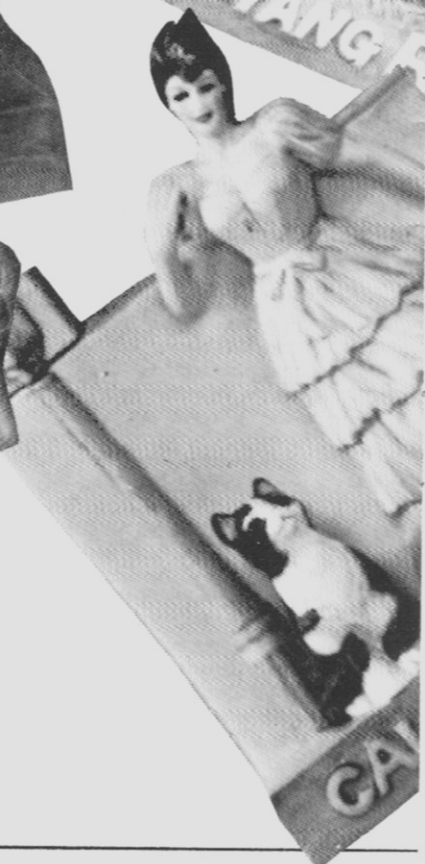
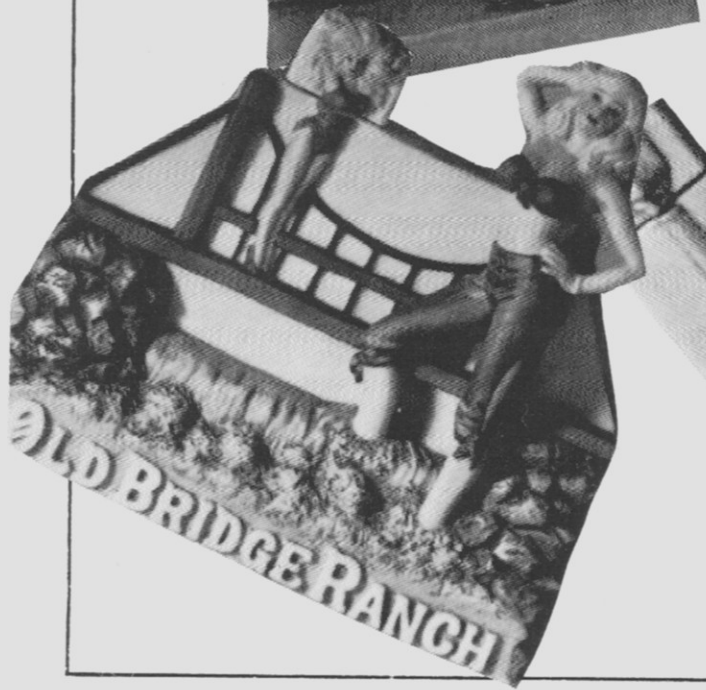
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Support them, they support you.	

## Our Cover

Last time LET'S TALK mentioned the figurals produced by Hawaiian Distillers in Honolulu. The Fire Eater on the cover was issued in 1985 and did a very fast disappearing act. Collectors scouring Honolulu recently only were able to find a couple of these pieces...so, how rare is it? Other previous bottles were still in abundance along with a good many new glass rums with various labels.

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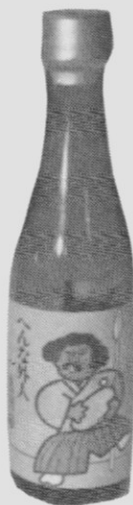
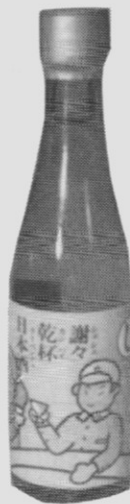
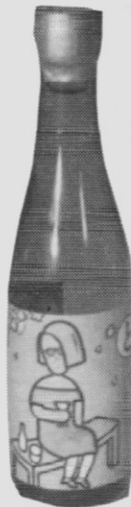
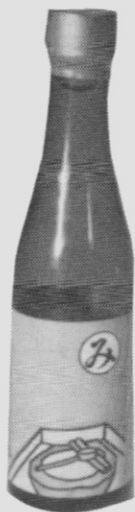
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# WHAT'S NEW

## Old, Odd, or Unusual



This is what you call a mixed bag. We've got new bottles from two entirely different parts of the world. And, to top it off, there's not much to say about most of the bottles.

To begin we have a set of four sakes from Japan. However, there were possibly (and probably) more bottles in the set. The labels are very colorful and seem to represent different countries. The number three and four bottles definitely seem to be showing China and (possibly) Hawaii... Samoa??? Hope-

fully the answer will come from our Japanese correspondent, Taizo Shiratsuchi.

The other four bottles all came from Germany. The first three are indeed strange, but in different ways. The Grand Monarch simply says "Finest Whisky". That's it! If this came from another European country, it would be suspect that it was a home made label; however, it is legitimate as far as is known.

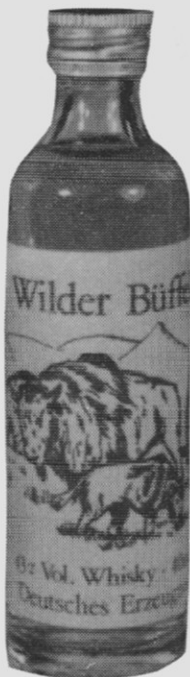


The Royal Whisky is interesting in that it does list the 43% Vol. of alcohol and a producer, but this one has a label which doesn't seem to fit the bottle and also has the exact same type of closure as the Grand Monarch. Oh well, more research.

The third bottle, Wilder Buffel, again lists no producer but does at least give a percentage and state that it's made in Germany. The majority of German collectors seem to have difficulty locating this bottle; so again, more research is needed. Since more and more German collectors are now involved, likely we'll get an answer.

The final bottle is McCormick Bourbon. Yes, that same good old McCormick Company in Weston, Missouri. Except that this one was bottled in Germany as are a good many other American bourbons. McCormick previously issued some nice minis here including a bourbon but recently their only miniatures have been ceramic Elvis pieces at inflated prices.

Wouldn't it be nice if more American companies cared enough about their products to issue miniatures? At least it would be novel!



# Pickwick

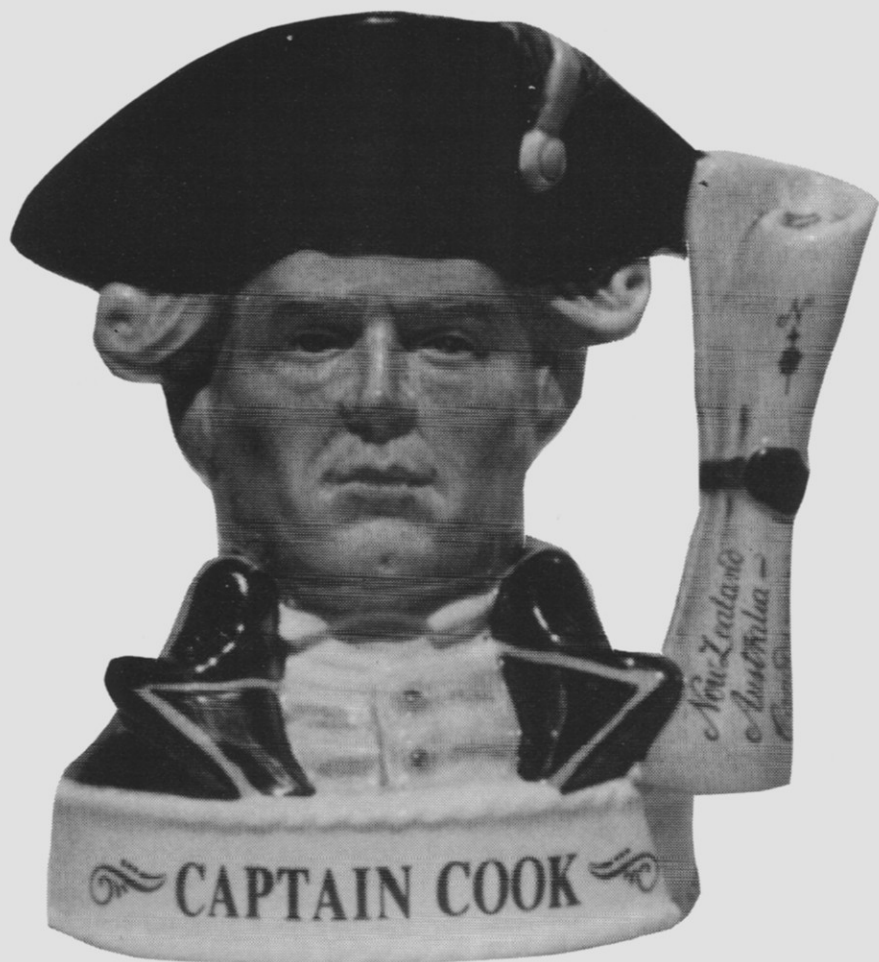
INTERNATIONAL      WHISKY CERAMICS

We haven't seen the latest releases from Pickwick for some time... so, feast your eyes. When the bottles are at an end later this year, there will have been ten different pieces for you to collect. That's five in each series; the International Series and the Pickwick or Dickens Series.

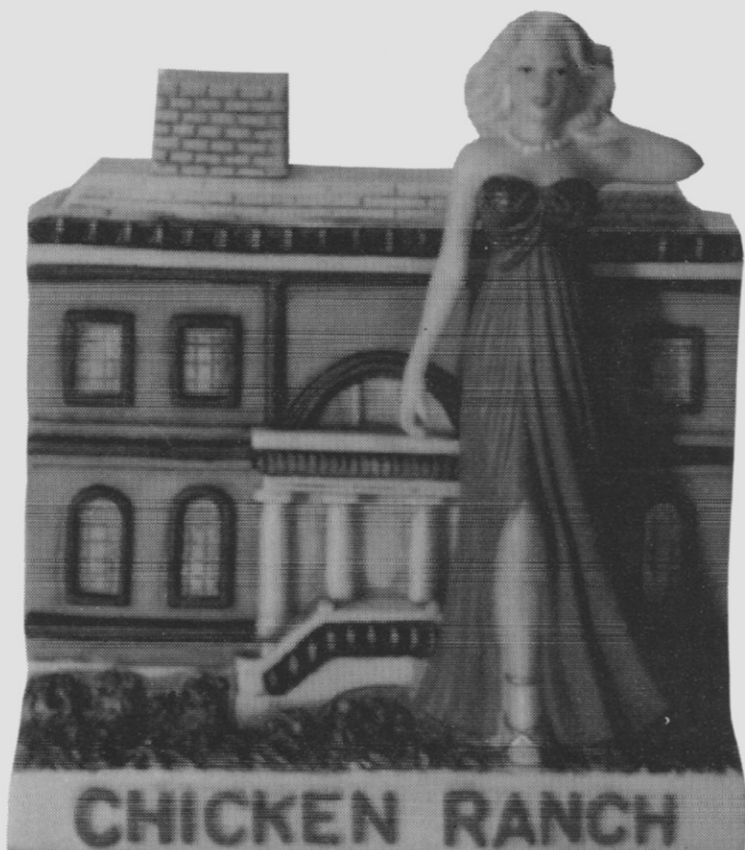
The latest additions are Captain Cook in the International Series and The Town Crier of Eatonswill in the original Dickens Series. The Town Crier finishes the four different characters in the group while a Samurai will complete the International bottles.



Captain Cook is excellently delineated but it's the Town Crier that so many collectors find irresistible... simply because he's definitely not a handsome bloke. Of course many other collectors find the fact that these decanters are made by Royal Doulton also an irresistible characteristic!



## DUG PICKING'S BROTHEL SERIES



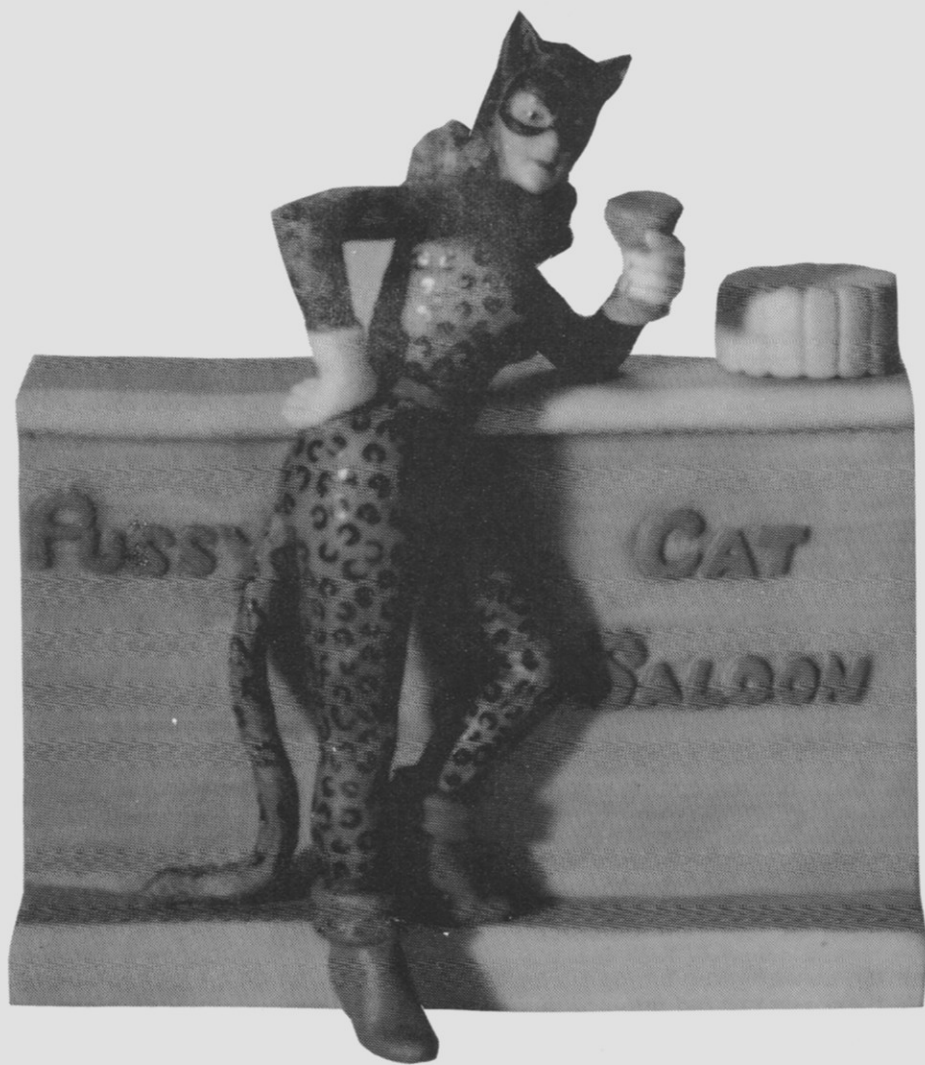
Numbers twenty-nine and thirty in Dug Picking's Brothel series are now ready for your inspection. Out in the beginning of September (hopefully) is the New Chicken Ranch. The buxom blonde in front of the "ranch" wears a string of pearls and a red dress that might have been designed by Howard Hughes seeing the superstructure that it supports. For those of you who have forgotten, the New Chicken Ranch is not far from Pahrump or only a short ride in their private plane...no charge

of course.

Number thirty is the Pussy Cat Saloon in Winnemucca. This bottle should be out the end of October about the same time as a special surprise for this year. Can't tell you what it is or it wouldn't be a surprise. All I'll say is that it's a surprise similar to the one we got in 1982.

Both bottles are limited to 960 pieces and once again will disappear quite quickly from liquor store shelves... particularly in Nevada.

for October



# A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque

Most French liqueurs play up their secret recipe or formula. CHARTREUSE could write a book or could make a nice movie about the adventures or misadventures of their secret recipe. People have killed for it; monks have died for it. The protection of this secret recipe has always been paramount to the management of CHARTREUSE.

When the Carthusian monks returned to France from their exile in 1940, they established their distillery in Voiron, a small town about 30 miles away over the mountains. A lay manager and employees were hired -- but the monks are still the sole stockholders. They have all the say so, yet they have taken the vow of permanent silence. Tourists are not allowed at the Carthusian monastery; even visiting priests and bishops are turned away at the portals. Once in a great while, male visitors will get special permission... such as the General Manager of Chartreuse Liqueur may be invited for a special meeting of the Board of Directors every few years. The first time the Manager was summoned to the monastery for a meeting, the monks were all kneeling on the floor, reciting prayers in Latin. He said to himself, "This is the oddest stockholder's meeting on earth".

There are only three monks who, at any one time, are entrusted with the secret of the 130 herbs from which Chartreuse is derived. Each morning, all three used to drive together to the distillery in a very old car - and they drove it badly - over 30 miles of icy curves, mountains, and precipices.

What if they had a wreck? Finally, the lay Manager (who has no say-so over the Brothers) suggested they drive separately. Now, each one of them drives his own jalopy over the mountains, so if one of them has an accident, the other two will carry on the tradition. These three monks spend eight months in Voiron 30 miles from the Chartreuse monastery, and three months in Tarragona, Spain. Their presence guarantees a consistency of quality at both plants. They haven't told us what they do during the twelfth month.

For decades, CHARTREUSE produced only three items: Yellow Chartreuse; Green Chartreuse; and the Chartreuse Elixir Vegetal. The latter is sold as medicine in pharmacies in France and in Europe, but is not allowed in the U.S. The American Government insists that the medicinal properties be proven. How can it be proven? The Carthusians reply: "All we have is stacks of letters from ninety-year-old women saying that they take a few drops on a sugar cube every day".

In the past few years, CHARTREUSE has produced new liqueurs, and some of these are available in miniature in both France and Spain. The bottles have been streamlined, and gone is the embossing and etching. On most labels, the signature and the Carthusian emblems are omitted. It is doubtful if these liqueurs will ever be exported to the U.S. because they are traditional European liqueurs unknown here, and unsuited to American tastes.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

#1: In 1984, a "Liqueur du 9 Centenaire" was produced - 900 years of existence. (Who wants to live that long?) This special blend and special label were available only at their main office and only during 1984.

#2: CHARTREUSE V.E.P. (Ageing Exceptionally Prolonged). Regular Chartreuse is aged only 3 or 4 years. The V.E.P. is aged 13 years. This is the "top of the line" for Chartreuse and the large size bottles have been seen in the U.S.



#3: CHARTREUSE GENEPI. A liqueur made from a special herb growing in the Alps. Sometimes referred to as: The Absinthe of the Alps. (One more reason for not being imported in the U.S. The B. A. T. F. would have a fit.

#4: CHARTREUSE MURTILLE made from a blueberry concentrate which is reconstituted.



#5: CHARTREUSE ANISETTE produced in Tarragona, Spain. This has a licorice taste.

Joseph Levesque  
The Cognac Newsletter  
& Mail Auction



# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present two very rare whisky miniatures in Japan. The first is a sample bottle of Royal Brackla 60 year old Malt Scotch Whisky from J. Buchanan. These became available in July. Black & White Japan Ltd., the sole agent of Buchanan in Japan, said this Malt was distilled in 1926 in the Royal Brackla Distillery. That year Tenno Hirohito ascended the throne in Japan and also Queen Elizabeth II was born in the U. K.

In connection with these episodes, the sixtieth year of Tenno Reign and Queen Elizabeth's birth, they sold this

60 year old Malt Whisky at ten thousand yen each (at today's rate of 153 yen per dollar this bottle is \$65.36). And, of course, only sixty bottles were made!

The other bottle is a Super Nikka Whisky. This bottle was released to commemorate the initial twelve hour flight from Tokyo to Paris for Air France. The bottles were offered to the passengers on this first flight and a few were used for publicity.

Only a very few lucky collectors could get the above two bottles.

--T. S. --

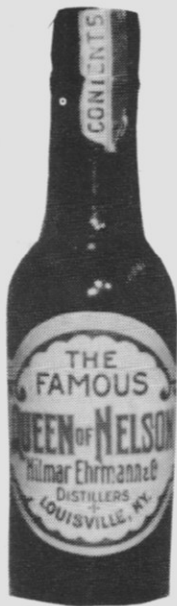
# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature three pre-pro's along with some seldom seen bottles from the more recent past. There is an old saying that certain things are "worth their weight in gold". Well, after seeing some of the prices which have been realized at recent sales, one can conclude that this is becoming close to the truth for some minis. The first three "nuggets" I have chosen to show would certainly fall in this category.

Bottle number one is CABIN CREEK Straight Kentucky Whiskey bottled by Daniel Aberle & Sons., St. Paul Minn, Louisville, Ky. It is 80 proof, has a yellow and green banknote type label and was made about 1910. The next bottle is ECONOMY PURE RYE Whiskey bottled by Economy Distilling Co. Beaver Co. PA. It is BIB 1909-1913 and pictures an old time copper still on the label. The last of the pre-pro's is The Famous QUEEN OF NELSON distilled by Hilmar Ehrmann & Co. Louisville Ky., circa 1900.



The next bottle is, naturally, KING OF NELSON Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey distilled and bottled by Shawhan Distillery Company Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. It is 86 proof, has a yellow label printed in red and black and was made in 1964. Bottle number five is CLUB 400 Blended Whiskey bottled for Majestic Distilling Co. Inc. Lansdown MD by Club 400 Distilled Products Co. Hartford Conn. It is eighty proof and was made in 1965. This bottle was sold only in the Northeast as was the next bottle which is WM. PACKER Blended Whiskey Bottled by CH Graves Distilling Co. Cambridge Mass. It is 90 proof, eight years old, custom made and was produced in 1960. The last of this group is MAC Brand Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for the Milwaukee Athletic Club Milwaukee, Wis. It is 90 proof, has a dark blue label and was also made about 1960.



The last three bottles were Bottled in Bond following the end of World War II and are not often seen. Bottle number eight is PEBBLEFORD Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Pebbleford Distillery Co. Burgin Kentucky. It is BIB 1945-1949 and was distilled by Jas. E Pepper & Co. The next bottle is DOUBLE SPRINGS Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey distilled and bottled by Double Springs Distilleries Inc. Greenbrier P. O. Bardstown Kentucky. It is BIB 1946-1951 and has a black and white Art Deco label with a red heart in the center. The last of these is T. W. Samuels Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey bottled by T. W. Samuels Distillery Deatsville, Nelson Co., Ky. It is BIB 1945-1950 and distilled by Country Distillers Products.

Finally, it's unusual to do an article without featuring bottles from the '30's, however, I think variety is desirable in any collection.

As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me at (507) 454-1499.

Until next time..... MELO



# MINI WORLD

Since the Pickwick bottles were being featured again this time, thought you'd also like to see a bottle quite similar in appearance. This humorous fellow is also from England and was produced in the 1950's for John Bucleugh & Co., Ltd., Tanners Lane, Warrington. It contains five fluid ozs. of Cherry Brandy which means that today it would roughly be equivalent to 150ml. Certainly all figural collectors would be happy to have this character smiling down from their shelves!



# SMALL TALK

by

MARIO KYRIAKIDIS

Let's talk about a special breed of minis that most collectors are not aware ever existed. I am talking about whiskey, scotch, gin, vodka, etc. liqueurs. I've mentioned to people about Johnnie Walker Red Scotch Liqueur and they asked me, "What is scotch liqueur?" Well, it is scotch with a very small amount of sugar and the word "liqueur" on the label. Then came the second question, "Why is that?" To tell you the truth, I don't really know. Maybe nobody really knows.

I did some research on the subject and what I gather is that some politician or a commissioner in the New York State Liquor Authority came up with the bright idea and presto, New York became the only State in the Union with a law which stated that every spirit under 1/2 pint had to have a certain amount of sugar and be called a liqueur. I was told it started before 1940, but nobody seems to know the exact year.

That particular law created problems for both distillers and importers. No one wanted to produce and market a product with a different label... just for one state. Finally in 1983 the law was changed and original liquors, not



liqueurs, were sold in the Empire State.

Somehow distributors in New York hesitate to bring in new products. I guess there aren't enough profits. So, anyway some brands just disappear and never do get replaced. After 1983, several minis became a vanishing breed. For example, if you have an Ambassador Scotch Liqueur 1/10 pt in your collection, you're lucky!

Here now is a list of whiskey, gin, scotch, and vodka liqueurs that I know.

GIN: Seagrams, Gordons, Hiram Walker.

VODKA: Finlandia, Wolfschmidt, and Smirnoff.

RUM: Bacardi, light or dark.

SCOTCH: Ambassador, Ballantines, Cutty Sark, J & B, White Horse, and Johnnie Walker Red.

WHISKEY, BOURBON or RYE: Peter Hagen, Black Velvet, Canadian Club, 7 Crown, Seagrams V. O., Hiram Walker Imperial. Most are in either 1/10 pt or 50 ml.

Hope you enjoyed learning about one of liquors' and New York's peculiarities!

--M. K. --



# Whiskey Heritage

by

GEORGE JINKENS

Of all the companies which produced mini whiskeys during the 1930's, "Lionel Distilled Products Inc." has got to be one of the best. Their labels were very colorful and creative. Names such as THREE MUSKATEERS, OLD SULLIVAN and OLD BUCKLY BEN were all part of the Lionel line. As the name implies, Lionel was in the business of packaging other peoples' products, and I don't believe they distilled any whiskey of their own.

Pictured here are three bottles that Lionel issued during the 1930's. BUC-CANEER is a real beauty and not common by any means. There is also a round version of this bottle.

Next we have OLD DOC JACOBS. This is a blended whiskey and the label states that Lionel blended it themselves. The whiskey is 85 proof and the label is superb considering that the bottle is at least fifty years old!

Last of all we have CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH. This bottle is a hip flask and larger than most even though it is only 1 1/2 ozs.

I would like to have a list of all the whiskeys that Lionel put out while they were in business. If you know of any and especially if you have one or more in your collection, please let me know.

--G. J.--









# MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay

## THOSE ELUSIVE "PRE-PRO'S"

Pre-pro mini beers, with labels, are often overlooked or passed by -- perhaps because they are so scarce that many collectors do not fully appreciate them. A collector friend of mine recently found a pre-1900 Schoenhofen Brau mini beer at the Kane County Flea Market in St. Charles, IL. It had "Schoenhofen Chicago" embossed on the bottom of the bottle and had a full body label in good condition.

When he happened upon this little gem fairly late in the day, the dealer advised him -- "I originally had five mini beers but the other four, with salt and pepper caps, were snapped up first thing this morning." All five were priced the same -- five dollars each (I'm guessing). Wow! My friend was indeed fortunate to find that little jewel left behind by a collector who apparently didn't understand or appreciate



Pre-pro mini beers -- with labels still intact -- remain high on my list of favorite collectibles. I work the shows and flea markets actively, yet I only add about one to two pre-pro beers to my collection per year. Obviously, they are scarce enough so that they just can't fulfill that craving for new additions to a collection that keeps most collectors and collections going. They do, however, make a nice and very choice supplement to one's main-line collection. If anyone has any pre-pro beers available, drop me a line.

Pre-pro vintage foreign beers are also quite collectable. The East India Stock Ale mini pictured was brought to my attention by collector Ed Neugass.

Till next time..... Bob Kay





Jerry Cohen

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## FOREIGN

Tokyo Miniature Bottle Club: c/o Mr. Kazue Daimon, Corp. Daimon, 4-440 Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171, Japan. tel 03-983-0688.

Greater Edmonston Miniature Liquor Bottle Collectors Association: c/o Mr. Brian Hitchings, 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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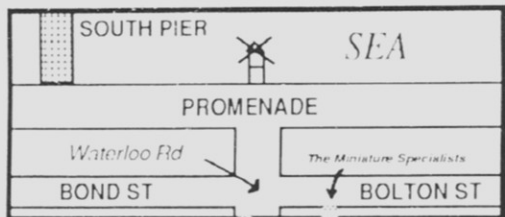
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