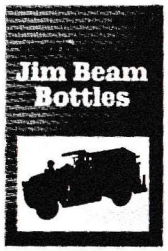
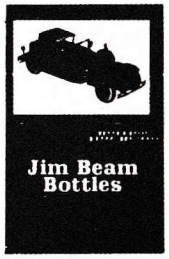


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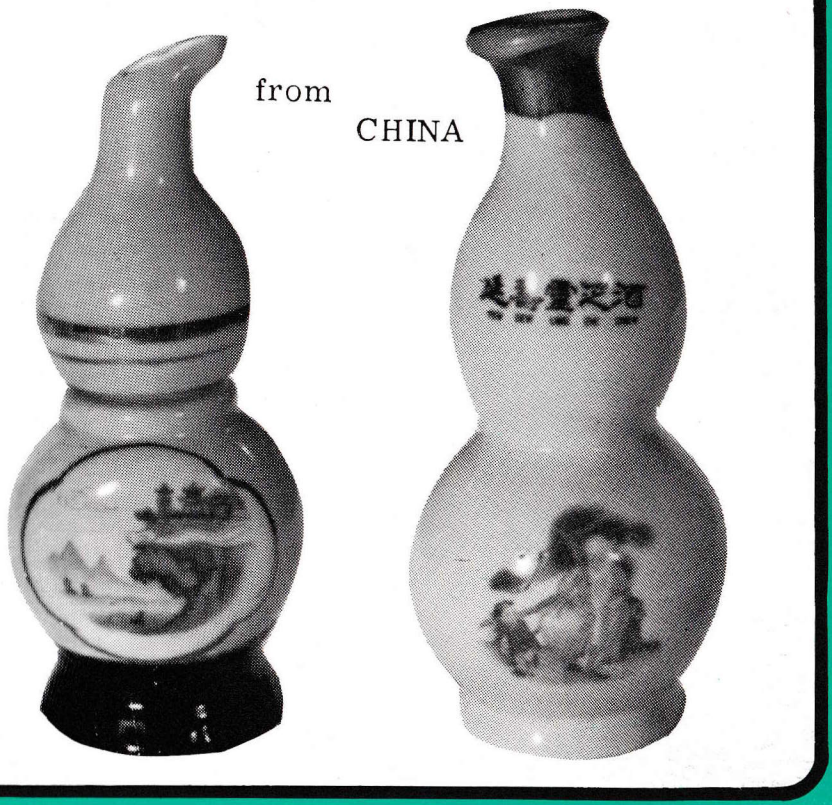
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GRENADIER FIFTHS	
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Father's Gift	10
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Teddy Roosevelt	20
MINIS	
Pancho Standing	10
Robt. E. Lee	10
Stonewall Jackson	10
Father Serra	10
"Frosty"	10
Father's Gift	10
1st. VA. Volunteers	15
Washington Blue Rifles	15
6th WI. Regiment	15

HOFFMAN

HOFFMAN FIFTHS	
Mr. Barber	30
Mr. Dentist	25
Mr. Farmer	30
Mr. Photographer	30
Christmas Carol	12
Bear & Cub	20
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Mt. Goat & Puma	45
Pointer	40
Setter	40
Stage Coach Driver	20
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Swan	15
MO Tigers (Helmets)	15
KS State Wildcats	15
TN Volunteers	15
LSU Tigers	25
KY State Wildcats	25
Turkeys (200ML)	15

HOFFMAN MINIS	EMPTY
Mr. Lucky Retired	20
Mr. Farmer	15
Mr. Stockbroker	18
Pup Seals	20
Alfy Afghan	8
Fanny Fox	8
Terry Terrier	8

MC CORMICK

MC CORMICK FIFTHS	EMPTY
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Elvis Silver	85
Elvis Designer I White	125
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Patrick Henty	10
Thos. Jefferson	10
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Geo. Washington	25
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POTTER

POTTER FIFTHS	
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DAVIESS COUNTY FIFTHS	
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WILD TURKEY FIFTHS	
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WILD TURKEY MINIS	
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" I #4 (W/Poult)	10
" IV #3 (W?Poults)	20
" IV #4 (Flying)	25
" V #2 (W/Owl)	25

JIM BEAM

JIM BEAM FIFTHS	
Battery Phone #6 ('82)	35
Elephant ('80)	15
Donkey ('80)	15
Treasure Chest	15

EZRA BROOKS

EZRA BROOKS FIFTHS	
Corvette Indy Pace Car	25
Owl #3 (Snowy)	20
Bengal Tiger	25
King Tut Guard	15

OLD COMMON

OLD COMMONWEALTH FIFTHS	
Oktoberfest	40
Yankee Doodle	15
Modern Fireman #1	20
"#4(Fin. Cmrd)	20
OLD COMMONWEALTH MINIS	
Modern Fireman #1	15
Coal Miner #3	25
OLD FITZGERALD (FIFTHS)	
Irish Charm	10

CALVERT

LORD CALVERT	
Eider Duck '80	20
Canvasback '79	25

LIONSTONE

LIONSTONE	
Fireman #5(60th Anniv)F	10
Woodpecker M.	10
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A.S.I.

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Let's Talk

Spring has sprung...as the trite saying goes. Hope that it's nice in your area so that you can get out there to do some bottle hunting. It does appear that more and more bottles are getting to the stores...thanks to the importers. And, of course, don't forget those swap meets and garage sales. Often they're a "hotbed" of activity.

The elusive Usquaebach has now been spotted in three distinct areas: California, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. It also has been doing a fast disappearing act in all three of these areas. At the recent Chicago show, people were looking for the bottle, but only a handful of them were available.

If you like that type of quality bottle, be on the lookout for the new King of Scots pewter decanter if you're traveling out of the country. So far it seems to be available only in a few duty free shops at the airports. The polished pewter makes for a beautiful bottle and it's well worth the high price.

While we're on the topic of quality bottles, the first two sets of bottles by Goebel are now available. This is only the second time that Goebel has allowed their pieces to be filled and you'll read more about these bottles as the Goebel Company makes information available. I can tell you there is a set of 4 clowns and another set of 12 women. Each set is excellent; however, the four clowns should sell like wildfire due to the low pricetag.

We're missing a couple of our regulars this issue, but they'll be back next time. See you in a couple of months. --DMS--

THE

Vol. XIV No. 1
No. 79 1987

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The two pieces on the cover this issue are both from mainland China. Currently there are several ceramics available which are made in China and also a small amount of glass bottles. The bottle on the left has the longest list of ingredients ever seen on a miniature. Suffice it to say that if you ever completely read the label, you definitely would never even contemplate drinking the contents.

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WHAT'S NEW
Old, Odd, or Unusual

by Jim Triffon

Jose CORTEZ
Tequila SILLA
Tequila BEAMERO
ORENDAIN ANEJO



The town of Tequila near Guadalajara in the province of Jalisco is worth describing. Its name means hill of lava, from tel(hill) and quilla(lava). The town and its 17,000 population contrast sharply with the prominence of the area's most important product. The atmosphere of a village pervades, with an open plaza surrounded by the monolith of the church, hotel and assorted bars, restaurants and shops. The only skyline interruption is the extinct volcano, Hill of Tequila.

The production of tequila is concentrated in the hands of three dozen main producers with their distilleries around Tepatitlan, and their offices in Guadalajara. Among the leading brands are Jose Cuervo, Sauza, Olmeca, El Viego, San Matias, Orendain, Eucario Gonzalez, Viuda de Romero, Rosales, Rio Plata, Virreyes, Herradura, de Martinez, Tres Magueyes, Ruiz, and Amatitan. Each is available in the silver variety as well as several grades of tequila anejo.

A sub-species of the agave cactus, The AGUAVE TEQUILANA, has been extensively cultivated on the slopes of the Sierra Madre by the producers and shippers of tequila. This subspecies makes the best tequila. The cactus takes between twelve and thirteen years to reach maturity and its spiky leaves stand above head height. The spikes are hacked off for harvesting to leave the bulbous central core called the "pina" (the pineapple). The pinas, weighing from 80 to 175 pounds each, are taken to the distilleries where they are cooked in giant steam ovens for several hours. Then the pinas are cooled and shredded, and the juice pressed free. This liquid and some of the fibrous pulp are mixed with sugar and the mash is fermented for about four days.

AGUILA NEGRA
CASAHUIN
ORENDAIN MEMBRILLO
Tequila CAMARENA



Tequila CAZADORES
Tequila ZAPATA
EL CUATE Tequila
Tequila GALLITO



When the fermentation has finished, the wash is distilled in pot stills to give low grade alcohol which can be sold as mezcal. To make tequila, the spirit is redistilled to give the pure, colorless "silver" tequila. Before bottling, the tequila goes into large 20,000 liter white oak vats to mellow for between 35 and 45 days.

Left for nice months or more in smaller 50 gallon oak barrels it takes on a light gold color and sells at a higher price.

The best tequilas are left in the same barrels for three years or more to gain a deeper gold color. These golden varieties are called tequila anejo, and the price varies according to the anejo (years) they have had in the barrel. In Mexico the oldest ones sell at prices equal to those for fine cognacs in France. Tequila improves in taste with the length of time in the cask, but after ten years it begins to take on a harsh and bitter woody taste from the oak.

The tequila making process has slowly evolved from that of the previous two centuries. Tequileros vary in the degrees to which they have changed the mystique of making this elusive potion from the days of man, burro, and earthen ovens, to the scientific predictability and accuracy of modern equipment, of which Francisco Xavier Sauza has been the foremost pioneer. Seagram's of Mexico hired a staff of engineers to adapt some of their old stone ovens for more modern use; and the hacienda of the tequila Herradura displays artifacts from the early days of tequila's history. Good quality tequila, in Juanito Orendain's words, is the combined perfection of six things: high grade agave and complimentary sugar; controlled cooking; good yeast; careful fermentation; knowledgeable adjustments of sediment and negative-flavor factors; and, high quality water.

So, a whole new way of drinking and cooking with tequila, the combined perfection!

For further reading and research, I would like to recommend the following: THE WORLD GUIDE TO SPIRITS, APERITIFS AND COCKTAILS by Tony Lord; SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS by Rosalind Cooper; THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS by Cyril Ray; and, THE TEQUILA BOOK by Marion Gorman & Felipe P. de Alba.

--J. A. T. --

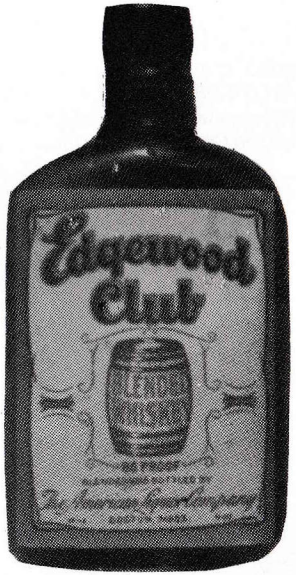
PANCHO VILLA
PANCHO VILLA
MOROZOFF (Japan)

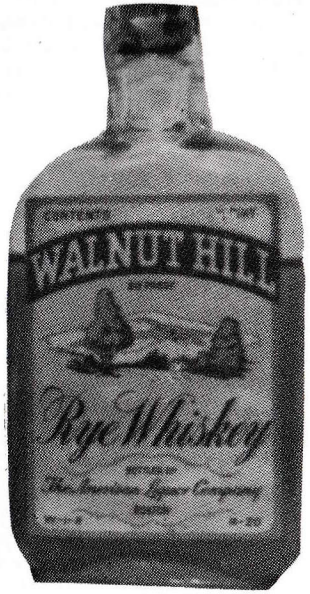


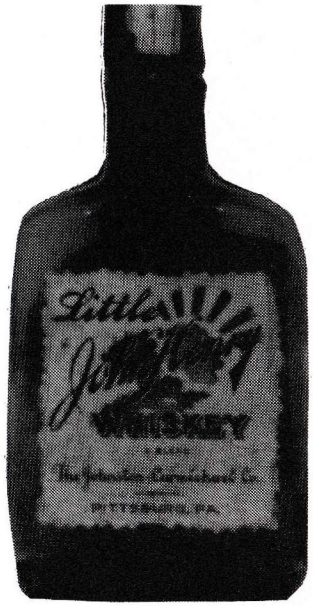
Whiskey Heritage

by

GEORGE JINKENS







A few pre-prohibition bottles this time. Let's start with two bottles from The American Liquor Company of Boston, Mass. EDGEWOOD CLUB and WALNUT HILL are both in fine shape. The Edgewood is a blend and the Walnut Hill is a rye. Both bottles were picked up in the Texas collection I bought last year.

Next there is LITTLE JOHN HENRY from the Johnston-Carmichael Co. of Pittsburg, PA. If you look in your phone book, you will find that today they spell the city with an "H" at the end. I believe this was changed prior to 1900, so that makes the Little John Henry pre-1900. It would be great to come up with little tidbits about every bottle, but unfortunately the information just isn't there. However, I'll be back with more bottles next time!!

--G. A. J. --

HOFFMAN

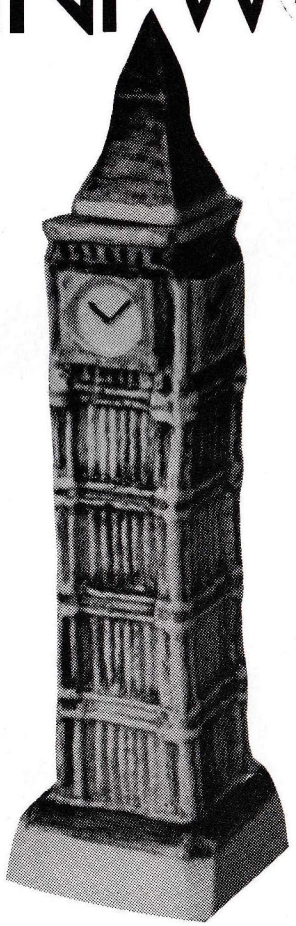


Speaking of bulldogs! Well, if we weren't, this fellow would certainly insinuate himself into the conversation pretty quickly. This is the Hoffman Bulldog which was released last year just in time for the holiday season. As the current jargon goes, he's a stone winner!

If you can't put your finger on what makes him different, it's the fact that this bulldog is one of the very few figurals ever made which does not come on a base. He's free standing! The simulated leather collar disguises the cleverly placed opening.

1200 of these bottles were made and at least half were sent to Georgia... you know, the Georgia Bulldogs. The other half disappeared quite quickly and they're not easily found, particularly on the west coast. Rumor has it that the next bottle will be a dalmation... time will tell; however, if it's as well done as this one, it won't last long either.

MINI WORLD





Last time the UK Mini Bottles Landmark series for 1986 was shown. This time we have a "scoop" and don't even have to wait for the arrival of the bottles themselves. We just received these professionally done pictures from England and wanted to be the first to picture these new bottles.

In fact, we're so early in picturing them that we don't even have the information we really should have. It's not too difficult though to note that one of the four is a windmill. Yes, a windmill that doesn't come from Holland. And, it doesn't take a genius to note that another piece is the famous Big Ben in London.





As long as we're guessing, that piece shaped like a tower just might be the Blackpool Tower. Years ago McLech/Aidees issued a Blackpool Tower but it was quite inferior to this one. And finally, while out on that limb, the last bottle does have a striking resemblance to Caernaven Castle. Maybe I'm right... maybe I was even lucky enough to spell it correctly!

Any missed guesses will be corrected in the Let's Talk column in #80. At any rate, hope you've enjoyed the new 1987 Landmark bottles from Mini Bottles U. K.

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI

This time allow me to line up some miniatures of whisky called the NEW BLEND PRODUCTS from THE NIKKA WHISKY DISTILLING CO. This is one of the largest distillers in Japan and also in the world.

The first two are Nikka Pure Malt Black and Red. One, the Black Label, is used for the Highland-type malt distilled Yoichi in Hokkaido, while the other, Red Label, is for the Low-land-type Sendai in Miyagi. These two originally appeared as a gift pack for St. Valentine's Day last year (along with a shot glass in a wooden box) and this year they have been redone with a pull cap and a cork stopper for after opening. The bottles are 8 cm tall in clear, round glass containing 50ml at 43% alcohol.

The second bottle, From the Barrel blended whisky, is clear glass and a slightly plump square shape with a very plain label. It also is 8 cm tall, 50ml contents but with 51.4% alcohol percentage as bottled directly from the marriage barrel.

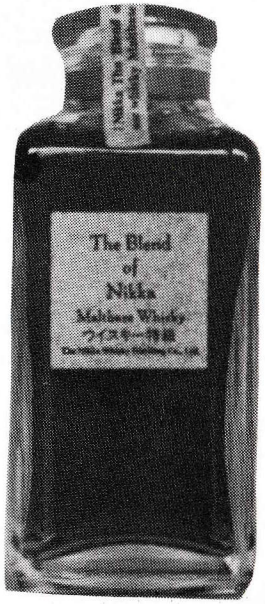












Concerning The Blend of Nikka, the next bottle, The Nikka emphasizes the product identity. This is to say that it is blended with 70% or more malt. It is a clear, square decanter-type bottle which curves slightly inward. It contains the normal 50ml but with 45% alcohol.

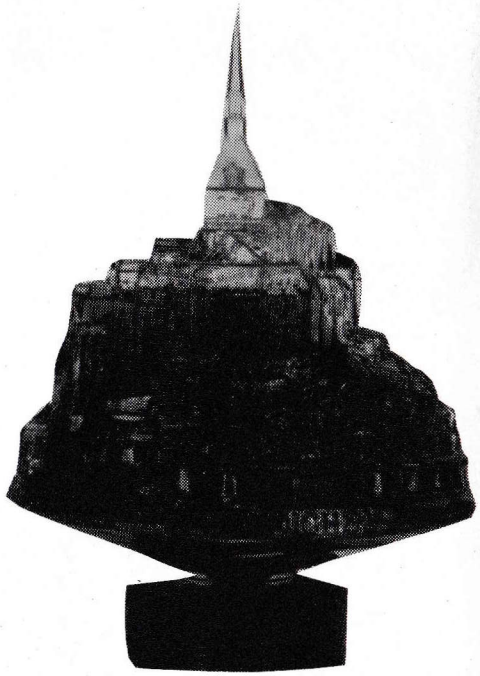
The last bottle (shown two ways), New Blend Black Nikka whisky, is a clear flat plastic bottle containing 100ml at 40%. It comes in a plastic barrel with a swizzle and the barrel is used as two cups for whisky and water...for example to be used on the Shinkansen train.

With the release of these products in the larger size bottles, The Nikka has increased their market share of all whisky sold in Japan.

A Story Behind Every Label

by Joe Levesque





Mont St. Michel's silhouette is recognized worldwide. It's an architectural maze, combining each artistic period of the Middle Ages, including Romanesque, Gothic and flamboyant. Somehow it came out looking good enough for a million picture postcards and a few miniature liquor bottles.

Mont St. Michel is on the French coast, on the border between Normandy and Brittany. In 1944, General Patton landed near-by with 100,000 men and tanks for the break-through to St. Lo. After the war, many G.I.'s visited the mount, considered one of the Wonders of the World.

The mount is actually an island off the coast with a monastery on its peak. Violent tides bring more sand each year, and it is predicted that soon the mount will no longer be an island. When the tide rises, it comes in faster than a horse can gallop and many an unsuspecting bather has needlessly lost his life here.

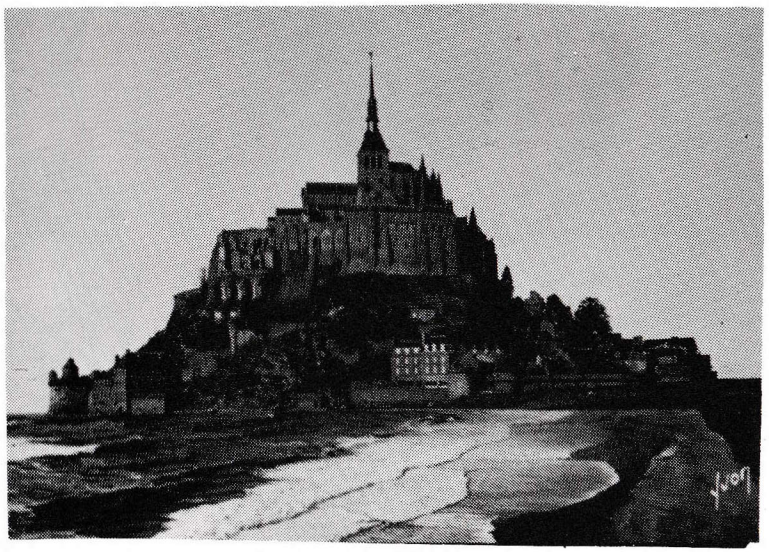
Along with violent tides, the mount has a violent history. The monks and royal dukes of Normandy were always fighting about something or other. When royal sponsors were generous, the monks neglected their religion, dressed grandly and carried on in a worldly way. Before they knew it, another political regime would come along to relieve them of their treasure and to suggest they return to prayer and reflection. It gave the monks something to think about.

Ironically, the monastery is now a secondary attraction. The main attraction is a restaurant known as LA MERE POMMARD, the omelette-lover's holiest shrine. Gastronomes of all nations come here to watch the masters break the eggs.

After eating their omelettes, the bravest of the brave will venture up the tortuous road to the monastery. The road is lined with shops selling souvenirs, trinkets, french fries, and these little miniature liquor bottles shown here. Of course, the liqueur is always made according to an old secret formula from the monks of the abbey. If the monks get a piece of this action, they'll soon be calling their tailors again.

--Joseph Levesque--

The Cognac Newsletter
& MAIL AUCTION



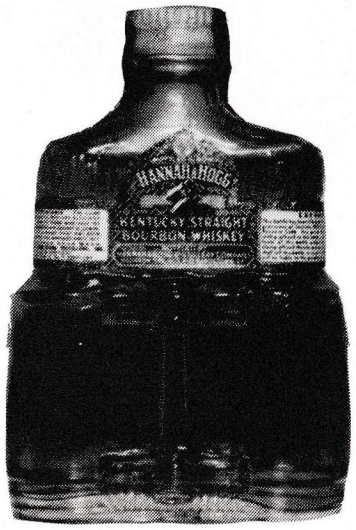
melo's minis

by Mike Olson

In this article I would like to feature a dozen bottles from the city of Chicago. The first three were produced by Hannah & Hogg which was established in 1873 and has issued a limited number of bottles over the years. The last nine bottles were produced by the Paramount distilling Corp. during the 1930's. The bottles I have chosen to show are embossed with a "pebble" pattern. Most, if not all, of these brands were also produced in a smooth glass bottle with a cork and/or screw cap closure. The embossed versions of these bottles seem to be the most frequently seen. This could be because they were produced in greater numbers or perhaps they had a higher survival rate because they were (and still are) very attractive. Paramount also produced a number of other brands during this period of time such as Derby Field, Redvill, Regal Club, and others. Anyway, enough said, let's get to the bottles.

Bottle number one is Hannah & Hogg Kentucky Bourbon Bottled in Bond (1910-1916) by John G. Roach & Co. Distiller of Kentucky for Hannah & Hogg Chicago, IL USA. It has a yellow label printed in red and black. The next bottle is the Hannah & Hogg binocular bottle. It is Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, BIB 1949-1953, distilled by Pebbleford Distillers Inc. and bottled by Hannah & Hogg Distillery Company Bourbon Springs, P.O. Bardstown, KY (what happened to Chicago?).



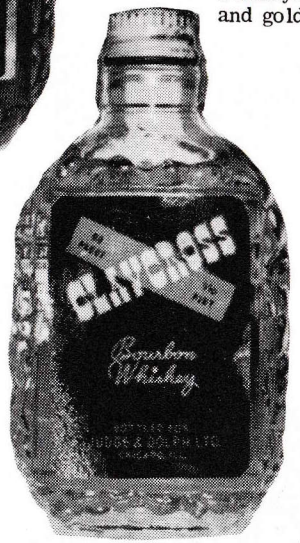




The last of these is Hannah & Hogg Whiskey A Blend Blended and Bottled by Old Hannah & Co. Chicago, IL. It is 80 proof, 4 years or more old, has a yellow label printed in red, black, and gold and was made about 1980.

The first of the Paramount bottles is Kentucky Capitol Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, two years old and has a gold foil label printed in black. The next bottle is Claycross Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Judge & Dolph Ltd. It is 90 proof, two years old, distilled in Indiana, has a black label printed in gold and orange and a 1937 Illinois tax stamp. Bottle number six is Deuces Wild Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, two years old, distilled in Pennsylvania and has a red, black, and gold label.







Now we move on to Daniel Webster Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, three years old, distilled in Illinois, has a gold label printed red and black and a 1937 Illinois tax stamp. Bottle number eight is Old William Henry Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is also 90 proof, two years old, has a light yellow and brown label and again a 1937 Illinois tax stamp. (I also have this bottle in a 15 month variation with a different colored cap.) The next bottle is Lord Raymond Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Pines Bros. Dist. Co. Chicago, IL. It is 90 proof, 15 months old, has a white label printed in orange, black and gold has a Jan. 28, 1938 Maryland tax stamp.



Bottle number ten is Brook Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, two years old, distilled in Illinois, has a white label printed in orange and black and has an April 1939 Colorado tax stamp. Next we come to Four Seasons Brand Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, two years old, distilled by Clifton Springs Distilling Co., Terre Haute Indiana and has a terrific multi-colored label. (I also have this bottle in a 15 month old variation distilled in Michigan.) Our final bottle is Union Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Bon Ton Incorporated, Chicago, IL. It is 90 proof, two years old and has a yellow label printed in black.

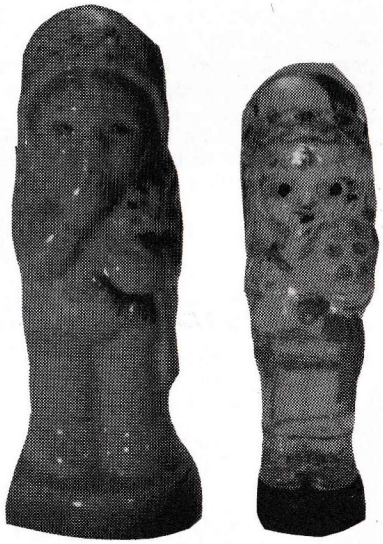
Finally, I think part of the attraction of mini collecting is knowing there are great bottles you do not have in your collection. The search for and acquisition of a rare bottle gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction.

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

Until next time.....MELO



SMALL TALK





A good many figural collectors are familiar with the ceramic pieces issued many years ago by Anglo Swiss Vintager in Mexico. All twelve of these crudely done bottles were pictured here in the magazine approximately ten years ago. What to my knowledge have never been shown or written about are the slightly smaller glass counterparts.

In the past twenty years of searching, I have been fortunate enough to get four of these pieces. Shown here (with their ceramic replicas) are the bride and groom. I also have the dog and the Dutch girl. As with the ceramics, these contain various liqueurs and/or brandies. The groom in fact is still full of Cherry Brandy. The most interesting fact though is that the glass bottles were issued by Destilera Francesca and not Anglo Swiss Vintager. If any of you have other pieces in this series, I'd certainly like to hear from you.

--DMS--

Ski Country



Bet you'd been wondering what had happened with the Ski Country ceramics, hadn't you? Well, wonder no longer. The last of 1986 and the first of 1987 are here on display for you.

Owls are always a popular bird and this pair (all 1248 of them) was certainly no exception. It came and went last fall quite quickly. If you didn't get one and you collect Ski Country and/or owls, you'd better contact a bottle dealer post haste.

The African Lions decanter should now be available. This is a slightly smaller issue with only 1128 pieces produced. There will be only five different bottles in this series. They are: African Lions, White Rhino, the Leopard, Cape Buffalo, and The African Elephant. (Let's see, is he the one with the big ears or not?)

Incidentally, we don't know exactly when, but supposedly sometime this spring look for the Olla Maiden mini to be released in Arizona. If it's as well done as the Rainbow Dancer, then it's a sure winner! We'll have a picture soon...and, at the same time maybe have the complete list updated!

MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay



Several minis that are my favorites, or have a special meaning to me are again pictured this issue. I'll never forget the first time I discovered a Coors mini (CO-4). The Coors mini, like Coors beer, seems to generate more than the average amount of interest among collectors. My story now is from the early 1970's time frame.

I was just beginning to admit to myself that I was collecting mini beers. While on vacation in Denver, Colorado, Marilou and I decided to spend an afternoon "working" the antique shops. Naturally, we were in search of any minis we could find. After a number of frustrations, we finally found a shop with about five or six minis. We purchased the ones we needed and proceeded to visit with the dealer -- who also professed to collect mini beers.

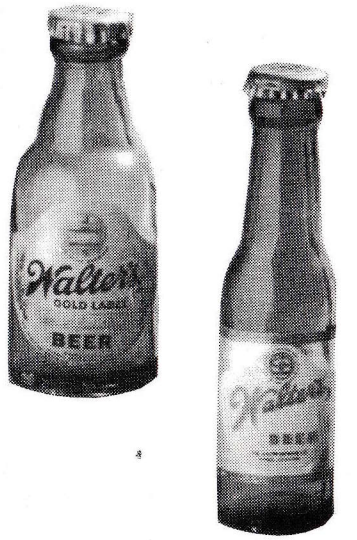
During the visit, I asked about Coors minis. The dealer who seemed quite knowledgeable, explained to me that Coors had their own ceramics company and produced a variety of yellow ceramic Coors minis: ashtrays, casks, and so on. However, she explained, "I've been collecting both Coors items and mini beers for years. I can assure you there is no such thing as a Coors mini beer in amber glass -- like the other bottles in my shop."

We then walked about a half block down the street to the next antique shop, which unfortunately was closed. But wait a minute -- look in the window -- a box of Coors minis, not the ceramic type but in amber glass. Well, of course, our competitive juices were flowing and we wanted to acquire these "unknown" gems before the dealer-collector up the block stumbled upon them.

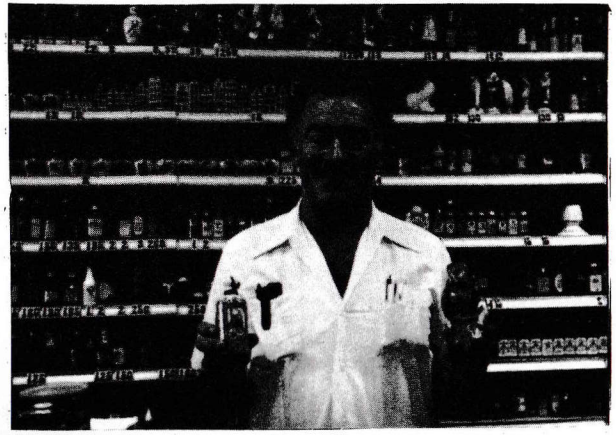
I stayed close all afternoon and all week, but no dealer. Finally, armed with the telephone number of the shop we had to head back home. We called frequently and finally caught the dealer as he returned from his own vacation. Yes, he still had the bottles. Yes, he would ship..."but what's the big deal, I've had several of these Coors minis for sale over the years."

Wow, somebody ought to write a book on mini beers and clean up all this misinformation.

"Til next time..... Bob Kay







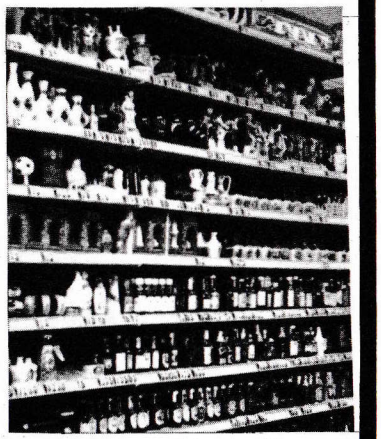
Jerry Cohen

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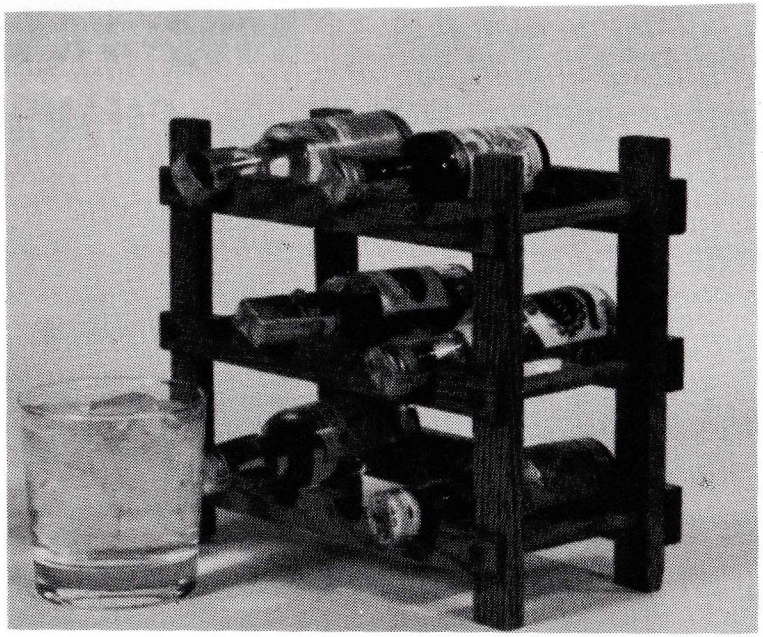
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WANTED: Hoffman mini Band Street Swingers #1 "Clarinet Player" 1978. Need this one to complete my set. Please send price to: C. H. Allen, P.O. Box 501, Elton, LA 70532 or call (318) 584-2816.

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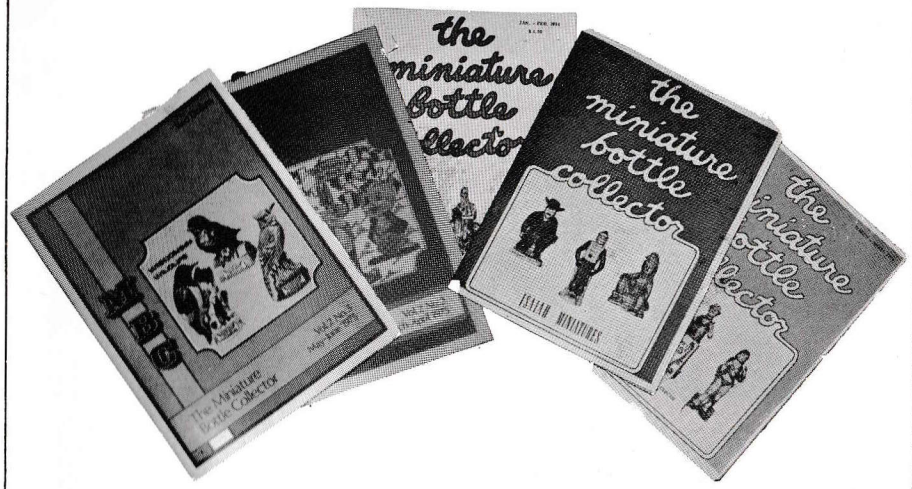
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