

THE

VOL. XV No. 4  
No. 88 1988

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

SCOTCH

... IN CRYSTAL



# MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



## AUCTION MAGAZINE

A Magazine for miniature liquor bottle collectors featuring interesting articles in every issue, combined with a miniature liquor bottle MAIL AUCTION featuring hundreds of bottles from all over the world, including Whiskeys, Rums, Vodkas, Cognacs, Liqueurs, etc.... Figurals and even some large bottles.

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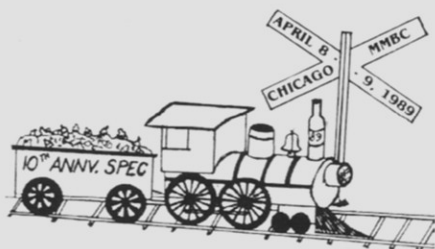
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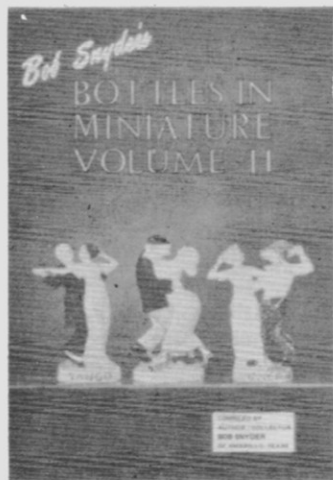
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# Let's Talk

If you're tired of the heat from this summer, I imagine by now you're "basking" in the cool of the fall. For those of you who live in some of our more difficult climates, remember that the fall and winter seasons are wonderful times to bring your lists up to date, put your bottles on a computer, get out the duplicates to trade with friends, and in short, do some bottle work.

This issue sees some interesting articles from a variety of author/collectors as well as a look at this year's Wild Turkey bottle. As usual we have our full complement of whisk(e)y articles and the bottles are extremely good to look at... those you can easily see.

Yes, this is another complain and moan at the pictures in some of the articles. Don't really know what is wrong this time, especially since it follows one of the best issues we've had in years, number 87. Anyway, hopefully next time we'll have solved some of the picture problem.

The first column this time is the usual What's New, etc., etc. There are always lots of new bottles around from all over the world. However, it would seem by what's happening in the hobby that it's "what's old" today that counts.

If you're a straight glass collector, you know that in the auctions a good many of the older and more rare bottles are bringing very premium prices, and this is not true for just whiskeys. A variety of older bottles are continuing to go up in value. This makes a lot of people nervous because they don't like to pay a higher price for the bottles. It's the old law of supply and demand.

And finally, look for a surge in popularity for the older figurals, including those of the 70's. See you next time.

--DMS--

THE

Vol. XV No. 4  
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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

The three bottles on the cover this time are just recently issued in Europe. Due to the success of the Usquaebach crystal miniature decanter, no doubt these three as well as several others were produced. A number of different brands were used and some are blends while the others are pure malt. The bottles should be highly sought by both straight glass and fancy/figural collectors.

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# WHAT'S NEW

## Old, Odd, or Unusual



Something old, something new... is good for brides...and collectors. Actually, what's here is sort of a mish-mash of the old and the new; however, there's something here for just about everyone.

The two old wines were purchased by a collector on a European trip some fifty-four years ago. A good many of us could spend hours going through our bottles to come up with an old wine. Yet, how many would find one this old

(1907) or this intriguing. The intrigue comes from the little blue nun. The label is almost exactly the same as it is today on the large bottles, but this was prior to the name Blue Nun being used. At this time it was simply a 1921 Liebfraumilch Auslese produced by H. Sichel & Sohn. Sichel (pronounced almost like seashell but with the opposite syllable accented) is still the producer today.



Enough of the oldies, let's look at some brand new bottles for 1988. The Longmore 15 is a Malt Scotch issued just a few months ago. Currently for sale only in England and Scotland, it's attractive because of its age and its packaging. With the cost of scotch rising yearly, miniatures will definitely be used by some for their original purpose. That is, to sample the contents. I'd hate to spend approximately \$30 for a large bottle only to discover I didn't care for the taste.

When I first saw the next bottle, I thought it was an excellent new design. Then I touched the bottle and recoiled in horror. Well, not actually horror, but I was disgusted that Crown Royal had joined the ranks of those who've sold out and use plastic. Yes, this is the new plastic Crown Royal. Looks great in a picture. This one was found in a store in Chicago... soon they'll be everywhere.

Finally we come to the Jacques de Grailly Napoleon Vielle Reserve Cognac. This is a nice frosted glass bottle with covered screw cap. Obviously it's from France but it was made for a Canadian importer so you've got to go north of the border to find it. Thanks to the French influences in Canada there are a good many more interesting cognacs and armagnacs available there than there are here.

So, this time a group of five. Our "mishmash" turned out to be rather an eclectic grouping! --DMS--



# CREAM of the Crop



Since liqueurs (and wines) seem to be the forgotten children of our hobby, this annual outing with cream liqueurs may be just what some of you have been waiting for. The Cream of the Crop is back with five pieces, and once again, from countries completely around the globe.

Let's begin with the pair of COLUMBA CREAMS. This is a true Scotch Whisky Cream Liqueur. Many collectors have been aware of the very nice little jug or flagon, but few collectors (at least here in the U.S.) have seen the tall glass flask. For those of you who like specifics, these actually come from the Isle of Mull.

While we're in this part of the world, let's look at the bottle which says it's a Cream Liqueur, made with Fresh Devon Cream & French Brandy. This is ST. MICHAEL which was produced and bottled in the U.K. for the well known Marks and Spencer store. This particular piece was found in a set of four bottles which Marks and Spencer packaged with some delicious chocolate mints. It was a Christmas offering in 1987. Scotch collectors would be interested to know there was a St. Michael Scotch in the group, also.

We'll move across Europe now to Greece to look at AMANDA. This nice little milk glass bottle is a mixture of fresh cream and Metaxa Brandy. It is sold in a great many countries throughout the world except the U. S. Part of the reason is that this is a 3 cl. bottle but the main reason probably is that no importer here wants to go to the expense of introducing a new cream liqueur onto the market.

Now we'll drop down south... way south to Kenya for IVORY CREAM. This is produced under license in Kenya for Gilbey's East Africa. It comes in both brown and green glass versions and sports a truly marvelous label depicting two elephants with intertwined tusks. These may only be found in hotel vending machines at \$5 U. S.

Let's call it a halt and see what the next year or so offers! --DMS--

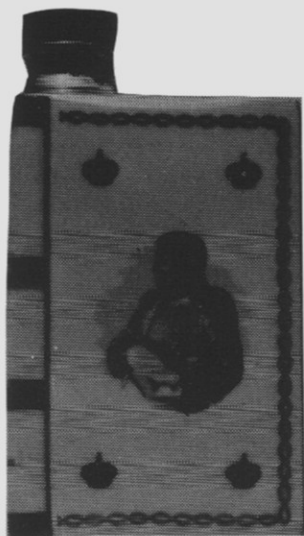


# MINI WORLD

Whether you say Kaymus or Kamoo, you're still talking about Camus Cognac of France. Known for a good many years for the smooth cognac which is inside the many and varied glass bottles which have been issued, Camus has also made a name for itself in both crystal and Limoges decanters. Usually these may be found at various duty free shops around the world, and some of them may even be found in miniature!

The six bottles shown here are only part of the many which have been issued in miniature during the 1980's. The first to be made available was a set of three book bottles all with the bust of Napoleon on them. It was the same bottle but in three different colors: white (as shown here), blue and green.

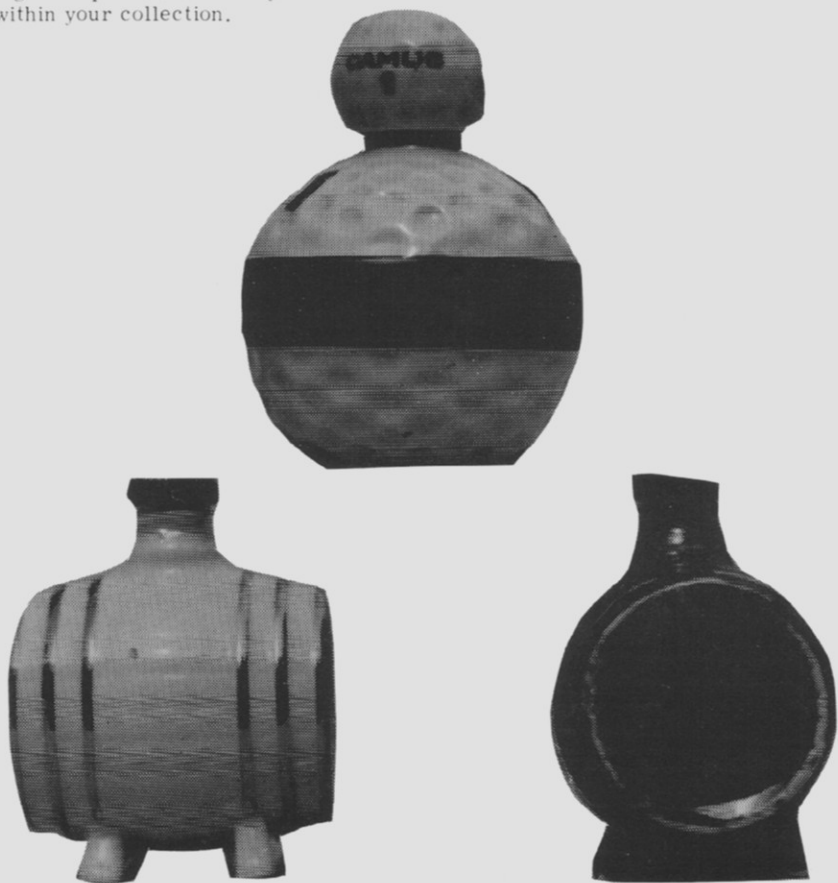
Then because of some legal problems, the bust of Napoleon was replaced with the standing Napoleon, in the same three colors. Throughout the '80's, more books have been added so that currently there are eleven in the series. The other colors are gold, silver, maroon, a brown leatherish color, and a most stunning black which is the latest in the series.



When the black one was released, along with it came the "lovers". This is a very traditional Limoges duo. So far this is available only in white with gold highlights and the colors of the two lovers' costumes.

The end of 1987 and 1988 so far have seen the largest number of Camus bottles issued. Including the Lovers, the black Napoleon book, and a half dozen others, we have a total of eight different (and highly expensive) Limoges pieces.

That "half dozen others" is made up of a gold barrel, a set of four barrels (white, brown, blue and green) and a golf ball. This makes a grand total of eighteen pieces... a lovely collection within your collection.



# SCOTCH

by  
MIKE BARBAKOFF



Talisker Distillery is located at Carbost on the Isle of Skye off the west coast of Scotland. It is probably one of the most beautifully positioned of all Scotland's distilleries.

Around 1830, Hugh and Kenneth Macaskill took a lease on 20 acres of land at Carbost and proceeded to build Talisker distillery, named after his house, one of those at which Johnson and Boswell stayed during their Highland tour of 1773. The local minister pronounced the venture as "one of the greatest curses that, in the ordinary course of Providence, could befall this or any other place." Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in *The Scotsman's Return from Abroad*: "The King of Drinks, as I conceive it, Talisker, Isla or Glenlivet."

Until the 1960's, supplies were brought in and out of Talisker by little steamboats called puffers. Ownership changed hands many times in the 1800's with, eventually, it was merged into Dailuaine-Talisker Ltd. in 1898. This in turn was absorbed into the giant Distillers Company in 1925 (now the United Distillers Group).

1928 marked the ceasing of triple distillation. Now only Auchentoshan carries out this extra stage of distillation. The original stillhouse was destroyed by fire in 1960 and few structures now remain that predate 1960. The stills were replaced by exact replicas of those destroyed in the fire.

Talisker is one of Scotland's most distinctive single malts with a very



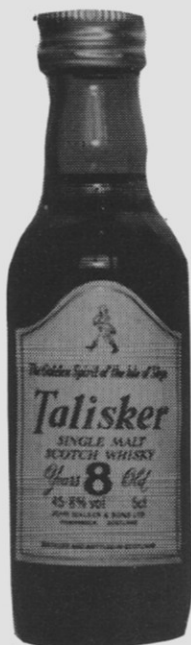
strong nose and flavour. It is highly peated and exceptionally smoky. Apparently peat smoked is deliberately blown through the spirit to enhance this effect. For those acclimatised to it, it tends to rank as one of the very best. The standard UK distillery bottling comes under the Johnnie Walker marketing umbrella and is at 8 years old and close to 46% alc./vol. Other bottlings of the 1957 and 1958 distillations can be found from Gordon & Macphail of Elgin. The standard export age is 12 years and seems quite widely available in the USA.

Until very recently, the only distillery bottling of Talisker was an exceptionally rare small clear flask of the 8 year old indicating the owners as

Dailuaine-Talisker (fig. 1).

Merchant-produced miniatures from Gordon & Macphail have been produced at both 70 and 100 proof (UK). Figures 2 & 3 show the original G & M labelling while figures 4 & 5 the later format. A version of figure 4 indicating 40% instead of 70 proof was also issued in both flask and tall round clear format. In addition, a label variation was produced for a tall round green export version for Italy (fig. 6).

Another significant merchant-bottling was produced by Robert Watson of Aberdeen. Apicture can be found in Jim Triffon's excellent volume two. Unfortunately, I have been searching without success for one for a long time. I have a bounty of US\$200 on it if anyone turns



one up (ever hopeful).

At last a current distillery labelling appeared in 1987 of the Johnnie Walker sponsored 8 year old (fig. 7).

Two exceedingly rare Taliskers appeared in 1988. Gordon & Macphail produced nine (only) samples of their 1958 Talisker. Fig. 8 shows it, and you can see that the 1958 is printed just below the main Talisker logo. The other (fig. 9) was a limited bottling of a 21 year old sherry barrel matured Talisker from Cadenheads. The bottle shown is No. 1 of the 30 produced!

Any potential malt enthusiasts out there! Please get in touch. For now, and until the next distillery, happy collecting!!

--M. B.--



# RUM

# RUM

# Rum



For you "rummies" out there, here are three new ones to be watching for. All are glass and all have been issued this year.

Ron Matusalem is a name familiar to even most general collectors; however, how many of you who even specialize in rums have more than a couple of 151 proofs? This Ron Matusalem is called "red flame" and at 151 proof, it's easy to see why. Another interesting aspect of this bottle is the label. It is extremely well done and is more than vaguely reminiscent of many of the rum labels of the 1930's.

The next bottle is one which would give the moralizers fits. Currently there are movements afoot to have all the ingredients placed on liquor bot-

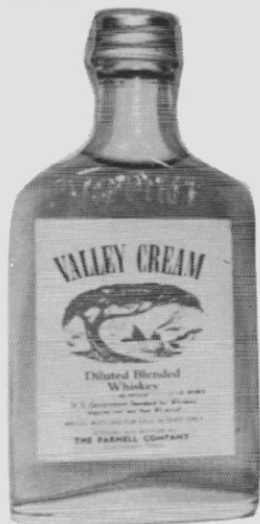
ties. Well, Sugar Bay has its type and its 40% alc/vol. 50 ml contents. That's right, there's no producer, no place of production or anything. Just a nice partially frosted glass bottle. It's also available in a light and amber version... and they all come from our northern neighbor, Canada.

Rum Tree is actually a liqueur from Trinidad. According to the hang tag, it's a group of fine light rums blended with natural fruit flavours of the islands. The label is highly colorful and makes use of the rum tree idea. This is a very nice frosted bottle which is also found in Canada.

Just a short look this time at some new rum products. In the future, more oldies... and definite goodies!

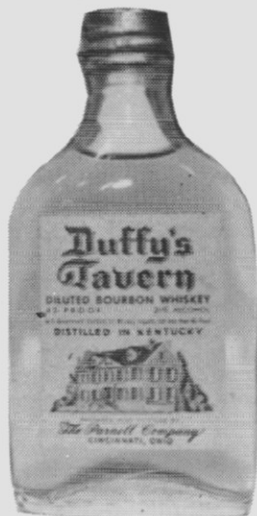
# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature 13 lucky bottles produced in Cincinnati, Ohio. I call them lucky because that's what I consider myself for having them in my collection. The first three are from the Parnell Company which is not widely known. All were diluted to 42 proof for special sale in Ohio only and were produced in the late 1940's. (The U.S. Government standard for whiskey requires not less than 80 proof.) The last ten were produced by Kolmar Inc. and are all from the 1930's.

Bottle number one is Valley Cream Diluted Blended Whiskey. It is 2 years old and has a white label printed in green and black. Next we have Duffy's Tavern Diluted Blended Whiskey. It is 2 years old and has a tan label printed in brown and green. The last of these is Duffy's Tavern Diluted Bourbon Whiskey. It is also 2 years old and I have two of these in different shaped flat bottles.



The first of the Kolmar bottles is Bridge Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, 3 1/2 years old and has a white label printed in red and black. The next pair are King's Deluxe Straight Rye Whiskey. They are 90 proof, 4 & 2 1/2 years old respectively and have tan labels printed in red, blue and black.

These are followed by three Nite Club Special Straight Bourbon Whiskeys with tan labels printed in red and black. The flat bottle is 90 proof, 2 1/2 years old and was distilled in Indiana. The first round bottle is 1/8th pint (as are the rest), 90 proof, 2 1/2 years old and was distilled in Illinois. The last of these is 90 proof and five years old.



Moving along we come to Hi-Ball Special Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 100 proof, 2 years old, has a red, white, green and black label and was distilled in Indiana. Next we have Varsity Club Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 93 proof, 2 1/2 years old, has a light tan label printed in red, black and gold and was distilled in Maryland.

This is followed by Kolmar Special Straight Bourbon Whiskey with a similar colored label. It is 90 proof, 2 1/2 years old and was distilled in Maryland. The last bottle is Broadmoor

Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 90 proof, 2 years old and was distilled in Indiana.

Finally, I think it is interesting to see all the different brands produced by a single distiller in one group and that is the way I display them in my 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



# SMALL TALK

TROIKA. A Russian vehicle drawn by three horses. Triumvirate. A government of three persons jointly holding the same authority. These are the definitions of the word "troika". But for us, the mini collectors, it means vodka!

One day I realized I had three vodka minis from three different countries all with the same name, Troika. They came from Canada, East Germany (DDR/GDR) and Greece.

The DDR/GDR bottle has **black print** on a white label, shows a three horse sleigh with two people in it. Troika Vodka is in cyrillic or Russian print. This is a 4 1/2" clear glass bottle with a safety metal cap. It's 40% and .05 litre distilled by VEB Wembrennen Meerane. VEB is one of the largest distillers in East Germany with plants in four or five cities.

The Canadian Troika has a gold label with a cross. Doesn't it remind you of the German cross? In the middle of the red circle are the Byzantine twin head eagles with a crown over their heads. This emblem was adopted by the czars. Troika Premium Vodka is distilled by Schenley of Canada. It is 4 1/8" tall and a clear plastic bottle with a safety metal cap. It is also 80 proof and 50 ml.

The 'Greek' (Hellenic is the proper name, but somehow we got stuck with Greek)...now where was I? Oh yes, the Greek version has a black area at the bottom of the label with the printing in white. The rest of the label is red with the words again in white. The Byzantine two headed eagle holds a sword and a globe. This is a 4 1/2", clear glass bottle with metal safety cap which is 80 proof and the unusual size of 4 cl. It is distilled and bottled by Fokialis on the beautiful island of Rhodes (Rodos).

Until next time...keep collecting.

--M, D, K. --



# Whiskey Heritage

by

GEORGE JINKENS

## the g-r-r-eatest



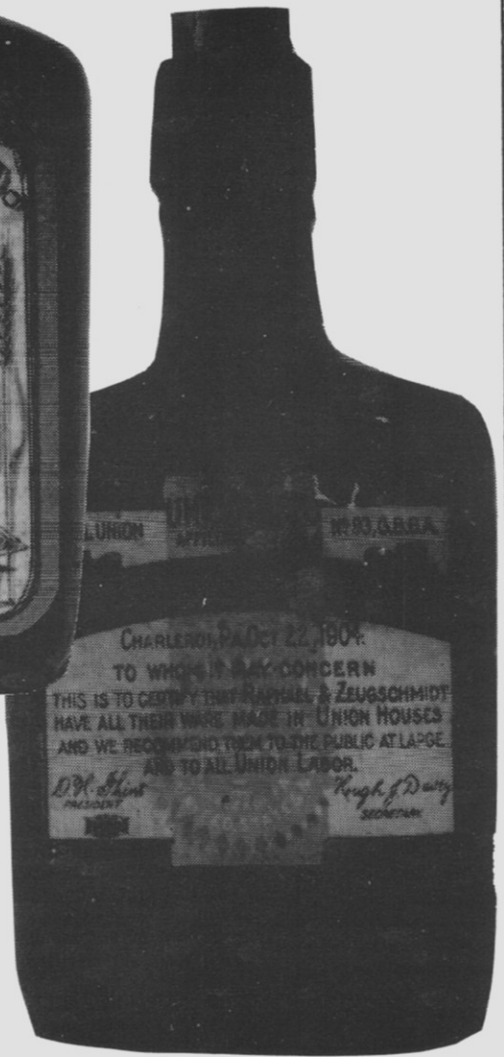
I'm putting my best foot forward this time. Pictured are what I consider three of the best bottles in my collection. I'll begin with P P R (Popular Priced Rye). I have pictured the front and back of the bottle. . . one is as good as the other. At the bottom on the bottle you may notice that the cost of this mini was 10¢. According to the back and the front of the label, the bottle was entirely made by Union People, Oct. 22, 1904.

Next are two decanter bottles that maybe one-of-a-kind. Both decanters have the original labels on them. The first is a Christmas bottle from E. C. Peiffer. The label is a bit worn, but still legible. Then we have Live Oak Special. This is another decanter with the original label on it. The whole label is in the shape of an Oak Leaf.

I have seen many decanter bottles that are embossed, and there are several good collections of decanter bottles around, but these are the only two decanter whiskey bottles that I have seen with labels. Are there any more out there???

--G. J. --



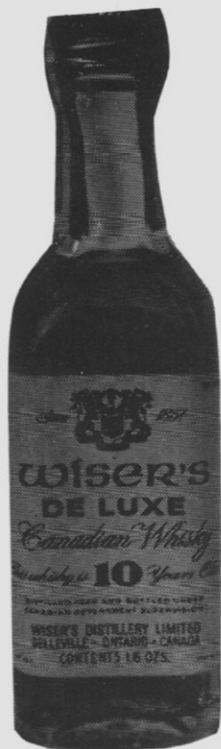




# CANADIAN CONNECTION



by TERRY KRAMER



Hello. In this article I would like to present some minis from Wiser's Distillery Limited of Belleville, Ontario. After some checking at the library and finding absolutely nothing about Wiser's, it can only be presumed that it is a small independent distillery, but yet one which has been in existence for over one hundred years... as stated on one of the mini's labels.

The first mini is that of Wiser's Special Blend Canadian Rye Whisky. It is in a square, clear bottle and contains 1.6 ozs. The label is black with white lettering and shows a glass of whisky on ice. This particular mini has a Canadian Excise stamp on it dated 1968.

The next mini is that of Wiser's De Luxe 10 year old. It again is in a square bottle and contains 1.6 ozs. On this label it states "Since 1857". I wonder if they produced any minis back then? This one certainly is not that old as it has an excise stamp dated 1962. This product in recent years has been marketed in a round bottle instead of the square ones that Wiser's seemed to use until lately. Also the labels on the newer minis have a name change of J. P. Wiser's Distillery.

It was this company that in recent years produced the J. P. Wiser's Liqueur. It is a liqueur made from 18 year old whisky. I don't know about other places, but this product did not





do too well here in Saskatchewan. Also, why would they use an 18 year old whisky for the liqueur... but only a 10 year old for their whisky de luxe. What a shame!

The other two minis shown are that of the Vodka Martini and the International Vodka. The martini is in a brown bottle and contains 34.3% alc. vol. One interesting thing about both these minis is that it states the contents in both ounces and millimeters. It is 1.6 ounces or 45 ml.

The vodka is in a clear bottle and has 40% alc./vol. I don't know if it shows up on the picture well enough to see, but there are three lines of foreign writing which is certainly "Greek to me". I can only presume that it is

Russian. I have another variation of the vodka which only has its contents as 1.6 ozs. but has no foreign writing on the label. It does state, however, that it is "A superbly Dry Vodka Triple Distilled to International Standards of Excellence." Sounds good!

Not shown but also a product of Wiser's is their International Gin. Again, it comes in a square bottle with labeling similar to that of the vodkas.

I checked to see if Wiser's made any other products such as a rum. I couldn't find any, at least not in my collection, so if anyone has any others, please let me know.

Next time I'll be back with more Canadian miniatures. --T. K. --

# Wild Turkey



It's been a long dry spell; however, once again, it's time for a new Wild Turkey bottle. And, this is to be the only bottle for 1988. In fact, it's the first we've seen since 1986. Here's the story:

"After two years of planning, Wild Turkey will introduce an exciting new decanter series entitled 'Habitat'. The 'Habitat' collection -- two decanters that fit together like pieces in a puzzle -- create a beautiful wildlife scene to be displayed alone or as an addition to other Wild Turkey collections.

"The first decanter, which will be released in 1988, captures the moment when a female wild turkey, drinking at

a forest pool, notices a flurry of activity created by two mallard ducks floating in the water. The second decanter will complete this forest scene and is scheduled to be released in 1989.

"Unlike other Wild Turkey series in the past, 'Habitat' will be sold unfilled and will be available exclusively through Austin, Nichols. The 750ml size decanter will be sold for \$80 and the matching 50ml size will sell for \$35. Members of the exclusive Wild Turkey Fliers Club will receive a ten percent discount."

Much is said in that press release, much may be read between the lines!

\*\*\*\*\* AUCTION GAZETTE \*\*\*\*\*

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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 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.

Miniaturlflaschen - Club der DDR: c/o Ivan Uhlik, Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz 6, 8122 Radebeul 2, DDR (East Germany).

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

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