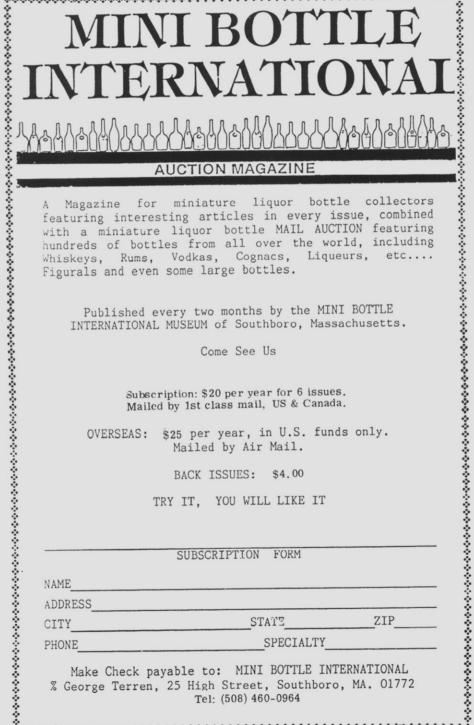
THE INIATURE OTTLE OTLECTOR



## MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONA



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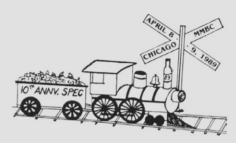
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#### Let's Talk

Another year has come and gone. I hope that the holidays bring you a bottle or two to add to the collection. Better yet, Ihope the post office sees fit to deliver this before the end of this decade.

I have an issue mailed to me to see how long it takes for local delivery. The last issue was received on the east coast and even in southern Florida before mine was delivered and I am less than five miles from the post office. It took five weeks for me to receive mine. It went out the third week in October!

Another complaint about last issue is the pictures. Sometimes everything conspires against us it seems. However, this time I think you'll find all the clarity we've been missing.

Didn't have room anywhere else so wanted to tell you here about the new club in morthern California. Years ago there was a club which went inactive but row Mr. Sherman Silver has managed to find some of the original members plus a great many new collectors. You can contact Sherman at 1911 Willow Street, Alameda, CA 94501 or at (415) 769-7691. The California Miniature Bottle Club wants you!

This is a slightly different issue as some of our regulars aren't here; however, the lengthy article by Ivan Uhlik I'm certain you'll find interesting. It's intriguing to hear of collectors willing to share their bottle travels with us.

Until 1989, all my best and have a wonderful holiday. --DMS-- 99993

Vol. XV No. 5 No. 89 1988

# BOTTLE CONTACTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

#### **Features**

and a comment	6
SKI COUNTRY	U
1985's two offerings.	0
MELO'S MINIS	0
A potpouri of goodies this time.	_
HOFFMAN1	1
Arf! It's not Sandy, but	
SCOTCH1	2
Mike tells us about Old Fettercairn.	
A VISIT TO BOOZEVILLE	5
The Injuns are here.	
SPECIAL COGNACS 1	6
XO means quality cognacand bottles.	
MINI WORLD 1	8
A sojourn par excellence.	
SMALL TALK	4
Egad, more schnapps.	
DE ALER DIRECTORY	85
A new listing or two.	
CLUB DIRECTORY2	29
Here they are, one more time.	
here they are, one more time.	

#### Our Cover

The three bottles on the cover this time are all from Scotland, but have turned up in a variety of places such as England, Australia, Hong Kong and Germany. They are from right to left, a 12 year old, a 21 year old and a 17 year old. Both the 12 and 21 year old bottles come with the lion in three different colors. Along with a solid pewter flask, King of Scots has an impressive line.

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# Ski Country \*



# Ski Country



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## melo's minis

by Mike Okson





In this article I would like to feature three of the fabled Lionel bottles, plus three seldom seen flats from Hillcrest and finally three fairly common bottles from Kasko, Lionel Distilled Products Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, produced many great bottles during the 1930's and some of the labels are as attractive as anything I have ever seen. I am still looking for the Buccaneer which is arguably the best looking miniature ever produced. Hillcrest Distilling Corp. of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, seems to have produced a limited number of miniatures during the 1930's and these were also very attractive bottles. Kasko Distillers Products Corp. of Philadelphia, PA, produced a fair amount

of nice looking bottles during this same time period. The six flat bottles in this article all have 1934 Illinois tax stamps.

Bottle number one is Old Doc Jacobs Brand Whiskey A Blend. It is 85 proof, has a canary yellow label printed in red, black, gold and white and has a green cap. This is one of my personal favorites and has one of the best looking labels I have ever seen. Next we have 3 Musketeers Straight Whiskey. It is 80 proof, has a red and black label printed in red, black, and white. The last of these is Old Pointers Brand Bourbon Whiskey A Blend. It is 80 proof, has a red and black label with gold and white and is in as close to mint condition as you can ever hope to see.

The first Hillcrest bottle is State Express Straight Whiskey. It is 100 proof, six months old and has a light tan label printed in red and black. This is followed by Hillcrest "Special" Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof, 4 years old and has a tan label printed in red, black and white. We close out Hillcrest with Harmony Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof, six months old and has a black label printed in gold and white.







The three from Kasko are short round bottles with labels which state: Sample Not to Be Sold. This statement is seen on bottles with Pennsylvania tax stamps and was probably used to get around some local law. Anyway, the next bottle is Four Kings De Luxe Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof, 2 1/2 years old and has a white label printed in red, blue and gold. This is followed by Maryland Rose Rve A Blend of Straight Whiskeys. It is 86 proof, 2 1/2 vears old and has a black label printed in yellow, red and gold with a full colored rose. The last bottle is My Friend Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 85 proof, 3 years old and has a white label printed in red, gold, brown and black.

Finally, would someone out there help this poor ole boy out and find him a Buccaneer. He surely would appreciate one!

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

Until next time.....MELO

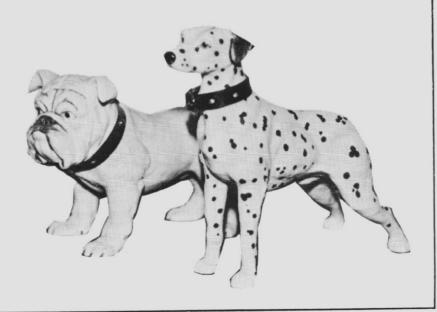






A couple of years back Hoffman issued the free standing bull dog bottle. It was quite a hit and disappeared onto collectors' shelves very quickly. Now for 1988, Hoffman has outdone themselves.

This is the new Dalmatian bottle which appeared back in October. Not only is he a prize by himself, but he is certainly a noble companion for the earlier bulldog. Once again made in extremely limited quantities, this bottle will be bought and enjoyed by other than firefighters!



#### SCOTCH

by

#### MIKE BARBAKOFF





Fettercairn Distillery, also in its history known as Nethermill and Fetter Cairn) was built legally in 1824 in Kincardineshire. Apparently its predecessor was located a couple of miles higher up on the slopes of Cairn O'-Mount, but this one was abandoned when the new distiller was built. Like many of the distilleries, ownership changed hands many times. It had to be rebuilt after a fire in 1887-1890. Ownership continued to change hands (including National Distillers of America for a

while) until eventually today we find it part of Wnyte & Mackay Distillers Ltd.

Fettercairn declares itself as "Old Fettercairn" in the main which, without an age, rather makes one suspect that it might be more appropriately fashioned "Young". Sometimes the age is declared and here it is found at 8 years old. The general tasting consensus describes it as light, dry, smooth and with a nutty palate, not dis-similar to some of the Livet whiskies.

The earliest known miniature labelling (Fig. 1) was from the 1960's when Fettercairn was traded as Fettercairn Distillery Ltd. You will notice the Uisge Beatha (water of life) legend below the Old Fettercairn logo. This miniature is exceedingly rare.

A second, also very rare, miniature is the Fettercairn 875 shown in Fig. 2. The product was marketed to the Italian market in the main at both 5 and 8 years both at 75 (UK) proof, hence 875 and 575 respectively. Only the 875 was bottled in miniature form. Some have been seen with large neck labels stating 8 years old.





At the time of the Whyte & Mackay takeover, Old Fettercairn reappeared in the distinctive long necked round Whyte & Mackay bottles as shown in Fig. 3. This labelling didn't last long and was soon replaced with the more current form of bufflabel from W & M (Fig. 4). Both no age and 8 year old variations exist at 43% (Figs. 5 & 6) in both glass and PET flasks. The PET flasks are readily available in duty free packs around Europe.

Until next time... -- M. B. --





Single Malt Scotch Whisky

## **Boozeville**

by Lloyd McLeod



There is discimination in Boozeville, but it is the law!

Indians are not allowed to drink liquor in the saloons. The "firewater" is bad for them as most of them are not civilized yet. They can not control themselves and don't know when to stop drinking.

That was then! Now for the most part they are well behaved and are allowed to drink.

The bottles shown here contained firewater and were given out to good customers at saloons and bars. The chief's head bottle is 5" high, multicolor, and a very rare one. It has the crown mark.

The standing Indian with his pipe and rifle is all brown, 8" tall, crown mark and has the number 2301.

Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hallenbeck for sending in these photos for all of us to see.

OK, back to the wigwam.

--L. M. --



# "SPECIAL" COGNACS





XO. Excellent Old. Two words which are the delight of every cognac drinker and naturally, every cognac miniature bottle collector.

On these two pages are a selection of six different XO pieces from a vareity of companies. Some labels are quite easy to read while others aren't so good and you'll have to be satisfied with the shape of the bottle. Suffice it

to say that all of these are superior from every aspect.

The two Hennessy pieces are approximately a decade apart. The unembossed shorter piece came from Japan in the late 1970's while it's slightly larger and definitely more spectacular companion is from 1986 here in the U.S.

The Chabot appeared in Japan almost two years ago and very quickly became a collectors' favorite. The gold colored Caussade is a small 30 ml bottle which was available about fifteen years ago.

The last two pieces, the Hine and the Camus are more recent additions to the XO mini line. The Hine first appeared in Hong Kong in 1987 and the Camus soon followed. This particular one is a 50 ml, but a 30ml version pre-

In the future we'll have other XO





by IVAN UHLIK

(Ed. Note: The following is a marvelous account of a bottle-collecting journey through Eastern Europe. If you love bottles, you'll love this article!)

TRAVEL BEGINS. The main railway station of Dresden (East Germany) on the ninth of March, 1988. At 15.27 o'clock the train dispatcher is giving the Pannonia Express a clear line for its 2,215 km long tour around five countries from Dresden to Sofia via Prague, Budapest and Bucharest. In the number nine compartment of the Bulgarian VRS-Pullman, a quest of Vinprom by two Miniflaschen members, Mr. Christian Karl and Mr. Ivan Uhlik is also beginning. What awaits them in Bulgaria?

At present both travelers don't know what lies in store for them as they don't know the exact address of the Vinprom Work in Gabrovo in Bulgaria, the original destination of their travel. They know only that in this distillery the Bulgarian miniature bottles are produced. From this company are about fifteen different bottles well known by all collectors in Europe...among them such hits as the Bulgarian Scotch Jockey Club and the Bulgarian Japanese Suntory Gold.

In their baggage, both collectors are keeping information about the MfC, the Miniature Bottle Club of East-Germany as well as some mini bottle samples from their country. Mr. Uhlik has also a pad for which to write his report about the travel and to interview the director of the Vinprom-Work in Gabrovo. Furthermore, they also have a great deal of patience which will be necessary for the many border crossings and even more optimism since the company in Gabrovo does not know of their arrival (due to not knowing the distillery's exact address).

ON THE WAY, At 17,00 o'clock on this day the first station in Czechoslovakia was passed. Travel continued for Prague in the beautiful valley of the Elbe River. When the Pannonia Express arrived in Frague, both travelers spent some time buying bottles of good Bohemian beer for the long journey ahead. With the beer to help ease the hours. they planned for the work ahead of them until falling asleep. But early in the morning they were a wakened by the call of "Pasova Kontrola!" and "Magyar utlevel kontrolla". The Czechoslovak-Hungarian boundary had been reached.

After short formalities, the Pannonia Express continued on its way with another six hour journey to the frontier of Romania. During the passage through Hungary, all the passengers watched monotonous scenery of the level Hungarian Puszta and also the cleanliness at even the smallest of stations. What a contrast to the stations in Romania!

At the station of Curtici all the Passengers were shocked with the profound and extreme control by the Romanian authorities. For more than one hour, Romanian officials in various uniforms were checking passports, baggages, money-boxes, etc. One question followed another: "What is in your baggage?", "Where do you travel?", "Do you have Romanian money?", "Are you Bulgarians? Hungarians? Germans?", 'Do you have anything which will stay in Romania?", etc., etc. Finally the green, blue, gray and black uniforms got off the wagons and the Pannonia Express was alloed to continue.

The long passage through Romania was not boring for the travelers as they could observe the very beautiful landscape of the Romanian mountains. And, many Romanians came in the coaches to buy things from the foreign passen-



gers. They wanted coffee, chocolate, bonbons, chewing-gum and international cigarettes. Unfortunately they could only pay withRomanian "lel".

At 22.00 o'clock the Pannonia Express stopped at the North station of Bucharest. The collectors called the Romanian member of the MfC from the station hall to set up a meeting with him on the return trip. Then our two travellers went to bed in their Pullman to reconstitute themselves for the next hard day in Bulgaria.

The next morning Mr. Karl made return reservations at Gorna Oryakhovitza. Then both our MfC members made themselves presentable and began the last short leg of their journey. After one short hour, their long trip was finished as they'd reached Gabrovo Station at 7 am on March 11th.

AT THE VINPROM-WORK. While Mr. Karl checked the baggage at the station, Mr. Uhlik was using his "Panslovanic" language knowledge to ask the way to the Vinprom distillery. Next they took a bus and at 8.30 am they stood at the door of the director's room in the Vinprom Distillery.

The director of this Vinprom-Work, Mrs. Ivanova, very heartily welcomed her two East-German guests and after a little snack, the conversation began. Mr. Karl spoke German and Mr. Uhlik translated it into Russian. Mrs. Ivanova tried to answer all questions asked by her two visitors; unfortunately, the headquarters of the Vinprom gave no permit to publish an interview with Mrs. Ivanova and so the dialogue between her and the MfC's functionaries must not be reproduced here in this

report. However, readers will receive information which is generally known in Bulgaria as well as some facts resulting in the talk with Mrs. Ivanova.

The Vinprom-Work at Gabrovo was founded in 1947 through a decree which closed the many private and family distilleries as well as starting the spirits production on the industrial basis. The State Vinprom Co. (VINo = wine, the PROMishlennost = industry) was founded in Bulgaria after World War II as a sole producer of the wine and spirits in the country.

Today the Vinprom-Work at Gabrovo produces (aside from 0.5 litre bottles) 20,000 miniatures a day. Unfortunately they are bottles of 100 ml capacity. Because of the strict measures of the Bulgarian government against alcoholism, the production of alcoholic beverages was much reduced in all the Vinprom-Works not too long ago.

In October 1987 the Vinprom-Work at Sofia stopped the production of the 100 ml bottles and all production was turned over to Gabrovo. At that time the production of 50 ml miniatures was

stopped in this distillery.

At present the distillers around the nice Mrs. Ivanova produce the following bottles of 100 ml capacity: Mastika 47%, Rum 45%, Brandy 43%, Vodka Sredetz 40%, the rakias like Grozdova 40%, Slivova 38%, Poldova 36% and a peppermintliqueur Mentovka 25%. But in the years 1983-1987, here were also produced the following 50 ml bottles: Mastika 47% (A), Sukh Djin 45% (B), Brandy 43% (A), Malinovo Brandy 40% (B), Vodka Sredetz (A), Stara Troyanska Slivova Rakia 42% (A), Grozdova Rakia Slivenska Perla 40% (A), Williamova Rakia 40% (A), Silistrenska Kaisieva Rakia 37% (A), Bitter Sofia Aperitiv 24% (B), Likior Rosa 25% (A), Likior Malina 25% (A), Likior Vishna 25% (A), Brandy Preslav 42% (C), Brandy Pomorie 42% (D), Brandy Pliska 40% (C and D), Jockey Club Scotch Whisky 43% (B), and Suntory Gold Blended Whisky 40% (B).

They were (A) round clear glass, (B) rectagonal clear glass, (C) Bellied clear glass and (D) bellied green glass bottles all of 50 ml capacity. All the labels (with the exception of the labels on the bellied brandy bottles) were u-

#### винпром



ЦЕНА 0,45 ЛВ С БУТ БДС 393 80 П-МО II 74 79 82 МФ/ГУЦ БУТИЛИРАНО ОТ ВИНПРОМ ГАБРОВО

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отк



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ЦЕНА 0,55 ЛВ С БУТ. ОН — 1870414 79 П.МО II 74 79 82 МФ // УЦ БУТИЛИРАНО ОТ ВИНПРОМ ГАБРОВО

**SPEHD** 





niform in type and size (53 x 48 mm or so). At the top of any label (with the exception of Sofia Bitter and Suntory Gold) there is a dark coloured stripe with the white inscription B H POM. The text was in the Cyrillic with only Sofia Bitter, Jockey Club and Suntory Gold combined with any English text.

During the dialogue with Mrs. Ivanova, she called all the office rooms to bring in all possible miniatures which might still be around. This way it was possible that the MfC's received samples of nearly all miniature bottles of 100 and 50 ml capacity produced in Gabrovo in the past years. Before leaving, the MfC delegates gave Mrs. Ivanova little gifts as well as some MfC souvenirs. At the end all the partners said good-bye and the East-German guests went to visit the city of Gabrovo.

Because the departure of the train to Gorna Oryakhovitza wasn'tuntil much later, the travelers wanted to buy some souvenirs for their family members at home. But there were not many attractive goods in the shops at Gabrovo. Also the disposition of the Bulgarian shop assistants left much to be desired. This can be documented by the following exchange.

In an ice-cream shop where Mr. Uhlik asked for an ice of a young assistant-girl who seemed to be sleeping with open eyes.

U: "Molim sladolen!" (An ice, please.)

A: ''Hmmm.''

U: 'Dayte meme edna portsiya!'' (Give me one portion.)

A. "Hmmm?"

U: "Ima?" (Have you got some?)

A: "Nyama!" (I have none.)

And so both the travelers waited for their train in the station restaurant. They then went back to Gorna Oryakhivitza where they occupied their Fullman car on the Pannonia Express which was coming from Sofia on its tour to Dresden.

THE RETURN JOURNEY. On the way to the frontier with Romania both collectors thought over their day in Gabrovo. After the complicated border control in Giurgiu in Romania, they went to bed and slept until the station



of Sighisoara which was their meeting place with Mr. Josef Knab, the Romanian member of the MfC.

At 12.00 o'clock the Pannonia Express stopped in Sighisoara and both the travelers met with Josef and his wife. After a quick lunch at the Autoservirea, they went to observe the town and the castle there.

They soon stopped at a wine tavern near the castle and over a good bottle of Romanian wine they talked about their common hobby, the collecting of miniature bottles. Mr. Knab narrated the troubles of a Romanian collector. They cannot swap with foreign collectors since they must not send bottles abroad or receive them through the postal service. Also they cannot freely travel even in a socialist country. And the psirits industry in Romania has produced no miniatures since the end of World War II. The life in this country is very difficult. Mr. Knab sacrificed half of his monthly fuel ration

(his ration for March was 36 litres of petrol!) for this meeting with both his MfC colleagues.

Then it was time to say good-bye at the station of Sighisoara and Mr. and Mrs. Knab went home by their Skoda. Mr. Karl and Mr. Uhlik waited for an international train to Hungary which came in the morning of the next day. Unfortunately all the beds in the Pullman cars were already occupied so bot hour travelers had to sit in the midst of a group of drunken noisy Hungarians who were obviously traveling home after visiting some relatives in Romania.

In the forenoon the express train arrived in Budapest and both the East-German collectors looked for some of the Hungarian MfC members who were to meet them at the station. But as in the rest of the world, there is no reliability among the young people in Hungary. At the platform only was Mr. Lugosi, an over 60 years old collector from Budapest.

All three collectors debated about the problems in the club as well as in the bottle collecting hobby in general. After adrink in the bar and exchanging some bottles, the two MfC delegates took an express train to Berlin.

After a short control at the boundary with Czechoslovakia and the night passage of this country, both the collectors finished their quest/travel of Vinprom at the main station of Dresden on 14th March 1988.

BACK AT HOME. During breakfast in the station restaurant, Mr. Karl and Mr. Uhlik evaluated their travel with mixed feelings. From a purely financial point of view, this was a bankrupt trip. They brought home no more than 20 bottles from Bulgaria...their travel was a year late. But on the other hand, it was a successful trip because of the new friendship with Mrs. Ivanova in Gabrovo (which might be useful in the future). And, there is also the matter of the friendship with both Mr. Knab and Mr. Lugosi. Collecting is not only a piling up of miniatures.

MASTIKA, RAKIA, ETC. To end, here are some words about the spirits in the Balkan countries. The Mastika (Quzo in Greece) is an anise liquor double distilled with a percentage over 40% by volume. The Rakia (in Albania Rraki, in Romania Rachiu, in Yugoslavia Rakija) is the local name for a brandy, distilled mainly from plums and other fruits. Likior is the Bulgarian word for a fresh fruit liqueur.

#### **ВИНПРОМ**

005 A

40%



#### PAKUS

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005 A

NUKDOD



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005 1

NUKBOD MXXXP 2



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# SMALL TALK

If you've got a good memory, you'll remember back a year or so ago when I last featured some Schmapps bottles. At that time I couldn't believe the proliferation of them. And, that was nothing. They're now multiplying faster than we can buy them.

Every store you go into seems to have a new one. They're coming from all directions...truly, it's like a bad horrow movie. It's sort of: Return of the Schnapps, Revenge of the Schnapps, Son of Schnapps...ah, it's driven the writer over the edge.

In any case, if you've a mind to allow your collection to become "schnappsed", here are some new ones available in Canada: De Kuyper's Original Peachtree Schnapps, Archer's Peach County Schnapps, Boston Peppermint

Menthe Schnapps, and a pair from the Arctica Distilling Company of Vancouver, Icy Peach and Icy Pear.

Now we could go into all the little particulars which never change (eg. 50 ml.), but seeing is believing. Isn't it?







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