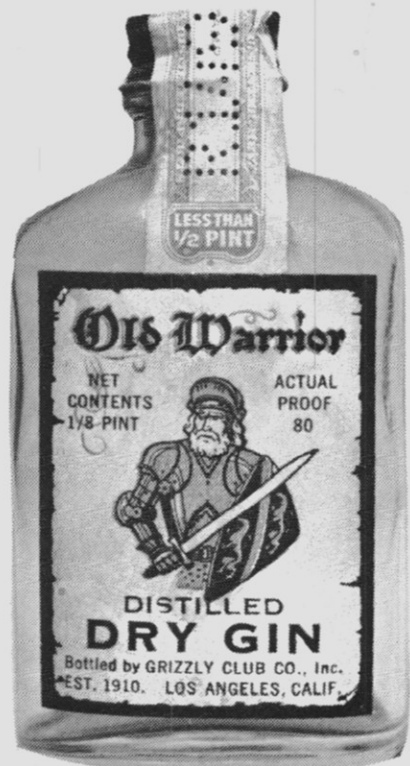


THE

VOL. XVI no. 1

No. 91 1989

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



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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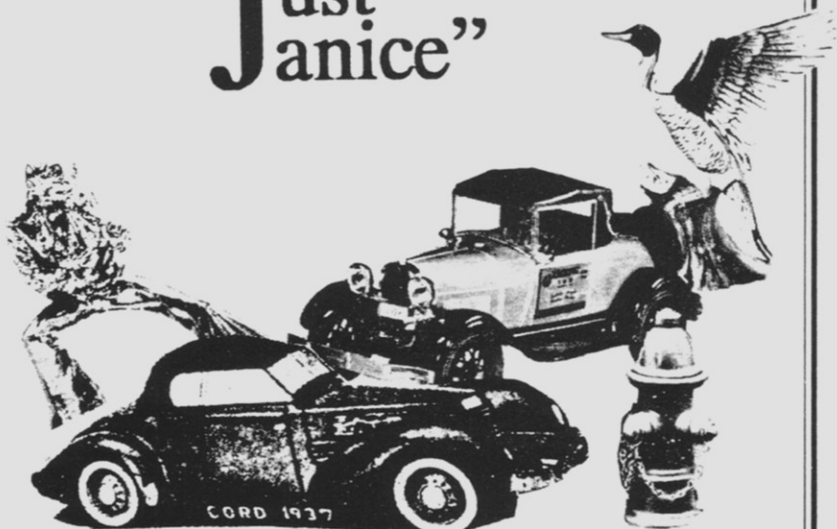
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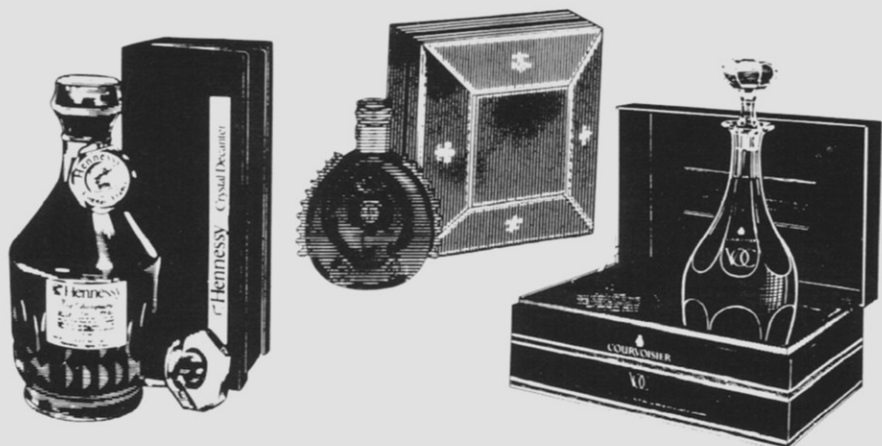


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Let's Talk

We certainly got some interest from last month's cover. The number of calls and letters concerning the Corona Beer six pack were a delight to receive. They are available and the word from the producer is that this Corona is just the first as there will be others in the not too distant future.

A big welcome back to Terry Kramer, Taizo Shiratsuchi, and Lloyd McLeod. We haven't had their columns recently, and they have certainly been missed. Next time we'll have a new column on gins which you can read about by just shifting your eyes down and over to the right a few inches!

This issue is a bit late due to a variety of problems. However, thanks to Gary Anderson of Lyn-gate Printing here in So. Cal, this issue has been beautifully typeset. We hope you notice the difference.

Next time both the Club and Dealer Directories will be completely redone. It's been a long time coming and there are quite a few club changes. Note one new one this time and all the differences in #92.

Several people have commented recently on the articles by Ivan Uhlik in East Germany. They are not only quite interesting but contain information we here in the west would never have. Mr. Uhlik has all his camera work done by Photo Meissner Radebeul and they do an excellent job. Ivan also wanted me to pass on the following for those who would be interested. This is a general collectors club with many members who specialize in minis!! If you're interested, write to:

Collectors Club BALTIC
c/o Mr. Mati Piisner
P. O. Box 2086
200033 Tallin
USSR Estonia

See you this summer with more news.
--DMS--

THE

Vol. XVI No. 1
No. 91 1989

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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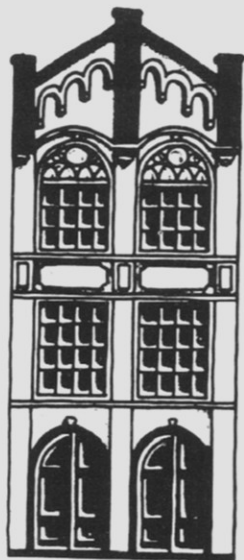
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Our Cover

The two bottles on the cover this time have a good many interesting characteristics. They are old; they are from Los Angeles; and, most importantly, they are gins. With these two bottles we begin a series on gins by Harry A. Ford, Jr. Harry has written about rare gins previously, but (to steal the line) "you ain't seen nothin' yet". Watch for the first complete article next time. It's a beaut!

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The Kaiser's Canal



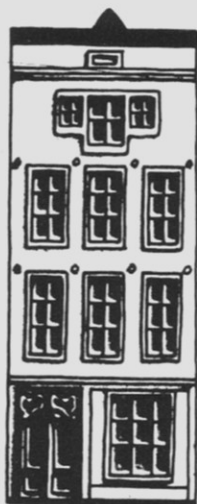
De Keizersgracht
No. 102

The remonstrant church at the Keizersgracht 102 is a rather unobtrusive building for the passersby, because the visible part on the canal is not wider than a normal dwelling-house. The size of the inside church cannot be estimated from the canal. Built initially as a refuge-church it could be reached only via corridors ending at the canal and closed by a door, which looked like a normal front-door. Only in the 19th century has the present hall been built in No. 102.

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De Keizersgracht
No. 100

Dwelling-house of about 1625. The house was built by Pieter Simonsz van de Schellingh. Since the beginning of the 18th century in possession of the remonstrant community. In the year 1820 the house was renovated and got its present appearance. Gable with real cornice and two-winged door on the left side with double decoration-window. Formerly the house had been used as sacristy-habitation.



De Keizersgracht
No. 104

Dwelling-house erected in the year 1632 by the carpenter Lambert Massa. In 1642 Claes Harmensz Roothoet became its owner. It is said that a hatter first dwelled here. In 1742 the house was inhabited by Joh. van Dribergen, a professor of the Remonstrants.

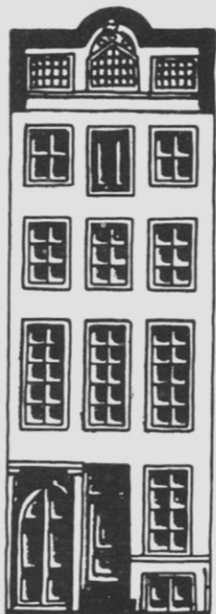


De Keizersgracht No 106

For the regents of the remonstrants community this merchant-house was rebuilt in approx. 1760. The old house was property of Mr. Roothoet in 1642.

De Keizersgracht No 108

This merchant-house was built in 1738 for the remonstrant community and has not been reconstructed greatly since then. The real estate for this house was bought in 1615 by Cornelis Joosten.



De Keizersgracht No 110

It was the merchant Hendrik Taddel, who renovated this house in 1754. With a neck-gable, the building is in the style of Louis XV (rococo). In 1772 it came into the possession of the remonstrants community. The real estate had been bought in 1615 by Aris Jacobsz Slipende Aep and built by the glass-painter Jan Jacobsz. The house is named "The castle of London".



The miniature collection by Royal Goedewaagen.

The hobby of collecting "Historical things" acquires more and more fanciers.

In the Miniature collection of "Historical buildings" the ROYAL FACTORIES GOEDEWAAGEN, Gouda/Netherlands, present to the connoisseur an edition, which is unique.

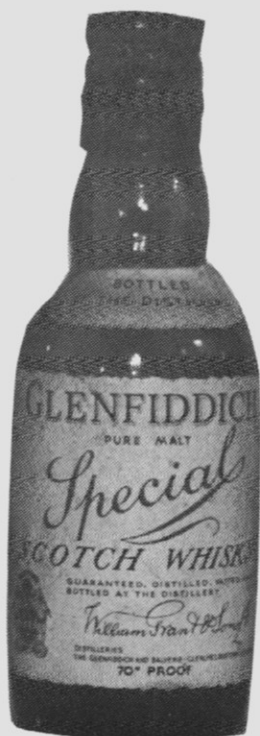
Hands of artists formed in carefully detailed work the buildings No. 100 to 110 of the famous "Keizersgracht" in Amsterdam, and with perfect traditional artisan work, there has been created with every replica a collector's object of lasting value.

This unusual edition, which consists at the moment of six replicas, will be expanded permanently. Ask for new models in your speciality-shop - and look for the trade-mark, which is your guarantee of buying the original GOEDEWAAGEN historical building series.

SCOTCH

by

MIKE BARBAKOFF



In 1886 William Grant invested the princely sum of 775 pounds in building Glenfiddich distillery. He had worked for twenty years at Mortlach distillery until he could afford to start his own operation.

His opportunity came when he was able to buy the old stills from Cardow (Cardhu) distillery for the scrap value of about 120 pounds. The first spirit flowed on Christmas Day in 1887. A very special bottling (not alas in miniature) was bottled on Christmas Day in 1987 to celebrate the Glenfiddich centenary.

William Grant always attributed much of the success of his Glenfiddich to the Robbie Dubh Spring water which he was apparently told of by an old Catholic priest.

For many years William Grant ran the distillery with the help of his three sons, two of which became doctors and one the owner of Glendronach distillery. In Robert Bruce Lockhart's book, the story is recounted that when the Inland Revenue Inspector called, he found Latin and mathematical text books lying all over the distillery. When he asked who they belonged to, he was told "the stillman, the maltman, and the tunroom man."

After the war, Glenfiddich was the spearhead that developed the overseas markets for single malt whisky. Even today, when a blank look overcomes the barman asked for a single malt, a request for Glenfiddich (or indeed the Glenlivet)



stands a reasonable chance of achieving success. Glenfiddich is the only Speyside distillery to bottle its own whisky and are one of the few to still retain their own malting and cooperage. It is very much a family business with tremendous pride taken in their product.

The stills are kept small, but because of the success of Glenfiddich, numerous. There are 29 of them and the visitor's center is one of the best in Scotland.

There is a certain snobbery that can creep in with the less well initiated concerning malt whisky. Glenfiddich, because of its availability, is sometimes referred to as "a good starter malt" implying that somehow it lacks the sophisticated complexities of the more obscure.

The fact is that it is an extremely well balanced, light and gently peaty malt whisky . . . and one which is welcome at any time.

Actually, there are a number of "myths" concerning single malt whisky which should be dispelled. Perhaps in this series of distillery articles I can address some of them.

So, **MYTH No. 1:** "Never add water to a good malt whisky." What rubbish. If you genuinely prefer one "straight up" then fine, that's right for you. Many experienced malt whisky drinkers (and indeed most blenders) will add a little spring water (still and pure) to release the "nose". One quarter of the pleasure of a malt is its distinctive nose. Try it yourself. Take a good malt, pour it and take a deep smell. Now add a little water (perhaps a quarter of the volume of the whisky). Now smell it again. See! One rule I have adopted in the States is never to ask for a malt and water (it gets drowned . . . and frozen with ice). Oh yes, ice kills the nose, so do take care.

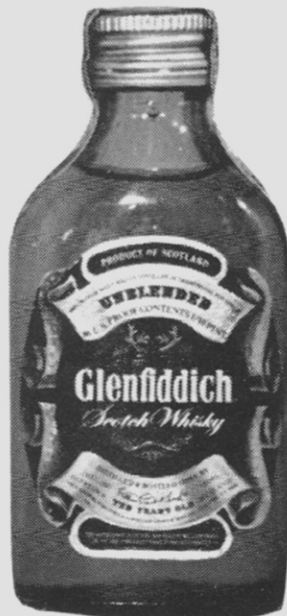


On to the miniature bottlings of Glenfiddich. The earliest known Glenfiddich miniature is a tall round brown cork topped Glenfiddich Special Scotch Whisky (#1). This was followed by a dumpier bottle version with one major change of significance, namely the change of crest to that which was to appear on a number of early bottlings (#2). These are exceptionally rare.

The distinctive triangular bottles of William Grant appeared in clear form. Two sizes were produced as shown in figures 3 & 4. One of these is 70 proof, the other 86 U.S. proof. In 1961 Glenfiddich did their only known special miniature bottle for the Off License Associations Annual Dinner. This is the Glenfiddich 1953 shown in figure 5. This is also extremely rare.

The familiar green flasks of Glenfiddich appeared concurrently with the early triangular bottles. Figures 6, 7 and 8 shown the no age, 70 proof 8 year old and 86 U.S. proof 8 year old. There was also a 10 year old version available in the States in #9 (from Jim Triffon's excellent Vol. 2). If anyone has one of these, I have an offer price of \$150. for it or swaps that







will make your eyes water. Do please get in touch if you can help.

Apart from a William Cadenhead bottling of a 22 year old Glenfiddich—Glenlivet (fig. 10), two general presentations of bottles have been issued: green flasks and triangular bottles. The flasks have been available at 8 yo, 10 yo and no-age (Special Old Reserve). The triangular bottles have never shown the age.

Figures 11-13 show the Japanese and

U.S. 10 yo labels along with the current general flask issue. Figures 14-17 depict the four variations on the 8 yo. It must be said that many of the variations in Glenfiddich labels are rather subtle, beyond the basic 40% / 43% strength differences.

Figures 18-21 show the range of the first issue of triangular bottles where the major identification difference is that the Glenfiddich is printed in gold lettering. Look closely at the bottom panel of the label for two variations.



Glenfiddich triangular bottles all look similar, and yet for the cogniscenti, the variation in detail is a most enjoyable thing to collect. Bearing in mind the geographical spread of Glenfiddich, label variations can be found for the UK (40%), general export (43%), the USA, Thailand, Portugal, France, Australia and South Africa. Earlier bottles had plain caps, the more current versions are printed. Figures 22-25 give a sampling.

For now, that's all. Take care and happy bottle hunting.

— Mike Barbakoff
4, Moreton Avenue,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire
AL5 2E T, England

FROM JAPAN

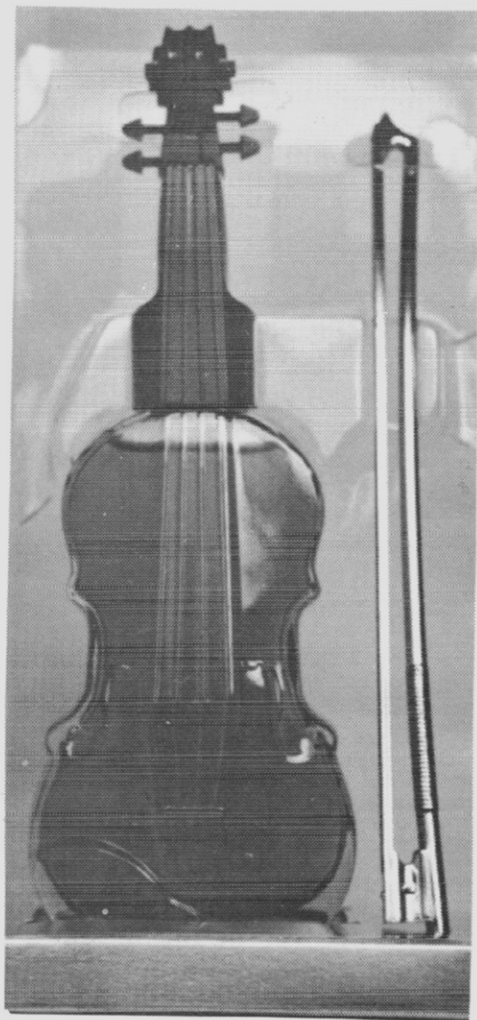
by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI

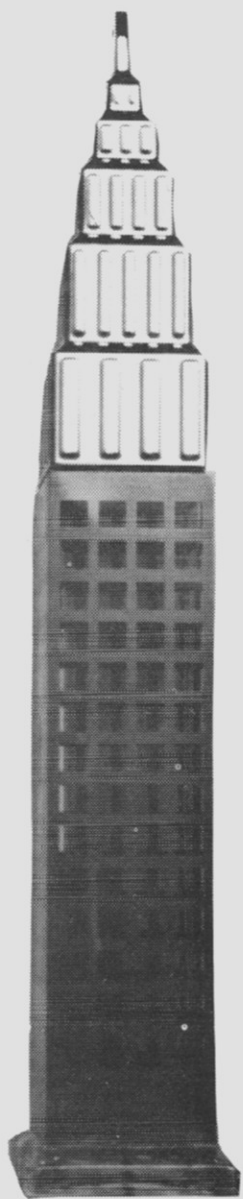
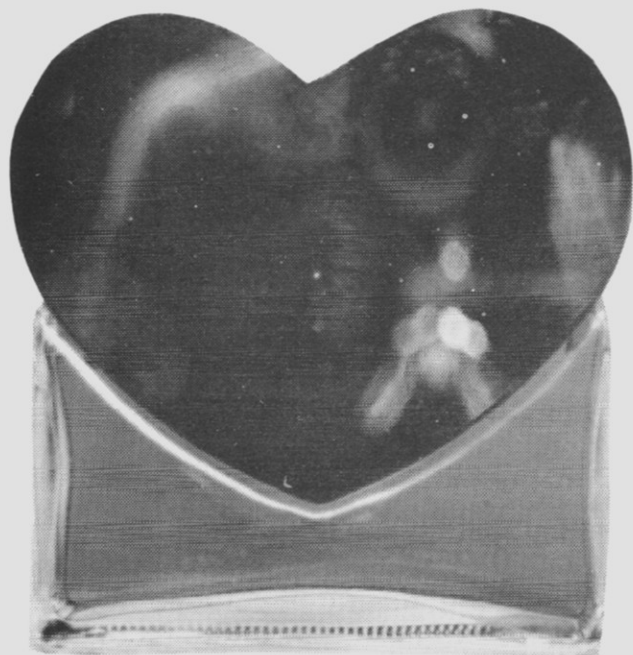
This time I would like to present to you some bottles which were produced in Japan as St. Valentine's Day gifts.

The first three are whiskies from Suntory. The Suntory Royal Violin bottle is 16 cm tall and contains 70 ml at 43 % alcohol. The golden violin bow is also to be used as a muddler (swizzle stick). Originally, the regular bottle (700 ml) was released to commemorate the opening of Suntory Hall in Tokyo (Akasaka) on October 12, 1986. It was available only at this Hall. The bottle was also planned to commemorate the 60th year of Suntory Ltd's whisky production and the 20th anniversary of its beer production in 1983.

Suntory Reserve New York, as you can see, is a model of the Empire State Building. It is 100 ml in contents and measures 23.5 cm tall. A tall bottle like the Empire State Building itself. The Suntory Reserve Mirror Heart is a rectangular bottle (6 by 8.5 cm) covered half with twinkle heart at 100 ml contents of 43% alcohol.

The next flask bottle is the Robert Brown Pocket Flask from Kirin-Sea-gram. It is golden glass on which hangs a golden heart.





There are three Brandies from Suntory, Hikka and Sapporo. Suntory Brandy VSOP is rectangular with a golden cap and some leaves are in relief all over one side of the bottle.

The Nikka Brandy Raisin VSOP is a most interesting bottle. It is a cone-shaped or a cone of heart-shape and will "swing" on the shelf as the center of the heart-shaped bottom is slightly swelled. It has a pink plastic cap and label.

The Romantic Brandy from the Sapporo Wine Ltd., Co. appeared as a trapezoidal bottle in last year's selection, but this year is square as before.

All of these brandies are in clear glass and contain 100 ml at 43%. However, the Romantic is only 40% alcohol.

I hope you've enjoyed these new bottles for St. Valentine's Day 1989! — T.S.



Wild Turkey

Yes, it's here. The second half of the Wild Turkey Habitat set. The 1989 bottle is due to be released any day now. This one looks to be just a bit more cute and clever than the offering from last year.

This one also features a pair of robins and to quote the brochure from Wild Turkey, a "watchful frog".

If you bought the one last year, you'll surely want this one. And, since so few ceramics are now being issued, it's a nice addition to your figural collection.



**Part
2**

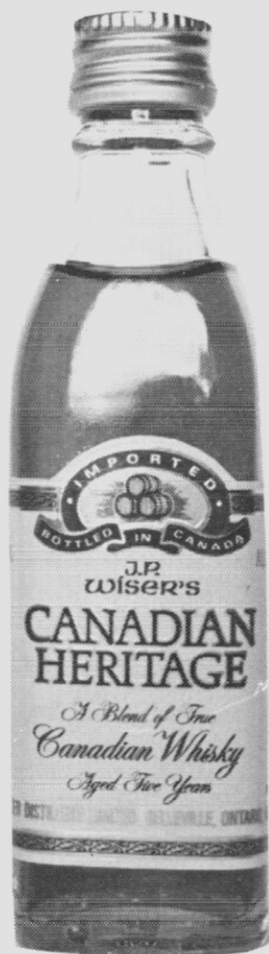
Habitat



CANADIAN CONNECTION



by TERRY KRAMER



Hello again. This time I have quite a mixture of miniatures to share with you. The only thing that they have in common, although three of the four of them are Canadian whiskies, is that none of them were ever available here in Canada.

I'll start off with Canadian Heritage Canadian Whisky, by J.P. Wiser's Distillery Ltd. of Belleville, Ontario.

It is nicely labelled 50 ml square glass bottle of 40 % alc./vol. Although this is a Canadian product, bottled in Canada by a Canadian company, it isn't available in

any of our provincially run.

The next miniature which again is a Canadian whisky, Old Canada by McGuinness Distillers Ltd., is not available here in Canada. Not only that, I had to trade for this one from a fellow collector in Japan. It was embarrassing asking for a Canadian product from my collector friend and explaining that it wasn't available here. This bottle has a nice picture on it of a horse pulling three men on a sled. On the back is a large label all in Japanese writing.

The third mini is one of an example which you often see, an American company importing Canadian Whisky and then bottling it under their own label. This particular one, Johnson's Blended Canadian Whisky is imported and bottled by the United States Distilled Products Co. of Bardstown, Kentucky.

It states on the label that it is distilled and blended in Canada. It is 80 proof and comes in a glass bottle with 50 ml embossed on the glass. The label is mostly black with white and gold lettering.

The Johnson's Vodka, which has nothing to do with Canada, is the final bottle featured. It is also a product of the company that put out the Johnson's Whisky, and is in a clear glass bottle with 50 ml embossed on the glass. The label is mostly red with gold bordering and white lettering. Both of these last two miniatures were picked up in North Dakota back in 1983.

Well, I hope you enjoyed a bit of information about these miniatures. Until next time with more Canadian (or related) products, I am . . . —T.K.



melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature eight Green River Whiskeys from Oldtyme Distillers Inc., of Jersey City, New Jersey, plus four Charter Oak Bourbons from the Continental Distilling Corp., of Philadelphia, PA. Green River is a very well known brand dating back before prohibition and should be familiar to most collectors. The majority of Green River's miniature production was just prior to World War II, with the blended whiskeys being produced in Jersey City while the bourbons were produced by Oldtyme's subsidiary, Kentucky Valley Distilling Co., of Limestone Springs, KY. Charter Oak was one of the many

brands produced by Continental over the years and is also fairly common.

Bottle number one is Blended Whiskey, 90 proof, 3 years old, and is a clear glass square flat as are the next two. Bottle two is Blended Whiskey, 90 proof and 8 years old. Bottle three is Bourbon and is BIB 1936-1940. The rest of the Green Rivers are round bottles in amber glass. The next two are BIB Bourbons 1935-1939 and 1936-1940 followed by a 90 proof, 4 year old Bourbon. The last two of these are circa 1940 Blended Whiskeys, 86 proof, 4 years old and 90 proof, 3 years old respectively.



The first of the Charter Oaks is 86 proof, 6 years old, was made about 1948 and is amber glass. The next bottle is BIB 1946-1949 and is also amber glass. The last two are BIB 1946-1951 and 1946-1949 and are clear glass.

Finally, all of these bottles are fairly common and are probably not high on any collectors' want list. Also, since the bottles are similar, it is easy to mistakenly assume that you already have the bottle. As a personal opinion, I think it is nice to have rare and exotic bottles, but to have a well rounded collection a person should also have the more common bottles represented by this article.

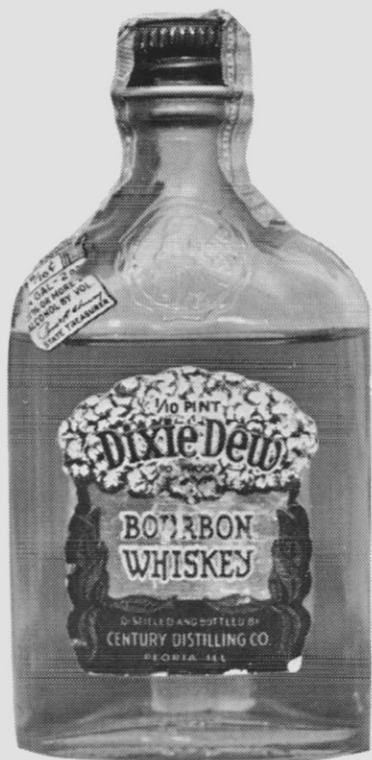
As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me at (507) 454-1499.

Until next time. . .MELO.



WHAT'S NEW

Old, Odd, or Unusual



You just might be asking yourself, "What do these six bottles have in common with each other?" The answer is really quite simple, none of these made the cut. The "cut" has to do with all the bottles which are being shown in our new book, *101 Rare Whiskey Flasks*, by David M. Spaid & Harry A. Ford, Jr.

This is the first pictorial book on miniature American whiskeys since Jim Triffon's excellent first volume appeared almost ten years ago. Unfortunately this one isn't in color but it does feature the ever-popular crystal clear photography of 101 bottles all presented in their actual size. Yes, you could take the bottle off the shelf and it would nicely align with the picture in the book.

The book will be available shortly and you'll be able to order it here as well as purchasing it in some of your favorite stores and directly from the authors at the next Lilliputian Bottle Show here in

Southern California this October.

We just wanted to whet your appetite a bit by presenting six excellent bottles which for one reason or another were judged to be not quite as rare as the 101—1930's bottles which are being presented. That's right, they are all flasks from the 1930's and none have ever been shown in a book before. A handful have turned up in a club newsletter during the last twenty years, but most collectors won't have seen them. So, watch for the newest publication to honor our favorite hobby.

Now, let's turn to these bottles themselves. Taking them alphabetically, we have Dixie Dew first. Okay, we know, everyone's seen Dixie Dew; it's rather old hat. However, if you'll look just a wee bit closer you'll notice that this isn't the regular Dixie Dew bottle as this is a clear glass piece, not the dark, pebbled glass bottle you're used to seeing.

And, of course, we could add the next bottle to the same category. Four Seasons is a good deal rarer than the Dixie Dew, but this (again) unpebbled, clear glass version certainly doesn't turn up very often. C'mon now, have you ever seen one before?

Here's Luck isn't the rarest of bottles and it just might be the most common of all the older Brown-Forman pieces; however, this is one of those unseen bottles that a fair amount of collectors do have in their collections.

My personal favorite of this group is this next bottle, John Smith Bourbon Whiskey. You certainly wouldn't be unusual if you were asking yourself how this bottle didn't come to make the "cut"? The answer here is that its brother, Captain John Smith is the larger brother.

Captain John Smith is in the book and it's even more interesting. You'll see why when you get the book.



Kentucky Capitol joins up with Dixie Dew and Four Seasons in being a clear glass version of what is normally seen as a dark, pebbled-glass bottle. You'll note that both it and Four Seasons come from the Paramount Distilling Corp., of Chicago. And, if you add in John Smith from Lionel Distilled Products Inc., of Chicago, you have three bottles from two of what were Al Capone's "legit" businesses post-prohibition.

Finally we come to Winwood. This 1936 bottle from Glenmore Distilleries hasn't been pictured but it isn't a prize winner when compared with the bottles which did make the book. It's still a nice bottle, but it's not up to the quality of say, a Quickee's Fernwood. Uh-huh, Quickee's Fernwood . . . it's in the book. The other 100 (actually 99 since I've already told you about Captain John Smith) you'll have to wait to find out about!



A Visit To Boozeville

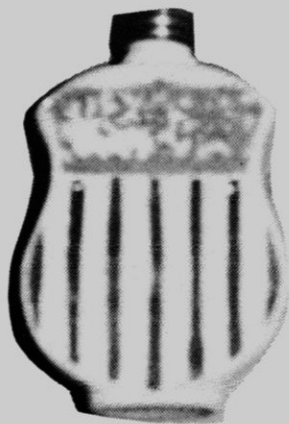
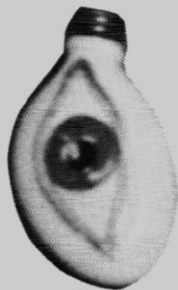
by Lloyd McLeod

To visit Boozeville is to go back into the past. You are going back...back...back into time when the saloons were dark and dingy places. This is sort of like an out-of-body experience. Anyway here we are and the saloon owner is handing out a small milk glass bottle to someone. He's telling his customer that it contains a new brand of whiskey that he now has on hand.

Yes, they did all of that in those by-gone days. The three milk glass bottles shown here are saloon giveaways. Some are harder to find than the Schafer and Vater bottles. These three are very colorful with red stripes and red printing.

The prices in a recent **Glass World** auction show their rarity. A clear glass bugle brought \$240.00, a milk glass eye, \$240.00 (this one was an "eye opener"), and a milk glass shield (shown) \$130.00. An extremely rare milk glass crying baby brought \$775.00!!

Well, drink up, everyone. These bottles are now worth more than a barrel of booze!
— L.M.



SMALL TALK



IVO'S EASTERN MINIS

To begin, let us jointly look at the rare Hungarian miniatures that I can show you today. I received these from my good friend, Mr. Lugosi of Budapest, who has personal connections with the producer of these bottles.

As you can see, there are three different liquors all in the same type bottle. It's a conically bellied bottle of 30 ml capacity, 90 mm high and 32 mm wide. The bottle material is brown and clear glass, made in Hungary. All the bottles are stopped with a metallic screw cap of 15 mm calibre.

The paper labels are all of the same size. They are 30 mm high and 47 mm (on the top) respectively 42 mm (at the foot) wide, conically cut from the top to the foot, with rounded edges. The common motif for all the labels is the coat of arms of the South-Hungarian town of Kiskunhalas.

The contents of these bottles are

fruit brandy, grape brandy and a whisky liqueur. The fruit brandy is an apricot distillate of 70° proof/percentage, so typical of Hungary. The name is Barack Párlat (Apricot Distillate). The grape brandy is a distillate from South-Hungarian wines entitled Erlelt Szőlő Párlat (Choice Grape Distillate) at 80° proof/percentage. The whisky liqueur is entitled Nostalgia Whisky Krém Likőr (Nostalgia Whisky Cream Liqueur). It's an emulsion liqueur of 45° proof of percentage.

The producer of these miniatures is the Kiskunhalasi Allami Gazdaság (State Farm at Kiskunhalas) which needs to better its economical balance concerning the general crisis in Hungary. This mini bottle series may be sold mainly in the international first class hotels but up to date it's available nowhere in the entire country. Only a little number was sold on board of the MALÉV airliners in the autumn of last year.

--Ivan Uhlík--

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