

THE

VOL. XVII No. 3  
No. 99 1990

# 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.....

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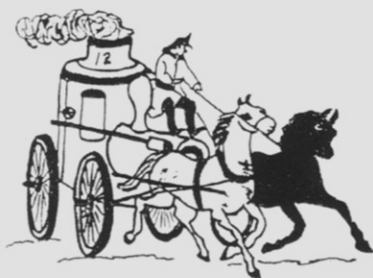
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# Let's Talk

Gremlins. Everywhere you look, gremlins. It appears the little devils got into the magazine last time and some people got issues with duplicated (and thus, missing) pages. If you were one of the lucky ones to receive "this rare collector's item", just drop us a card and we'll send you an issue with all the correct pages.

Possibly as a way of making amends (although it wasn't even planned that way), this issue has more text than we've ever done before. Normally there are twenty text pages of articles but this time we've stretched to twenty-two pages. We think you'll like the difference.

Oh yes, forgot to mention the little gremlin that made me leave off David Smith's name from the article on the new glass whiskeys from New Zealand in the last issue. Incidentally, David and Jackie Smith will be at the Lilliputian Show in Burlingame in October, so step up and say hello!

And, speaking of shows, you will please notice the ad for the 1991 Midwest Show outside of Chicago next April. There were a good many problems but for those who were quite worried...relax!

In upcoming issues we'll be featuring more new scotch articles and we hope to feature some older cognacs again in the near future. If all goes as planned, there will be a little surprise in the next issue. After all, it will be number 100 and that is a milestone which should be noted in some sort of celebration.

We'll be back before the holidays, so watch for a special issue (hopefully) then.

—DMS—

THE

VOL. XVII No. 3  
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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 were all found in different parts of the U.S. The point though is that they were all found here in the U.S. and no one had to travel to a foreign clime to get them. Which one or ones of these is available in your area? Chances are at least one of them is. Have you bought extras to swap or even sell to other collectors who live in less fortunate places? Hmmm?

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# WHAT'S NEW

## Old, Odd, or Unusual



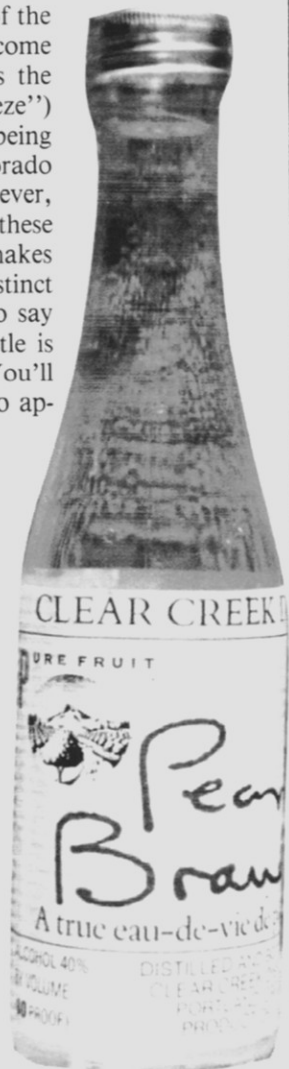
You've already been teased by the cover with the three bottles shown there. These eight bottles are all currently available around the U.S. as are many more which are seldom seen by the majority of collectors.

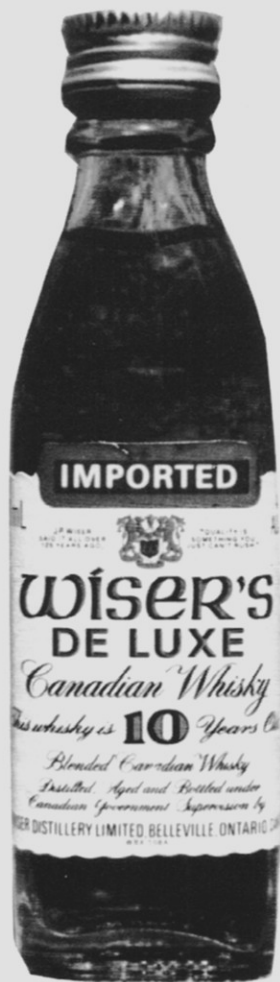
The three on the cover we need not spend much time with except to give you a few particulars. Both Crystal Comfort and Yukon Jack Gold are in plastic while the Black Hawk is glass. Just to get your sights set on something, the Black Hawk is available (now at least) only in Tennessee. And, I believe many of you

would heartily agree when I say that this is the best labeled bottle to be issued here for some time. Now let's move on.

One bottle which will be appearing everywhere (including every foreign country into which it is exported) is the new Highland Park 12 year old Single Malt Scotch. The company decided on a bottle change last year and only this summer did the new bottle hit. It's glass and comes in the highly colorful tube. A definite winner.

The poorest picture is of one of the most interesting glass bottles to come along in many a moon. This is the new Fris (pronounced "freeze") Vodka from Denmark. This is being test marketed in Arizona, Colorado and upper New York state; however, it isn't known whether all of these areas will have the mini. What makes it interesting is that there is a distinct difference in the glass bottle. To say that there is a shelf on the bottle is underemphasizing the design. You'll have to actually see the bottle to appreciate it.





Fleischmann's Preferred 90 proof is a short plastic bottle with the highlights on the label in red. It's rather undistinguished...but, try to find it.

Certain states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and many others (about one third of the states) control not only what liquor you may buy but also the price of it. (Remember, no competition means higher prices). Usually this translates that a control state will have the absolute pits when it comes to minis. So, how do we explain Wisner's De Luxe being sold in Pennsylvania? We don't. It's a fluke and probably



won't last long so get 'em while they're there. It's also a glass bottle!

Now the last bottle is a current favorite of mine. It's glass and not embossed, but it does have something very interesting going for it. This is Clear Creek (Williams) Pear Brandy. Or, as the label states: A true eau-de-vie de pear. It was found in California but it's actually from Portland, Oregon. C'mon, how many distilleries do we have in Portland? The label is a complete wrap-around and that's a little different, too.

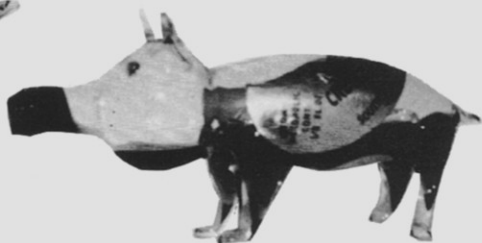
More new ones next time.



# the g-r-r-eatest

by

"BUTCH" JONES



This article discusses a few of my favorite glass figurals that you may not see very often. All are from the late 1940's to the early 1950's.

The first bottle is a hand blown penguin by Miniature Specialties and contains Kuemmel. The companion piece is a little pig produced by the Southern Sales Company which contains Creme De Violet.

Leaving the blown glass animals, we can look at three pressed glass pieces. These are three miniature glass lamps. The first is by Southern Sales and is filled with Creme de Menthe. The second bottle also contains Creme de Menthe but it is from the Miniature Specialties Company. The final piece is again from Southern Sales and is filled with cognac.

— B.J. —

# Glass!



An area seldom covered by anyone and usually relegated to the least attractive spot in any collection. You've guessed. Wines. Truly the poor misunderstood stepchild of bottle collecting, miniature wines are usually given little value and even less desirability from collectors. However, to complete the metaphor, often the ugly duckling or poor stepchild may become Cinderella.

The six bottles shown here are but a handful of magnificent wines which were available roughly fifty-five years

ago. In the U.S. there were the ceramic pieces of Meiers, Gallo, Alta, etc. and a variety of beautifully embossed glass bottles. The six shown here though are all from Europe and were purchased by a collector in London and Paris in 1935.

Let's begin with the three Bordeaux. These are from left to right: 1929 Graves Superieures, 1928 Sauternes, and a Monopole Rouge of no vintage. These were made for consumption in both the U.K. and (possibly) the U.S. One of the most



interesting characteristics of these three pieces is the amount of wine. Each bottle contains 2.475 fluid ounces. (That's roughly 73ml or 7.3cl).

The tallest member of our remaining trio is the Port Old Vintage 1907 from Nicolau de Almeida & Co. of Portugal. Obviously there will be collections with older wines, but this one will do nicely for me. Just imagine if you had a case or two of this hidden away somewhere. Makes a nice thought, doesn't it?

The last two bottles are also from Portugal but are very, very special. They were both made to commemorate the silver anniversary or The Jubilee (1910-1935) of King George V. The first bottle merely mentions The Jubilee, but the second bottle states the following on its label: Fauerheerd's supplied the only Port Wine at the banquets given by the President of France to H.M. King George V at the Elysee, April 21, 1914 and November 28, 1918. Bottled history. . .don't you agree?

# WISCONSIN



No. 1  
BABY ROBIN

Some people know this story, but many others do not. Those who do may find it interesting to have their memories jogged a bit while those who have never heard it will probably have a few previously unanswered questions taken care of.

Over twenty years ago there was a company in Milwaukee named the Edward P. Fitzgerald Company. Not so oddly this was operated by Ed Fitzgerald and his top salesman and friend, John Solsrud. Both Ed and John were getting a bit long in the tooth and decided that retirement was the way to go. So the company was sold and Ed and John retired.



No. 2  
BLUE JAY

# WILD-LIFE



No. 3  
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

As many others have found down through the years, retirement maybe isn't what you thought it would be. In short, Ed and John were going a little bonkers from inactivity. They couldn't start up the Edward P. Fitzgerald Co. as Ed had not only sold his company but also his name. The solution was found and in 1973 the Jon-Sol Co. of Milwaukee came into being.

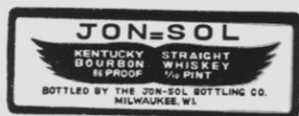
This was the time of more and more increasing interest in ceramic bottles, both large and small;



No. 4  
CARDINAL



No. 5  
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD



No. 6  
RED-EYED VIREO

however, both Ed and John decided that miniatures were the way to go. Thus in 1974 the Baby Robin was issued. There followed five other bird bottles and also some specialty items. The company was in business until 1988 and during its fifteen years of operation added a great deal to our hobby.

Unfortunately both Ed Fitzgerald and John Solsrud have passed away, but their legacy will continue through these bottles and the Jon-Sol name will be remembered.



# HOFFMAN



This is Mr. Pilot. He's the newest (and possibly the cleverest) of all the Mr. Lucky pieces. Naturally, Mr. Pilot is the latest offering from the Hoffman National Collectors Club. You can find out more about the club by writing them at P.O. Box 37341, Cincinnati, OH 45222.

Down through the years, Hoffman has issued some extremely great bottles which now hold premium positions on collectors' shelves. And, if you like Mr. Pilot, you're sure to like the next in the series, Mr. Golfer.

# MINI WORLD

by

SCOTT T. REINHART



Licor de Cacao (Cocoa)  
Licor de Groselha (Raspberry)  
Licor de Cafe (Coffee)

One of the pleasures of hunting minis is discovering new bottles in unexpected places. The laws governing the sale of spirits sometimes appears erratic and travelers to foreign countries soon learn that "good luck" discoveries happen more often when you learn where to look. Whenever my travels take me to a foreign country, I check out every retail establish-

ment, whether it is a candy store, newsstand, grocery, department store and (of course) cafes and bars.

During a brief stopover in the Azores, I visited the island of Terceira and stopped in the quaint seaside village of Pria. From the central square of town, the beautiful cobblestone streets eventually lead past small stores to a crescent shaped





Licor Triple Sec

Licor Anis (contains rock sugar)

Licor de Amendoa (Almond)

beach. It was a hot day, and an ice cold Sagres beer in the lone cafe overlooking the deserted beach seemed like a great idea. Several doors away I noticed a shop that displayed baskets and wickerware in front. I stopped to look at the baskets and other knick-knacks, and inside I discovered a gold mine of minis, mostly from Portugal, Maderia, and

the Azores. At this one stop, I purchased over 70 new bottles that I had never seen before. After a lengthy discussion with a shopkeeper, I learned that the distillery for most of the minis was located about an hours drive away. Off we went!

In a little more than two hours (back roads), we were on the exact other side of the island, at the Soc.



Licor de Limao (Lemon)  
Licor de Tangerina (Tangerine)  
Licor de Pessego (Apple?)

Comercial Carreiro, Ltd., in the town of Biscoitos. The distillery itself seemed to be a tiny, family operated affair, and since it was Saturday, it was shut down. The tasting room was open however, and in this small dusty room we got to sample many of the liqueurs that we normally only get to look at through the sealed bottles of the minis we collect. I checked out the display of minis, and found out that I already had every one displayed. But, I paid less in Pria since the shopkeeper discounted my purchase when I bought so many.

—S.T.R.—



Licor de Morango (Strawberry)  
Licor de Leita (Milk)  
Licor de Laranja (Orange)

Some notes on the bottles:

All of the bottles were glass with plain gold colored aluminum pilfer-proof caps that looked as though they were applied by hand with some sort of primitive crimper.

Series 1 - Carreiro.

These were produced by the Soc.

Comercial Carreiro LDA in the town of Biscoitos on the Island of Terceira, Azores, Portugal. The labels were most likely hand applied since a small mini labeling machine was not in evidence in the bottling plant and the labels are not uniformly placed. The printing on the labels is multicolor, of a good quality, but on poor paper. The tax stamps are Portuguese.

# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature nine Rye Whiskeys. All but the first bottle were produced during the 1930's and I would classify them as being fairly rare. . .but obtainable. Rye Whiskeys seem to be very popular among collectors and are limited in numbers with most of the bottles being produced before the War. Anyway, this has been said before, so enough talk.

The first bottle is Dillinger Pennsylvania Straight Rye Whiskey Bottled by Ruffsdale Distilling Company Ruffsdale, PA. It is 100 proof and



was BIB 1912-1928. Next is Old Farm Straight Pennsylvania Rye Whiskey Distilled and Bottled by A Overholt and Co. Broad Ford, PA. It is 93 proof and was Distilled Spring 1933 and Bottled Fall 1934. (I have this same label in a twenty month old variation.) This is followed by Old Farm Pennsylvania Straight Rye Whiskey Distilled by Large Distilling Co. Large, PA. It is 93 proof, 2 years old and has a 1936 Illinois tax stamp.

The next three bottles are variations of Kasko Maryland Straight Rye Whiskey Distilled and Bottled by Kasko Distillers Products Corp. Philadelphia, PA. The first two have the same labels with the corker being the older of the pair. Both are 90 proof and two years old. The last of these is a slightly later variation and is 90 proof and three years old.



# melo's minis



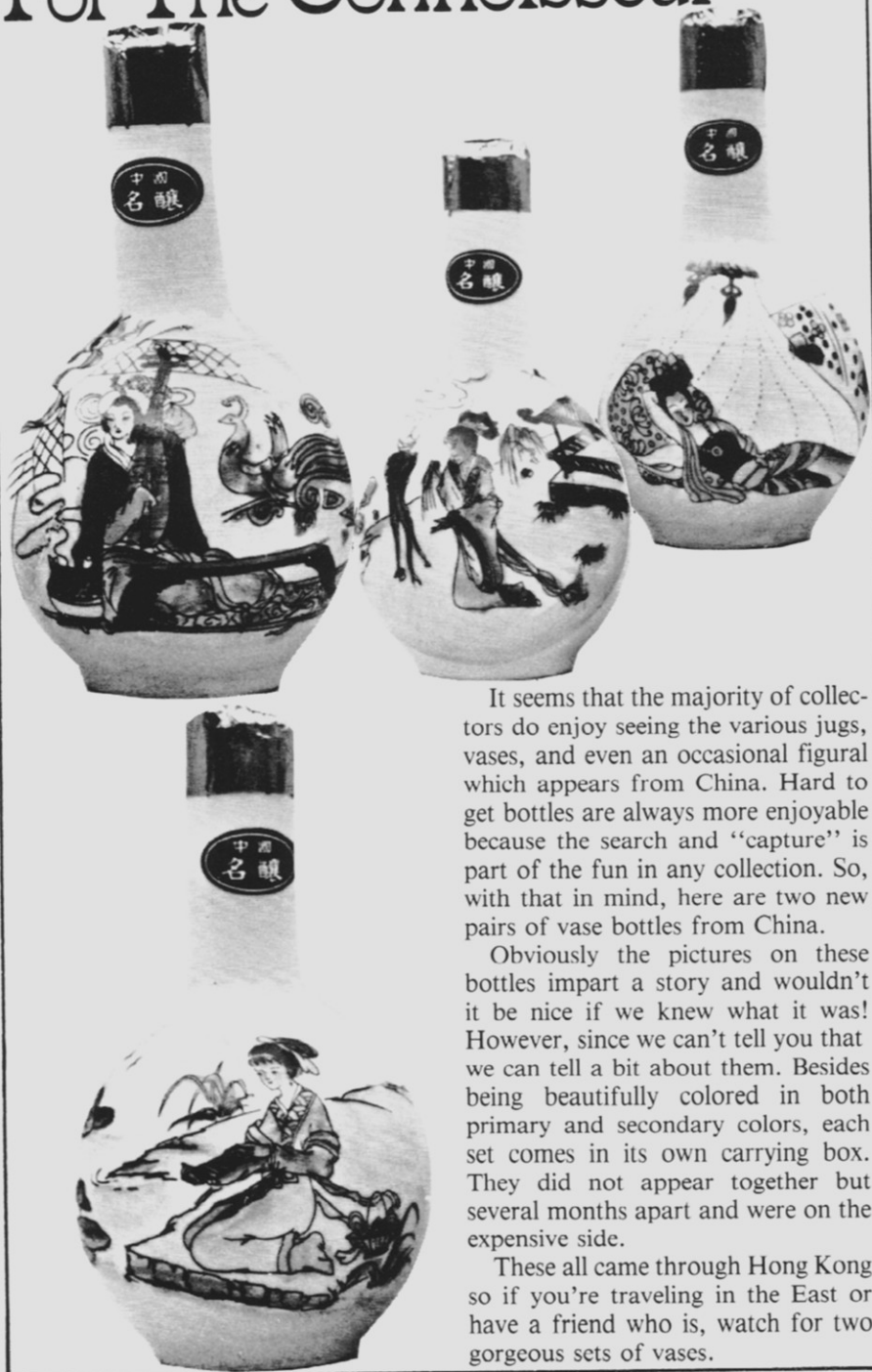
Bottle number seven is Moroney Army and Navy Brand A Blend of Straight Rye Whiskies Blended and Bottled by The Baltimore Pure Rye Distilling Co. for James Moroney Philadelphia, PA. It is 90 proof at 3 years and five months old. The last bottles are a pair of Carroll Club Maryland Straight Rye Whiskey Distilled and Bottled by The Baltimore Pure Rye Distilling Co. for Liberty Distributors Inc. Dundalk Maryland. The amber glass bottle is 90 proof at one year and 8 months old. The clear glass bottle is 90 proof at two years old.

Finally, I have noticed that most of the bottles with Pennsylvania tax stamps have little stickers that state: "Sample Not To Be Sold" along with other verbiage. I do not have any information on why these were used, having always assumed it was to get around some obsolete state law. If any collector knows the exact history on this, please contact me and I will publish it in a future article.

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

Until next time. . . M E L O

# For The Connoisseur



It seems that the majority of collectors do enjoy seeing the various jugs, vases, and even an occasional figural which appears from China. Hard to get bottles are always more enjoyable because the search and "capture" is part of the fun in any collection. So, with that in mind, here are two new pairs of vase bottles from China.

Obviously the pictures on these bottles impart a story and wouldn't it be nice if we knew what it was! However, since we can't tell you that we can tell a bit about them. Besides being beautifully colored in both primary and secondary colors, each set comes in its own carrying box. They did not appear together but several months apart and were on the expensive side.

These all came through Hong Kong so if you're traveling in the East or have a friend who is, watch for two gorgeous sets of vases.

# SMALL TALK

by

Harry Ford, Jr.

This is the first of two articles on Lemon Gins from Holland. Most of these bottles were made in the 1940's for domestic Dutch consumption. I have about 160 regular old gin bottles (glass and jugs) from this period, but have only 14 lemon gins. The first group of lemon gins is of irregular or round shapes. The next article will be on the beautiful "case" gins. While many of the Dutch gins came in green glass or crocks, almost all of the lemon gins are in clear glass. I suppose that makes it easier for the consumer to spot the flavored contents.

The first example is Blankenheim. This is a beautifully embossed and unusual square bottle. The label pictures a skeleton key which is also embossed on the side of the bottle and on the plastic cap. The other embossing is an elaborate signature of the company name "Blankenheim & Nolet".







The next unusually shaped bottle is by J.G. Goodymans & Zoon N.V. This bottle has the company name embossed on the back, as well as an asterisk type logo, and "shertog enbosch Holland". I have found that most Dutch dictionaries are of little help in translating the labels.

The next rectangular shaped bottle has an indentation for the label. It also has the company name "Martevelt's" and city "Linden" embossed

on the side. All of these bottles have some writing on the cap, and I believe that the year 1734 is the beginning of the company.

The P. Bokma Gin has the name on the front label, embossed and on the side, and still again on a lead seal on the cap. The city of origin, Leeuwarden, Holland, is also embossed on the side of the bottle.

The Visser & Co. of Schiedam, Holland is one of the only regularly

# SMALL TALK



shaped glass bottles. Because of the corks in the bottles and the lead foil seals, many of these bottles have suffered little evaporation.

The "De Vink" lemon gin of Schiedam is of the more typical round green glass bottles that the regular gins are in. In addition to the lemons on the label, the lead foil cap is also

yellow.

The Mispelblom is in a clear round glass bottle. The pictured farmhouse has the smoke from the chimney announcing the year of founding: 1770.

I hope you've enjoyed this group of lemon-flavored Dutch gins. There will be more next time.

—H.F.—

# UPDATE



Hello, whisky bottle hunters! This time I'm here with a new whisky miniature which you may not yet know of. It was first issued at the bottle show of the East-German collector club in Leipzig on August 26, 1989. It's a jubilee bottle of the Falckenthal Distillery at Luckenwalde in the G.D.R.

This year the Choice Brandies and Spirits National Co. Luckenwalde, formerly C.W. Falckenthal & Sons Luckenwalde, celebrates the jubilee of 230 years of its establishment in 1759. 230 years of a continuous perfection in distilling of finest liquors.

For this occasion, the Falckenthal Distillery has yet to bottle the famous

Der Falckner Whiskey 43% Vol. in a limited issue by the firm Anger & Co. Grimma, into a shaped clear glass miniature of 50ml capacity. The golden label of this bottle shows the black Falckenthal's falcon in a blue field and informs in the English language about the 230th anniversary.

In Leipzig there were sold these miniatures in a series of three, each with differently colored metallic screw caps: black, gold and white. Each set sold for 15 (Eastern) marks. But there are single bottles for sale in small quantities directly in Grimma at Anger & Co. for 5 marks each.

—Ivan Uhlik—



Jerry Cohen

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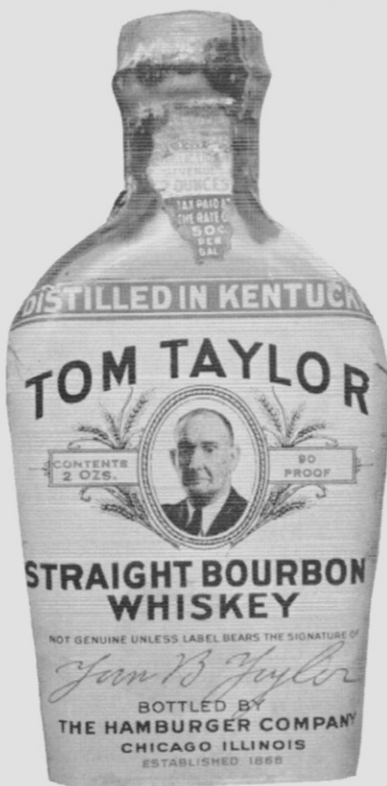
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**Tokyo Miniature Bottle Club:**  
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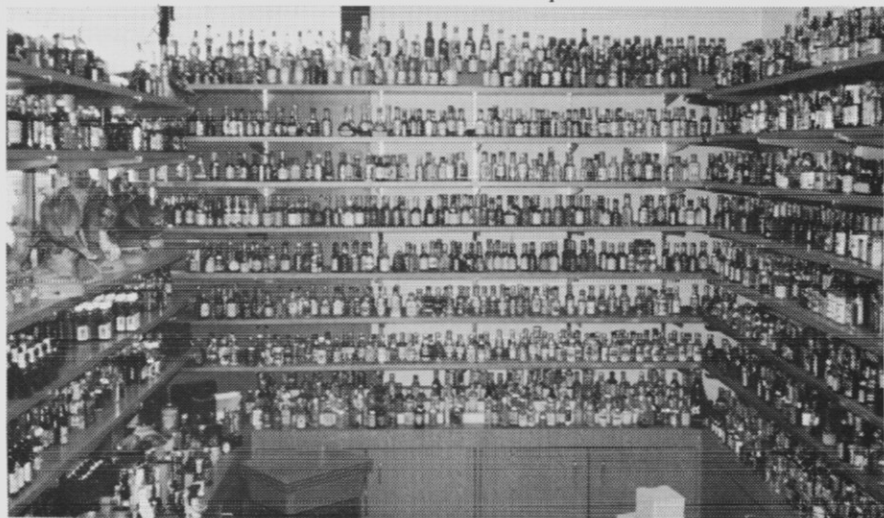
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