

THE

VOL. XVII No. 5
No. 101 1991

**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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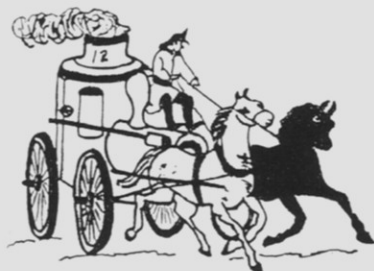
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Let's Talk

The new decade has finally begun and we also begin our second decade of issues. Don't know if we'll make another 100 though.

I do want to thank all of you who took the time to either write or call concerning the cover on the last issue. We got some marvelous letters and some very nice phone calls. If we get a nice number of new subscribers this year and you all hopefully decide to renew, we should be able to have another color cover for the last issue of 1991. Let's go for it!

This issue brings Bob Kay back to us once again with some quite interesting info. Next issue will also see Terry Kramer once again reporting from Canada as well as a new writer from Germany, Holm Hars.

Next time we'll also have part two of the Royal Wedding bottles as they just couldn't all be squeezed in this time.

In my column for Gulliver's Gazette (the Lilliputian Club bulletin), I made mention last time that I specifically was designating 1991 as the Year of the Bottle. Since no one else had decided to do this most sensible undertaking, I felt I had to do my bit. Now, won't you please do your best to help my proclamation take on some meaning!

See you in two months.

— DMS —

THE

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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The old joke used to be that you had to have the DT's to see a pink elephant. The cover disproves that old saw. This is indeed the Rynbende Pink Elephant which made its appearance in Europe about thirty plus years ago. This bottle is seldom seen and then usually without the ears which form the stopper. Along with the Blue Policeman, this elephant is one of the rarest of all the Rynbende bottles.

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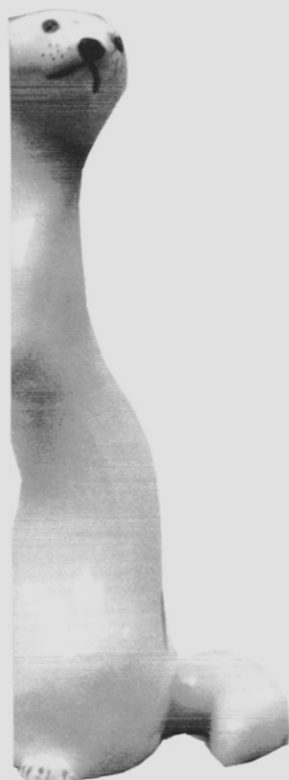
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WHAT'S NEW

Old, Odd, or Unusual



This article is noteworthy not only for what it shows but for what it isn't showing. We'll get the unshown pieces out of the way first.

A photo which just didn't reproduce well had the great Blanton's bottle as well as the new Jim Beam Baron Von Schlichter's Peach Schnapps. The Jim Beam is available in only a handful of markets so we'll try the photography again. And, we'll definitely give the Blanton's another shot...for it's the best piece to come out of the U.S. in many a year. In fact we'll reshoot to show you both the original and the re-issued Blanton's. Did you know there were two?

So that's what isn't here. Now we'll discuss the positives. First is the only

plebian bottle in the group, the Barton Peach Schnapps. This is simply a standard bottle but in our quest to bring you the myriad incarnations of schnapps, this is but one more. On to the prizes.

Usually this column sticks with the glass (or occasionally plastic) bottles, so this is somewhat of a departure. Currently in London, Harrods department store has a set of six jugs or flagons which were made for them by the Lindisfarne people but which now contain Glen Fiona scotch. Some time ago it was pointed out to Harrods that their flagons would be more successful if they contained scotch. (This was the work of U.K. collector David L. Maund.) All told there are twelve of the Glen Fiona scotch flagons, but



six are made exclusively for Harrods.

The three shown here picture three different versions of the famous Harrods delivery van. The earliest of course is the horse-drawn van. It is followed by the 1919 Walker Electric van. And the third in the group is the 1939 Electric van. The other three pieces in the set we'll show you in a future issue.

We have saved the best for last. The remaining bottle is the Gordon Highlander (Pointer's) ceramic which first appeared in August of 1990. It's the actual miniature of a large ceramic which was issued in 1988. The only difference between the large and the mini is that the single malt scotch whisky in each was produced at different percentage/proof. There have

now been three full size decanters issued and there are to be three of the minis also. In fact, the second in the mini set was to be marketed just before Christmas.

The bottle itself comes in an excellent presentation box which is simply one more plus for this marvelous item. The one negative is the price. This very limited piece is found in London from between 30 to 35 pounds. The current rate of exchange makes that \$59-69. The lower rate of the two is for the duty free shops at either Gatwick or Heathrow. However, just think if you collected the larger size decanters. This one sells for 240 pounds or \$470 at the current rate!

SMALL TALK

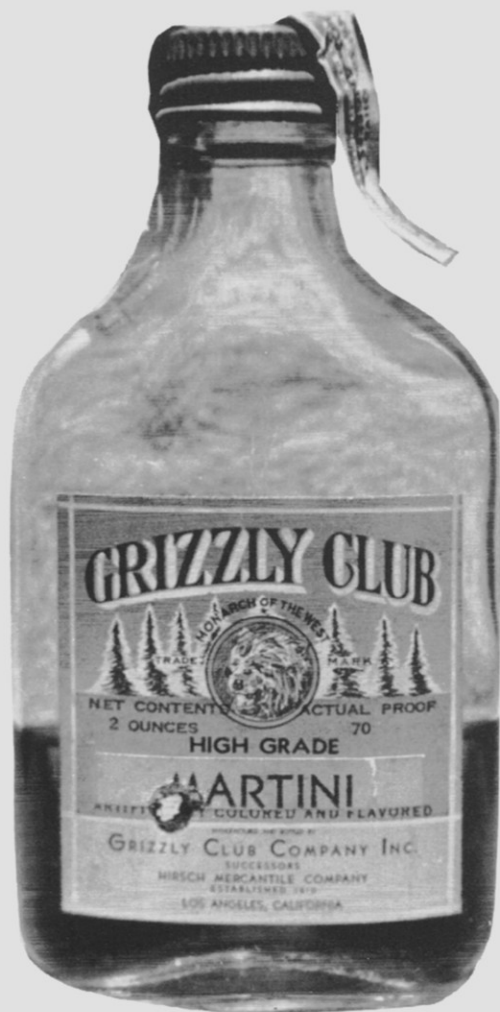
by

HARRY FORD, Jr.



The classic Dry Martini contains the Gin I collect, so I have accumulated a number of Martini Cocktails. A popular formula is: 4 or 5 parts dry gin to 1 part dry vermouth then stir with ice into a chilled glass and serve with a twist of lemon peel or an olive. A cobalt blue shaker would add some additional class in the preparation of the mixture, as would crystal glasses!





The first of these bottles is from BELLE ISLE of Los Angeles and is blended to 60 proof. This appears to be a late 1930's bottle. Unfortunately I do not have a gin of this bottle. The second bottle is SHOTS brand Martini Cocktail from McKesson-Western Wholesale Drug Co., Ltd. of Los Angeles. This bottle would have been bottled shortly after prohibition, as indicated by the 11th Permissive



District notation on the label.

The third bottle is GRIZZLY CLUB. It is labeled high grade, perhaps because it is 70 proof. The Grizzly Club company was also based in Los Angeles, and put out a number of bottles. The ROYAL CREST brand is by the still existing Bohemian Distributing Co. of Los Angeles. This bottle has serving instructions on a label on the back.

SMALL TALK

The next Martini Cocktail is by ALTAIR PERE & FILS of Los Angeles, Bordeaux and Brussels. The label is copyright 1934 and is manufactured in Los Angeles. The back label indicates that it is bottled under Permit No. Calif. 0-109. It also has a Rectifiers Permit number. The last bottle is by SILVER SWAN Liqueur Corp. of San Francisco in Jan. 1934 under Calif. Permit 0-19. Some of the other brands of Calif. Martinis I have are: Vim, Stratford, GGG, Corona, Rivera, High Life, and VanDeusen. I hope you have enjoyed this look at some unusual cocktails from California.

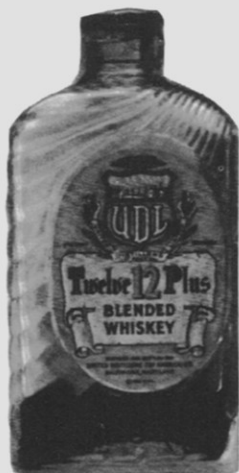
— H.F. —



the g-r-r-eatest

by

"BUTCH" JONES



The UDL (United Distiller's Limited) Company produced some great miniatures in the 1930's. Pictured are four flasks from 1930.

The first three are 90 proof blended whiskeys and were blended and bottled for UDL (of America), Baltimore, MD. The last one is a 90 proof Canadian Whiskey, but was bottled by UDL in Vancouver, Canada. Although I have only showed flasks, UDL made several round glass bottles in the 1930's also.





MINIATURE BEERS

by Bob Kay



ABOUT LABELS:

For example, do you know the major label types? Paper, decal, or foil? Of course foil paper is regular paper with a tin foil like layer over which the design is printed. Foil labels are easy to identify as their claim to fame is their bright and shiny finish. However, this brilliant design tends to rub off or flake rather easily with handling and the foil layer tends to separate from the backing at the edges. Thus, foil labels look great when new but don't stand up well to handling. This wasn't a problem with full sized labels because of short life expectancy, but it's a different matter with minis.

Paper labels can be identified quickly by rubbing your finger across the edge of the label. You can feel the edge! Decal labels, on the other hand, are so thin you can't feel the edge. Paper labels absorb dirt and water stains readily while decal labels are like a skin over the surface of the bottle; they have a tough stain resistant finish. However, decals are subject to cracking — perhaps from wide or quick temperature swings. The most common failing of decal labels are small nicks (pinholes) in the skin. When you see a pro holding a bottle up to light and looking through the back, it's a check for pinholes in the



decal. These flaws are not readily apparent without back lighting.

While there isn't a sharply defined date when label materials changed, there are some notable trends. After prohibition ended in 1933, the first labels on minis were predominantly decal with the balance being paper. Decals provided better durability than the paper used on full sized products. However, by the mid-1940's, the more expensive decal label on minis yielded to paper while foil paper examples began to appear. By 1950 foil paper became quite popular on minis paralleling its use on full size bottles.

Because many Bills bottles were-

filled with water to make the finished package look more authentic, these labels carried a disclaimer in very small print that read "Does not contain Beer" or "Does not contain Ale."

ABOUT GLASSWARE:

Quick, what are the common sizes? Piece of cake! These are 3, 3¼, 4, and 4¼ inches. The 3 inch varieties are referred to as stubbies while the 4 inches are longnecks.

And what are the most common marks on the bottom of the bottles? Easy! 90% or more are marked either Muth or Bills. The pros can tell these



marks at a glance. Newer bottles marked Taiwan began appearing in the 1970's long after both Muth and Bills were out of business. New beers made in Taiwan continue to be produced today. They are easily identified by their plastic caps.

95% or more of the glassware is in brown or amber. Miller High Life, true to its full size counterpart, is a good example of a clear glass type. Green glass was sometimes used to identify ales. Drewrys Ale (IN-3) and Ballantine's Ale (NJ-6) are common examples. On Canadian Ace (IL-14) the label is beer but the glassware was green to remind you of ale. Of course Canadian Ace Ale and Beer both came out of the same tanks so who cares!

ABOUT MINI BEER SHORTHAND:

Yes, collectors have abbreviations for all this stuff! For example "p dncB 4¼B" translates to — a paper label with Does not contain Beer in small print on a 4¼ inch Bills bottle. Abbreviations and identification numbers such as IN-3, IL-14 and NJ-6 facilitate correspondence between collectors. Photos for most and descriptions and price zones for all known mini beers are detailed in books titled **Miniature Beer Bottles & Go-Withs** or **Mini Beer Update**. Procurement information can be obtained from Bob Kay, 216 N. Batavia Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510.

Enjoy the pictures. Till next time...

— B.K. —

Glass!



As I have assumed the new age in our area created new conditions, it has also for us miniature bottle collectors created new bottles. The newest examples are from the firm E.L. Storz at Grossenhain, Saxony. Formerly they produced the East-German standard mini drinks only as the brands Goldbrand and Juwel Klarer.

Now that firm has been bought by Mr. G. Thielke, and, three new miniatures were marketed for a short time. As I was in Grossenhain recently, I saw them there in a liquor shop. All three bottles are round clear glass East-German standard miniatures of 50 ml capacity, stopped with golden metallic screw caps.

As you can see in the pictures, the labels are of a unified shape and

design. At the bottom of each label there is the trademark of E.L. Storz. In the middle of the label the title of the drink and over it a symbol - an Indian chief's head for Gold-Storz 32% (a mild grape brandy blend), an icebear for Eismint 25% (a peppermint cream liqueur), and a German village for Stonsdorfer 35% (a traditional cordial).

In the near future some new Storz' creations may be issued by Mr. Thielke's firm: a clear spirit, a cherry liqueur, etc. That information comes from the shop assistant where I bought the Storz' miniatures. Naturally, I will show you them immediately when they are issued in the market.

— I. U. —

MINI WORLD



In the last two decades, whenever anyone has written about the Hungarian Zwack bottles, the bottles are usually designated "the Cadillacs" of the bottle collecting world. Well, if the Zwacks are the Caddies, then the bottles from Hartwig Kantorowicz are the Lincolns!

I first heard of these bottles when certain collectors would ask for a milk glass Hartwig Kantorowicz bitters. I'd never seen nor heard of one but I determined I'd keep my eyes open. Not too much time passed before I

spotted an ad in a publication devoted to old bottles, or those which people find out in the desert, or when they dig in old dumps, or when they look under old outhouses! Anyway, this want ad offered \$100 for the Litt-hauer H.K. Aromatic Bitters in milk glass. And...that was empty with no label. From the day on I knew I'd be looking for Hartwig Kantorowicz bottles.

In the ensuing twenty years, I've been able to find exactly seven different bottles from this firm. These



bottles are shown here: Dubelt Goldwasser, Curacao Tripe Sec, Blackby, Allash Doppio Kummel, Podbienta Reiterlikör, Kummel, and the aforementioned Aromatic Bitters.

Unfortunately I do not have a history of the Hartwig Kantorowicz firm. However, this much may be pieced together. The company was established in 1823 and lasted a little over 100 years. It was headquartered in Berlin with another outlet in Hamburg. With Hitler's rise to power in the 1930's, Kantorowicz was forced to

close their doors. You may note the Star of David on the Kummel label. Jewish firms did not prosper in the mid-1930's in Berlin!

The bottles themselves all came in two sizes. The smaller size contained two ounces while the larger was over three. The embossing is magnificent. The Blackby has the entire name embossed in a circular design in the center of which is a large Star of David.

Now, how many others are there which aren't shown here?

— DMS —

melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature ten Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskeys produced by the T.W. Samuels Distillery Inc. Deatsville, Nelson County, Ky. Samuels produced a fair amount of bottles during the 1930's and early '40's and a lesser amount during the late 1940's. Their miniature output, as with many other distillers, seems to have ended circa

1950. Samuels also distilled whiskey which was bottled for other labels such as Old Jordan, Marco's Crest and others. This seems to have been a fairly common practice during the 1930's.

Anyway, bottle number one has a red label with a black center panel and is 90 proof, 30 months old and was made about 1940. Bottle number two



also has a red label, but the center panel is burgundy. It is 90 proof, 30 months old and was made about 1936. This is followed by the black label version with a red center panel and bottled at 100 proof, two years old and made about 1936.

Now on to a new group where we find a round variation of the black label except that the Kentucky is missing from the label. It is 100 proof and

was purchased for 60¢ on 7-28-39 in Frankfort, Ky. Bottle number five was bottled by Country Distiller Products and has a white label with a tiny red label in the upper left corner. It is 90 proof, four years old and was made about 1949. Number six is another white label, but with a tiny black label. It is 100 proof, BIB 1945-1950 and is amber glass.



The next three bottles are Samuel's Four Decades Brand. All have tan labels picturing four different modes of transportation and are Bottled in Bond. The round variation is BIB 1934-1942 and was bottled by Country Distillers Products. The two flats are BIB 1937-1941 and BIB 1934-1938 respectively.

The last bottle is exactly the same as the first bottle, except it has a screw cap instead of a pull off cap. Finally, here I go again. I collect variations and find it very enjoyable to obtain as many examples of a brand as possible.

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



For The Connoisseur



This is another one of those pieces that cries out to be seen in color. Not that it's the most colorful bottle to be seen; however, the color that is here would definitely give you what is known as a red herring.

For those who've never heard the term before, it means a false clue. The clue that you think you'd get when seeing this bottle is that the high glaze brown would most assuredly tell you that this fellow is a piece of Royal Doulton Kingsware. But, he's not! If you put him with a group of the Doultons, he wouldn't stand out as being different as does a Japanese Giveaway when placed next to a German one.

This piece however is certainly a copy of the Doulton Kingsware characters and style. Rumor has it that this bottle and one or two others (or even possibly more) were produced in the late 1920's-early 1930's era in Spain and were to be passed off as Kingsware pieces. Since those Doulton bottles almost always contained a quality scotch (often Dewers), it's easy to see why counterfeiting could be lucrative.

For vital statistics, our watchman stands 5¾", his head is the stopper and he is completely unmarked. Who can add more information for us?

MEET THE COLLECTOR:

JOHN WYSS

Greetings, Fellow Collectors! My name is John Wyss and my game is mini beers. Some of you will recognize my name from the numerous classified ads which I have placed in the MBC (begging) for prepro's, foreign, and unlisted miniature beers.

My wife Kathy and I started collecting mini beer and liquor bottles probably because of heritage as much as fascination. Kathy was a professional bartender for six years and my family line has owned several neighborhood taverns. Also, my brother is a big brewery collectibles enthusiast. I even think my grandmother might have done a little bootlegging in her time. You see, booze collecting became only natural for us.

We have been faithfully collecting mini bottles for about ten years but now collect only beers. Although we

enjoy all types of minis, the beers have always been my personal favorites. So, we decided to specialize in them.

Specializing does have its drawbacks (especially when it comes to the old pocketbook), but our ongoing problem with display space had to be resolved. Now that we have narrowed our collecting interest to only beers, there is more time for research and letter writing.

Because we do specialize, we decided to incorporate a few "loose rules" in order to keep our collection focused. For instance: Rule #1 - We collect only "true" bottles (no growlers). I define a bottle as a vessel which could be capable of holding a liquid (this excludes wooden openers). Rule #2 - Overall condition is extremely important to us (approximately 90% of our



beers are grade one condition). We are forever upgrading the collection to give it a "museum quality" appearance. Of course, some latitude must be given for prepros and other rare beers - sometimes you don't get a second chance. Rule #3 - The label must represent beer, ale or the related equivalent thereof. Rule #4 - We collect all variations including foreign, domestic, preprohibition, post prohibition, unlisted and microminis, etc.

With some of the groundwork out of the way, here is the breakdown of our beer collection:

Overall Total (all diff.)	822
Total Domestic	481
Total Foreign	341

Prepro's	26
Microminis	231
Countries Represented	21
Unlisted in Kay books	148
Highest single price paid	\$240
Oldest bottle	1890
Personal Favorite	Hochgreve
First Beer Collected	Blatz

If you have any questions or beers available, feel free to contact us. Please note our new address and phone: John & Kathy Wyss, 1941 Grantwood Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240. Phone: (319) 337-9965.

In closing, we cordially welcome anyone to visit our home for a personal tour and a cold (what else is there?) BEER!!!



TREASURES OF THE PAST



PART ONE

This is the tenth anniversary. Yes, this summer will mark the ten years of Lady Diana and Prince Charles. Actually, their names should be reversed (protocol, you know) but sometimes it's beauty before age.

There's not much to tell you about the pieces issued and shown here. This may be a complete group of the ceramics or there may be a recalcitrant one somewhere we don't know about. The jugs/flacons were produced by the Rutherford company in Scotland while the others were all done by the famous Aidees of Torquay. If you do know of others, please let us know.







Jerry Cohen

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The California Miniature Bottle Club:
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Del-Val Miniature Bottle Club:
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**Great Lakes Miniature Bottle
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230460, Fair Haven, MI 48023.

Lilliputian Miniature Bottle Club:
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Kiski Mini Beam & Spec. Club:
c/o Mr. John D. Ferchak, Jr., 816
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15146.

Midwest Miniature Bottle Club:
Verne Brinker, St. Andrews Woods,
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**Miniature Bottle Club of Southern
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Northwest Mini Club of Portland:
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Oregon Miniature Bottle Club:
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**Western New York Miniature Liquor
Club:** c/o Mr. Wayne Full, P.O. Box
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**MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB OF
KOBE:** c/o Dr. Takashi Funabiki,
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**Greater Edmonton Miniature Liquor
Bottle Collectors Association:** c/o
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**Miniature Flasch sammler Deutsch-
lands e.V.:** c/o Gerd Steffenhagen,
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Club Delle Mignonnettes:
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The Mini Bottle Club:
c/o David Hamilton, 47 Burradon
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Osaka Miniature Bottle Club:
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Hakucho 1-Chome, Habikino-shi,
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**Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle
Club:** c/o Mr. David Smith, 86
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Tokyo Miniature Bottle Club:
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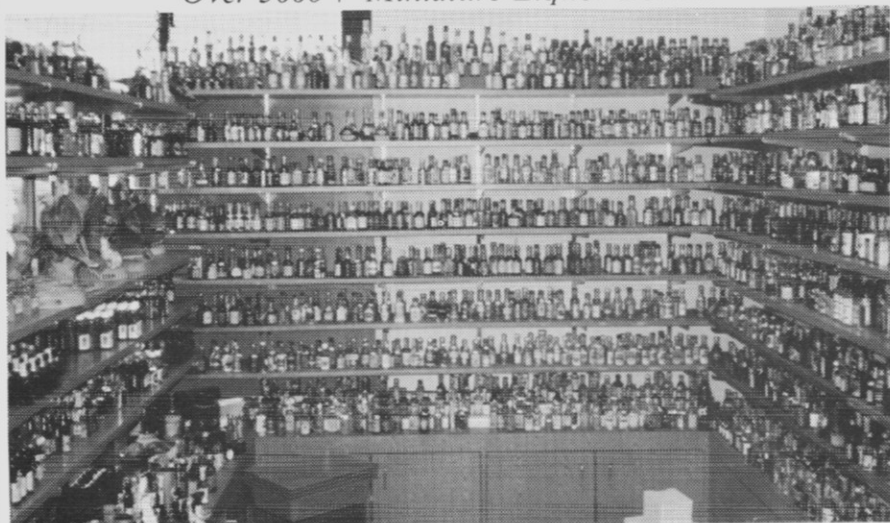
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WANTED: Looking for older figurals, especially European. Interested in all Robj bottles, Manhattans, Luxardo pear, Garnier snail and cards, Old Store, Drioli & Dor trains, Rynbende Chimney Sweep, etc. Please send list, description (full or empty) and preferably photos to Roy Waldman, #1102, 1835 Morton Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6G1V3 Canada or call (604) 228-8989.

FOR SALE: Hoffman, Ski Country, Ezra Brooks, McCormick, Lionstone in both mini and large. For a complete list including prices, send a SASE to: C. Arnold, 243 E. Larwill Street, Wooster, OH 44691.

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FOR SALE: Misc. Mini Figural bottles such as: Lionstone Fancy Birds and Tropical Birds, F.A. California Bird set, Last Chance Bar Scene with frame and many others. Send SASE for list. Keith L. Holt, 2892 Sand Creek Hwy., Adrian, MI 49221.

NOTICE: We have many duplicate mini bottles for sale including most Ski Country, a few Alpha, Collectors Art, Cyrus Noble, Famous Firsts, Hoffman, Kontinental, Last Chance, Lionstone, MBC, McCormick, Pacesetter, and Wild Turkey. Write for list. Bill and Carol Dopheide, 2558 So. Acoma, Denver, CO 80223.

FOR SALE: Miniature Liquor Bottles: 31 bourbon, 26 brandy, 10 cognac, 30 gin, 32 rum, 52 scotch, 13 tequila, 14 vermouth, 25 vodka, 45 whiskey, 50 wines, 164 liqueurs. If interested in any part, contact: D. Masterson, 357 Summer Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

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