

THE

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No. 104 1991

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



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MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY AUCTION CATALOG

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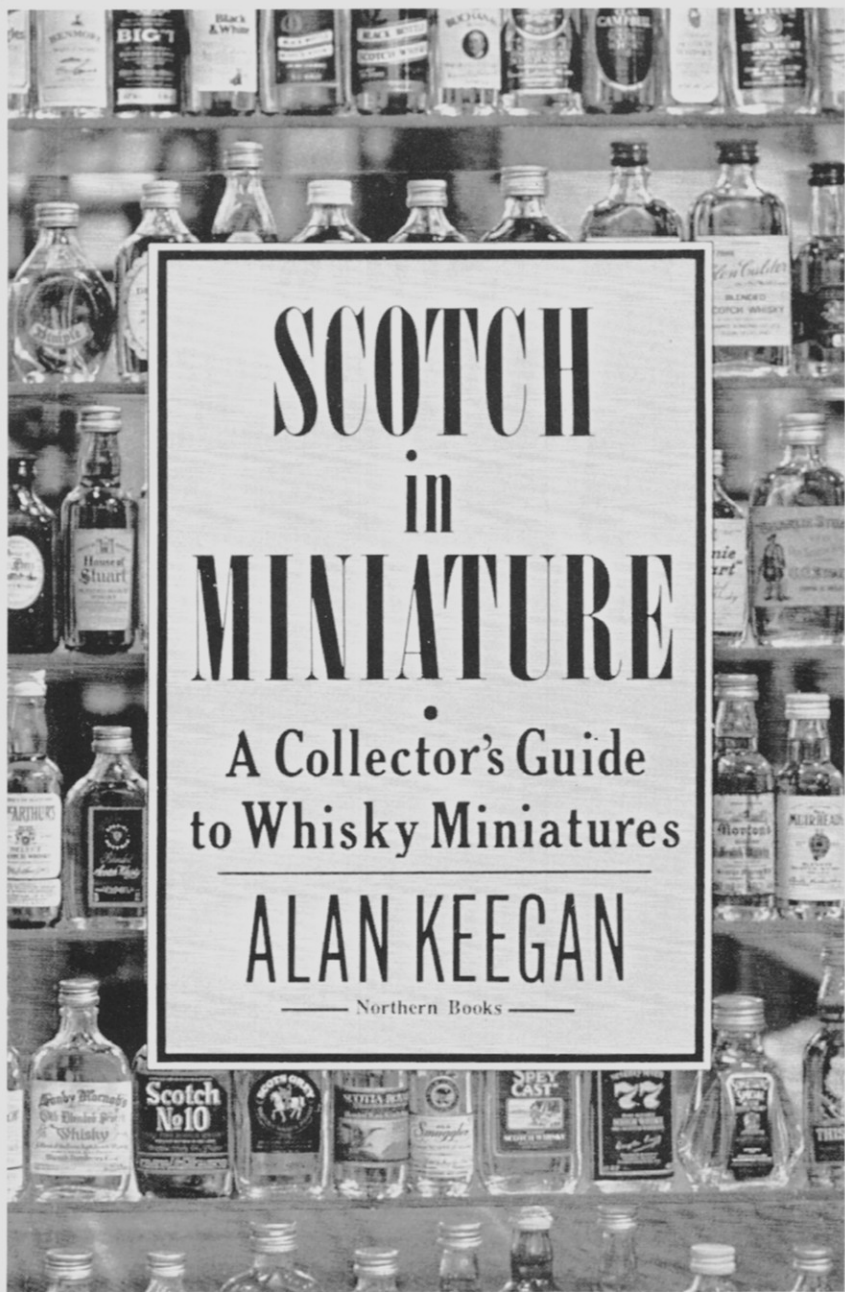
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1991



SCOTCH
in
MINIATURE

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to Whisky Miniatures

ALAN KEEGAN

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Let's Talk

The dog days of summer are here. If it's hotter than the proverbial two dollar pistol, turn on the air conditioner and play with your bottles. After all isn't it really what we're doing? When a few spare minutes are available, I play (that means relax) with the bottles. How about you?

We've got quite a mix for you this time. Straight glass, ceramics, old and new...they're all here this time.

Found any new bottles lately in the stores? Sometimes I think wholesalers work in some sort of reverse. The more collectors there are wanting bottles, the less they want to stock them. Cactus Juice in the first article is a case in point. Available in Nevada, it can't be found in California. Now, where are the majority of people who would buy it? Well, the answer isn't Nevada. How many of you have found the Sempé "brandy snifter" bottle? Not many I'd guess. The wholesalers had to be practically threatened here in So. Cal. to handle it. Davidoff Cognac...it's there, but who carries it?

So talk things up every chance you get. We'll all be better if you do.

—DMS—

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

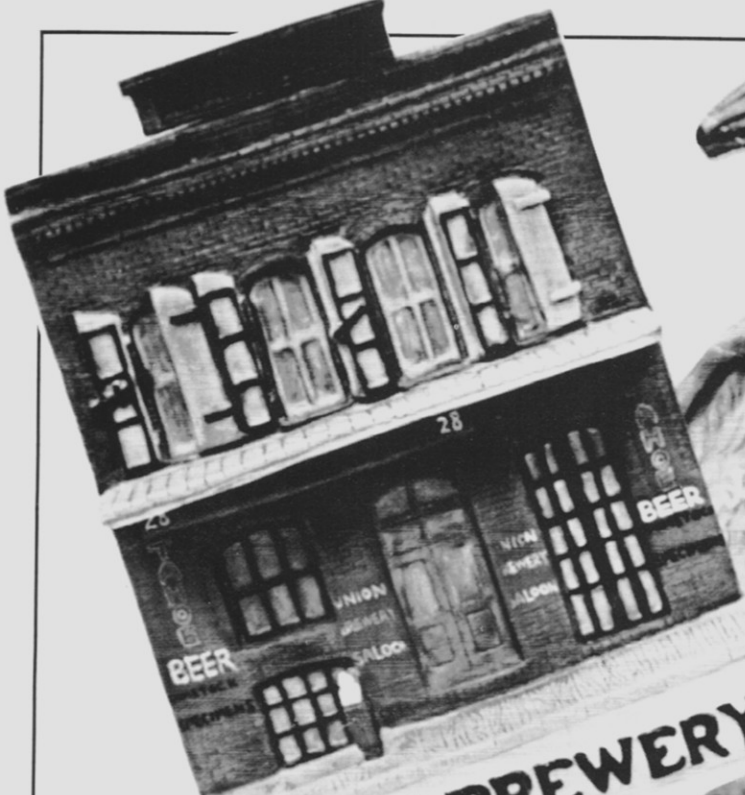
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Our Cover

Approximately one year ago now, Camus issued three large bottles in the DFS stores around the world. These bottles featured copies of paintings by Van Gogh: Portrait of Dr. Gachet, The Irises, and Sunflowers. Finally a few months ago, the miniatures were issued...to overwhelming success. The bottles sold out, but are again available.

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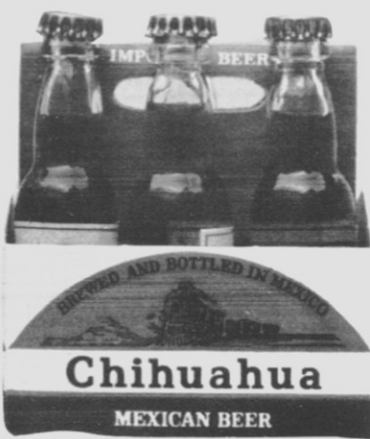


WHAT'S NEW



A friend recently returned from South America and brought with him a handful of whisky miniatures from Brazil and Argentina. As you can see, all are "scotch" type whisky, but only one of the group, the House of Wellington, is actually a scotch.

If this seems rather strange, it's because only a whisky that has been blended in Scotland may be called scotch. Even though Benson Girvan, Drury's, et al are produced from scotch, they are still blended with local neutral grain spirits and/or water.



Next on the agenda are two six-packs of minis from Argentina but produced for the United States. Most of you already know about these excellent micro-mini presentations and have seen various ones such as the Corona Beer, Coca-Cola, etc. These two, Miller Ge-

nuine Draft and Chihuahua are two of the newer ones. One issue we'll do a complete wrap up of all the various ones which have been produced.

The third area for us is the jug or flagon of the white tailed deer. This contains Glen Fiona Scotch which is

WHAT'S NEW



a product of Lindisfarne in Scotland. Previously we've shown some other Glen Fiona items from the U.K.

Last this time is the earlier promised pair of Blanton Bourbons. Thanks to the excellent photo from Don Prosis, we're able to show you the exact difference between the two bottles. Note the position of the head of the rider. The first version with the head up usually managed to get broken, so the new variation was produced. It's not known how the future will treat these two pieces,

but my collection includes the original.

If you're not aware of the Blanton name, this is one of the all time super premium bourbons to ever be produced. The miniature itself is usually found for about six dollars, while the 750ml size lists most places around \$40. And, if you think that's a high price, Blanton just announced the issuance of their new sterling silver bottle...for \$3,500.00! I wonder if you have to pay luxury tax on that?

--DMS--

UPDATE

SILVER STATE SPECIALTIES



Since so very few companies are now releasing ceramics, we wanted you to see the newest bottles from Silver State Specialties. It's called "Silver State" as almost all of its bottles are done for the state of Nevada.

Previously Silver State has issued a catcher's mitt, two platinum-colored horseshoes for Las Vegas and Reno, and now has all four suits of its Royal Flush bottles available. However, now to the bottles at hand.

The Joker will be released in

either late September or early October. This bottle is unique because it is the exact size of a playing card and the exact thickness of a deck of cards. We've been told this bottle is to test the market, so only 1200 were produced.

The other bottle is the 1992 Black Jack decanter. This is a picture of the original sample and unfortunately you won't be able to look for this one until next spring.

Now you're up to date on the bottles of Silver State Specialties.

MINI WORLD



B & B. Nope, not from France, and not what you think it is. This "B & B" stands for Brandies and Bitters. And, California Brandies and Bitters to be precise. A great many collectors go after those old whiskeys from out here, and Harry Ford has pictured some wonderful old California bottles in his gin articles. So this time, let's look at six 1930's bottles which are also seldom seen.

In my opinion, we'll save the best for last and begin with the three bitters. These are Royal Crest, Green Top and Cresta Gold. You'll note that all three are extremely similar. Each is an Old

English Orange Bitters, each is alcohol 40% by volume and two of the bottles are 2 ounces while the Royal Crest is 1/10 pint. Possibly you've heard collectors bemoan the fact that California storekeepers loved to "ruin" labels by placing the decal stamp in the middle of things. Well, these bottles certainly attest to that (as does the St. Charles in the other set). All three are from 1936-1937. Bohemian Distributors produced Royal Crest in Los Angeles, while the other two were made by Rathjen Bros. and Bennett Distributing in San Francisco.



Now to the Brandies. All are evaporated but I don't think anyone would turn their nose up for that small flaw. The Community was manufactured in July of 1933 which makes it the oldest and pushing hard at sixty years. It was produced by Fruit Industries of Guasti. As with the other two bottles coming up, it's 90 proof. Vai Bros. Old Reserve was bottled by Padre Vineyard of Cucamonga. And, if you think these bottles were for California only, you're wrong. The merest hint of a Maryland

tax stamp may be seen on the right side of this bottle. Finally, we have the St. Charles. It does have a claim to fame as it was distilled by the Alta Winery of Dinuba. As everyone who has ever had an old pottery jug in their collection knows, Alta produced a score or more of ceramics; however, the glass bottles appear only occasionally.

Another time we'll explore more old California bottles and even show you the Floradora Girls!

melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature ten miniatures bottled by The Overbrook Company Inc. Baltimore, Maryland. All of these bottles were produced during the 1930's and have, in my opinion, attractive labels. Overbrook used three types of glass bottles including the distinctive "waffle" embossed flat as well as clear and amber round bottles with short necks. The first

bottle which is probably the rarest is Southern Bar Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof, 5 years old and has a tan label printed in red and brown. Bottle number two is the seldom seen Green Spring Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof, contains 21% Straight Rye Whiskey one year old, has a light and dark green label with tan and white and has a Aug 24 '35 Maryland tax stamp.



Next we have a pair of Washington Clubs. the flat is Bourbon Whiskey, 90 proof, has a yellow and green label with black, white and red and has Jan. 13 '39 Maryland tax stamp. The round version is Straight Rye Whiskey, 86 proof, four years old and has a yellow and black label with red, white and gold.

These are followed by Over-

brook's Reserve A Blend of Straight Whiskies. Both are 90 proof and have multi colored yellow labels. The clear version is 5 years old and the amber is 4 years old. Bottle number seven is Overbrook's Maryland Straight Rye Whiskey in a round amber bottle. It is 90 proof, 4½ years old and has a white label printed in blue, red, gold and black.

The last three bottles are Over-

melo's minis



brook's Maryland Straight Rye Whiskey in an embossed flat bottle. All have black labels printed in red, gold, white and blue and are 93 proof and 3 years old, 90 proof and 3 1/2 years old and 93 proof and 3 years old respectively.

Finally, as can be seen, Overbrook produced variations in some of their brands. This is good for collectors like myself, because there is always the hope of finding another version of the good looking bottles produced during the 1930's.

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

— MELO —

NEW ZEALAND BEERS

by
Erica Mulder



Timaru Superb Bitter
Timaru Superb Bitter
Timaru XXXX Pale Ale
Timaru Draught Beer

Red Band Export Strength Lager
Red Band Draught Bitter Beer
Guinness Extra Stout brewed and
bottled in New Zealand by NEW
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To complete the article from the last issue, shown here are the remainder of the New Zealand beers. The Timaru might possibly be the most well known of all these beers. However, by now you have definitely noted the special Guinness.

I hope you have enjoyed this look at the mini beers of New Zealand.

--E.M.--



SCOTCH

by

DAVID L. MAUND



The bottles I have for you this time are indeed special. And, they won't be found in too many collections, I have recently seen a couple of them in one of the auctions and the opening bid was approximately 25 of your American dollars!

These six bottles are a unique set issued by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society of Edinburgh. The bottles may only be purchased by members of this club, all of whom are

dedicated to malt whisky!

The six shown are representations of different types or areas of malt whisky. They are: Islay, Mull, Lowland (Linlithgow), Orkney (Kirkwall), Port Askaig, and Speyside.

To give you an idea of how dedicated these malt collectors are, the following is a shortened form of an article which appeared in their Spring 1991 newsletter.



“Natasha’s father (formerly of Shanghai, China) kept a gorilla instead of a guard dog. During the day it sat in the hut by the gate, which it guarded. In the evenings, it sat in the dining room, dressed in a specially-made, pre-Revolutionary Russian military uniform. Natasha’s father at the time was on his third or fourth wife and she was giving him a hard time. Being a sensitive soul, he was often brought to

tears and could find consolation only with his gorilla, which cuddled and comforted him. Unfortunately the gorilla was of a sympathetic and sensitive nature and also became distressed. For many years both man and beast found consolation in copious quantities of malt whisky, which was imported specially for the purpose.

Have you shared a favorite dram with anyone lately?

--D.M.--

"SPECIAL" COGNACS



You've already seen two very special cognacs on the cover this time...but wait, there are more!

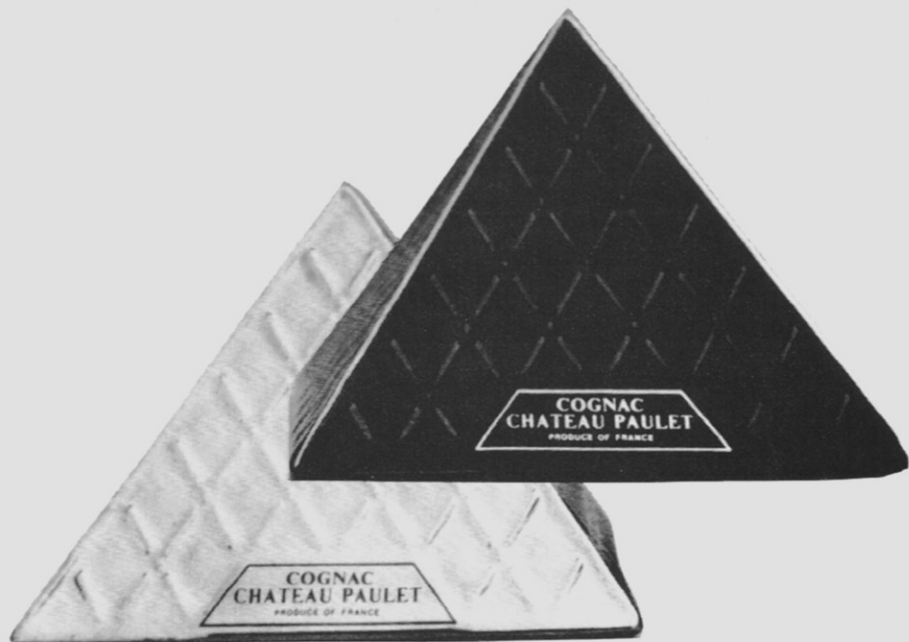
Since the two cover bottles were made by Camus, it only seems fair to continue with another of their bottles. This is the blue Lover's Knot bottle. The white one was issued a few years ago but it doesn't hold a candle to this one. As with the books, it is available in those stores at airports operated by Duty Free Shoppers (DFS). DFS operates in the U.S., Hong Kong, Australia, etc.

Next time we come to those two strange looking pyramid bottles. They are another duty free item; however, these were found in a shop

in Hong Kong and no other reports have been made of their whereabouts. They are exactly what they appear to be...pyramids. They celebrate the new Pyramid structure seen near the Louvre in Paris. These were produced by Chateau Paulet in only two colors: blue and platinum.

Our final two bottles are the newest releases from Hine: the V.S.O.P. and the Antique. They are here in this article because they are especially difficult to find. It would seem that because they are expensive no one wants to carry them. But, be vigilant, maybe you'll have some luck.

— D.M.S. —



KANTOROWICZ

by
Holm Hars



As I read the marvelous article in MBC #101 about the bottles of Kantorowicz, I thought I would show you some newer bottles of the Kantorowicz Kahlbaum AG, Hamburg. In the meantime, I have had many telephone calls to get some information about this company. But I haven't had any luck so I can't say exactly when Hartwig Kantorowicz turned to Kantorowicz-Kahlbaum AG and I don't know when the company closed its doors forever.

Now to the minis, the pictures of which tell more than words.

1. Whisky, 43%. The label is not the best but this Germany whisky is very rare and a much sought after bottle. Label is beige, black, and red.

2. with Scotch Whisky, 35% and it is a Whisky Liqueur. Label is black, red and white.

3. 31%. It is a cherry liqueur. Red and white label.

4. Dry Gin, 43% with a yellow, black and red label.

5. Wodka, 40% with an orange, black, white and green label.



6. Weinbrand 1823 with a beige, black and red label.

7. Reiter — Halbbitter, 40%. The label of this Bitter Liqueur looks exactly like the Podbienta Reitelikör (see MBC #101). Label is green, blue, black and brown.

8. Monchslikör, 43%. This is a liqueur of the monks with a grey-green and red label.

9. Stomach Bitters, 45%. This label has a similarity with the Lithauer Bitters (again MBC #101) and is in blue, 1 white, red, gold and black.

10. Erdbeer, 25%. It's a liqueur with red & black label.

11. Apricot Brandy, 31%. Has





yellow, black and red label.

12. Halb & Halb, 40%. It's a Bitter Liqueur with brown and black label.

13. Kroatzbeere, 31%. It is also a liqueur with a green, black and red label.

14. Blackberry Brandy, 33%. Has a green, black and brown label.

15. Apricot Brandy, 33%. Has orange, black, gold and white label.

16. Blackberry Brandy, still 33%. With a brown, black, gold and white label.

As you can see, Kantorowicz would use all kinds of bottle types. No. 1 - 14 have metal pull tabs, while No. 15 and 16 use cork stoppers.

Hope you have enjoyed this further look at Kantorowicz.

--H.H.--

CREAM of the Crop



It's been a while, but you all knew that sooner or later there would be more cream liqueurs available. Well, the time is now and not only are we featuring these three but you'll see others shortly in upcoming issues.

Let's take them from the least interesting (only because it's a well known brand) to the most incredible. We'll begin with Heather Cream. This has been around for some time but it's the new shape that makes this one. Heather Cream is from Scotland.

Next we have Bermuda Coconut

Cream Liqueur...yes, from Bermuda. If you want one, you'll have to go to Bermuda. (What else can you say about this one?)

Finally we come to Salicsa Golden Cream. Betcha can't guess where this one is from? If you're thinking south of the border, you're correct. However, you probably aren't thinking southerly enough. This is from Costa Rica and was brought back by a good friend. She found it only at the airport where it was available for gringos and gringas alike.

More cream soon!!

BIER BEER BEER

by JOHN WYSS

Today I have three newly discovered mini beers to share with you. Don't be suprised if you've never seen nor heard of these varieties before. Although I am constantly soliciting any type of information on "unlisted" beers, I rarely got replies - any help in this department would be deeply appreciated! Usually the only time I come across older unlisted beers is when a major collection is for sale. It would be a terrible shame not to advance our hobby with new knowledge until every major collection has been turned over several long generations later. Sooooo, I will be dedicating many of my articles and pictures to the premiere of beers which are either unlisted or have never been pictured before.

The first bottle pictured has the familiar name of Ruppert Beer. Ruppert beer was brewed and bottled by Jacob Ruppert of New York, NY. This bottle is 5 1/4" tall and was made from brown plastic which was produced by a two piece mold as evident from the visible outer seam. There is a duplicate set of decal labels on the reverse side to match the front. The bottom has no identi-

fying embossment. Included on the main label is copyright date of 1937 and the statement "Internal Revenue Tax Paid" so I would estimate the date of the bottle to be somewhere in the 1940's. It is my opinion that this bottle may have been part of a sign or bar statue. I also have reference to this type of bottle carrying a Ballantine's label. Furthermore, there was once pictured a Red Cap Ale bottle that was attached to a molded plastic advertising piece, but I wasn't able to find out any specific information on this item. It is my contention that these mysterious bottles are indeed legitimate and quite rare.

Bottle number two is John Smith's Magnet Pale Ale from the Brewery Tadcaster - which I'm guessing is somewhere in England. This is a 4" brown glass bottle with "TRESISES BURTON DRIP MATS" embossed on the bottom. The two labels are paper while the yellow salt and pepper cap is metal. I really have no estimate on the bottle's age; however, it is definitely not a recent product. This bottle would have to be considered very scarce - even in the U.K.



The third bottle is actually listed, as it "just made the press" in the recent edition of **Mini Beer Update** by Robert E. Kay. This variation of a one-way beer is listed as BREW-26. It has the common one-way type bottle with tag and a wrap around label. The back has a photo picture of an older lady and reads "W.B.D.A. '49', Wisconsin and National Beer Wholesalers Association Nov. 9-11 Schroeder Hotel -Milwaukee." This mini beer is ex-

tremely rare and definitely a real "sleeper". It compares well to the one-way ale bottle (BREW - 3) in terms of scarcity. I have yet to see, let alone be offered, the Ale bottle in any condition (hint, hint).

In closing, I will again ask (beg) for *any* information some of you may have on any unlisted mini beer. We, as collectors, must share the knowledge for the advancement of this hobby.

Cheers!

--J.W.--



Jerry Cohen

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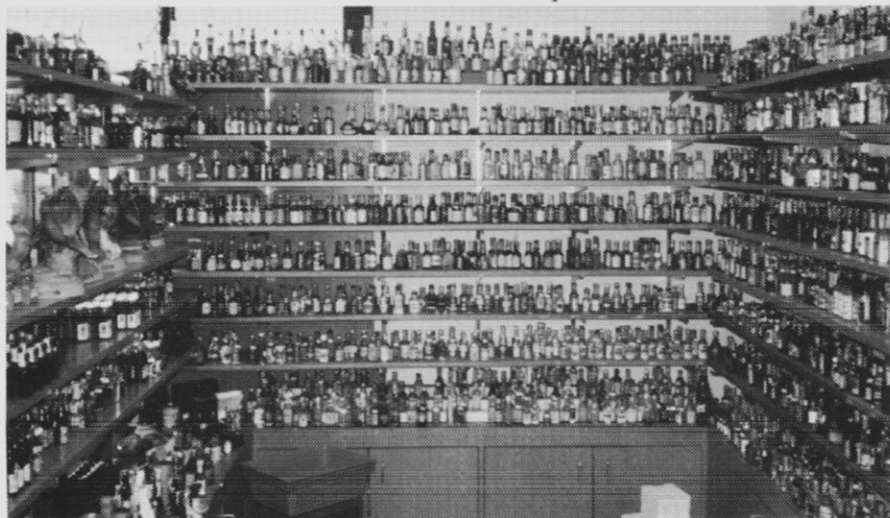
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