

THE

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No. 105 1991

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

MELO'S
MINI



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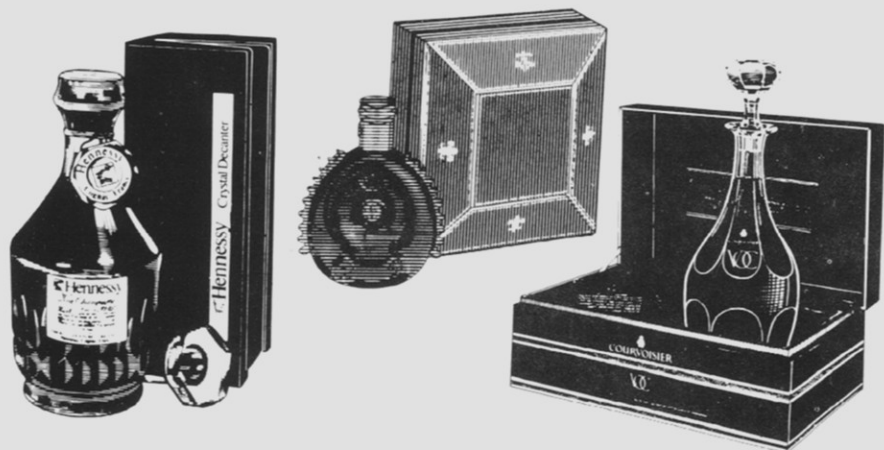
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Let's Talk

If you're leafing through the magazine you'll notice that an old familiar face is no longer gracing these pages. Yes, Jerry Cohen of the Bottle Collectors Liquor Shop in Las Vegas has retired. Jerry, and his wife Lynne, have surely earned their retirement after serving all of us for at least a generation (that's two and a half decades, if you're counting). So, the best to both of you. You'll be missed!

You'll also see something different in that the little MELO article is found on this page. Mike features an absolutely super bottle we're all going to envy him for.

Taizo Shiratsuchi is back with his news from Osaka on new whiskies in Japan. As usual, they are "stunners".

And, we promise, this is the last article on Hartwig Kantorowicz as nothing else is in the hopper. However, the bottles are winners.

Finally we direct your attention to the ad for the new scotch book by David Maund and Mike Barbakoff. 201 beauties here...and this is just the first book in a projected series.

See you during the holiday season.

—DMS—

THE

VOL. XVIII No.3
No. 105 1991

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

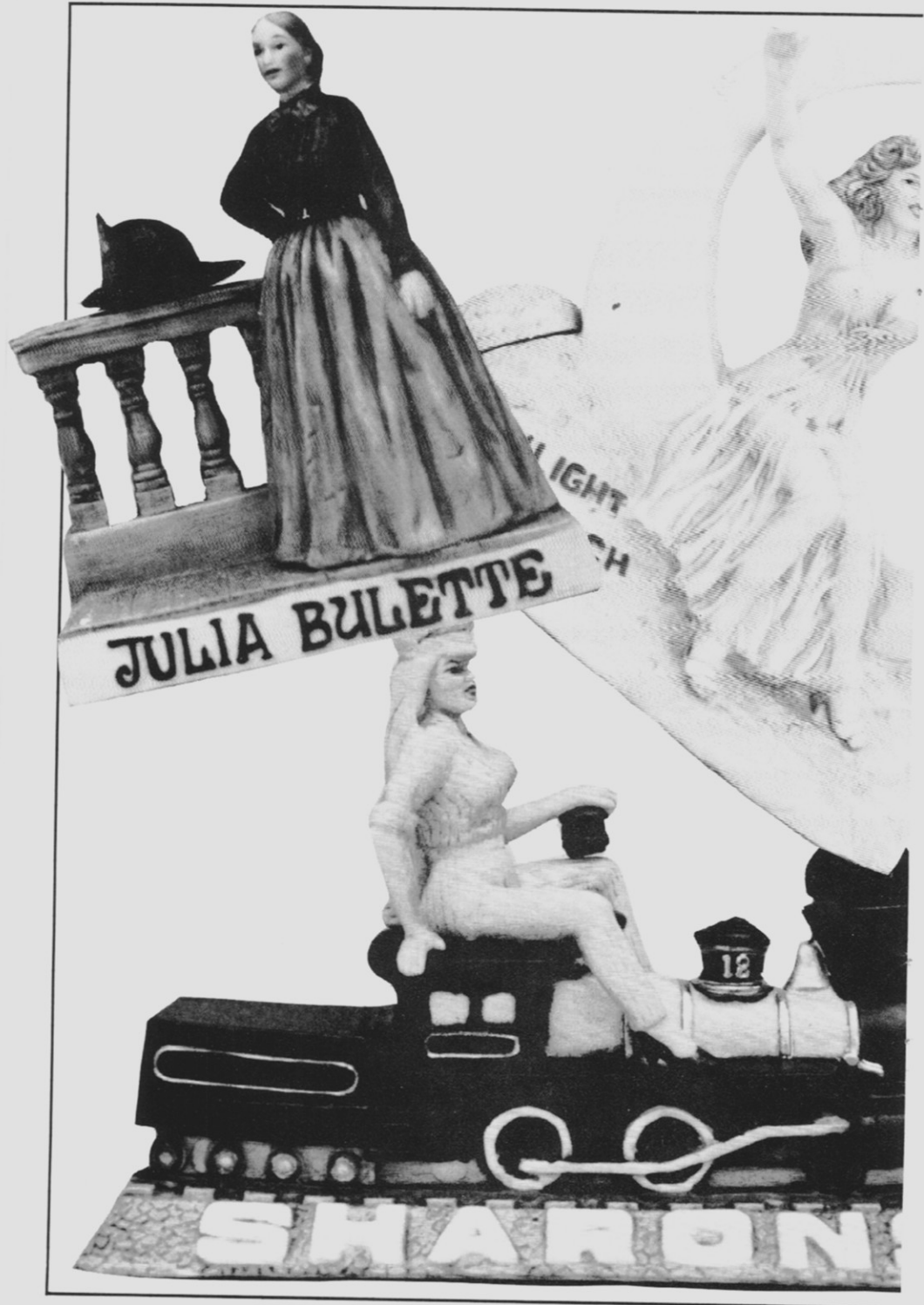
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Our Cover

Incredible, my own bottle on the cover. In this very mini article you're seeing the pre-prohibition version of T.W. Samuels Old Style Sour Mash Bourbon Whiskey by T.W. Samuels Distiller of Deatsville, Nelson Co., Kentucky. It is 100 proof, BIB 1913-1917 and has a great looking multi colored label featuring ol' T.W. hoisting one. Is this a great bottle or what!
--MELO--

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WHAT'S NEW



According to the feed back we get, the most enjoyed articles are those which feature a complete range of bottles. So, this time we've got a most interesting group for you.

Since "group" is the operative word, we'll begin with the set of five Rene Niel bottles. This set is for those of you who live in the midwest. It's currently being sold at selected Marshall Field stores in the Chicago area. The five liqueurs (framboise, mandarine, melon, apricot with cognac, and cacao) are sold as a boxed set. Naturally with those names the bottles come from France.

While we're still in France, take a look at the V.S.O.P. Brillat Savarin Armagnac. Obviously an interesting brandy to add to your collection, this particular one comes to us via Japan as you'll note from the tiny neck label.

Now over the channel for the second in the Gordon Highlander/-Pointer series. This is the Royal & Ancient ceramic issued a few months back. Sold only in England and Scotland, this one glorifies the Scottish golf tradition. As with the first bottle, this one also comes in an excellent presentation box.



Going on we next come to Brittle. This one is an imported liqueur found in Wisconsin. It's made with Irish Whiskey and brings to mind a liquid Heath bar. Oh, doesn't that sound good!

Now, in a policy that completely reverses the saying, "saving the best for last", we have DeKuyper's Cactus Juice. It's a plastic margarita schnapps made with tequila. This one was found in Nevada but it's probably found in other places now too as DeKuyper is owned by the James B. Beam Company! More new ones here next time.



MINI WORLD

RARE FIGURALS



Those of you who haunt swap meets and garage sales are always looking for those rare little finds that make all the time you spend worthwhile. Well, occasionally some old glass straights or interesting figurals are unearthed. This time we have three such items for you.

The Chinese Man standing alongside the vase was found in the midwest. Since it has not yet been translated, we can't tell exactly what it contained; however, you will be interested to know that this bottle takes its place in a long line of

giveaway bottles by airlines.

China Airlines gave this bottle away. So now that you've known about KLM, Viasa, Singapore, etc., you have one more airline to check into. Quite frankly, you never know where or how or from whom you'll find a new bottle!

The remaining Louis XIII type pair comes from a company which has been featured in these pages a good many times...albeit you have to go back quite a few years. These pieces are from E. Delatour et Cie of Bordeaux, France. The woman contains Mint White Liqueur while



her companion contains Mint Green Liqueur.

The E. Delatour company has a most fascinating story or history. The label on both these bottles states that the bottles were prepared and bottled in Christiansted, Virgin Islands. This pair was then done before the company moved its entire operations to the Islands.

E. Delatour was owned by the late gentlemen, Victor Nelson...aka Victor Ramirez. He spent half his time in St. Croix and the rest of the year in Spain. Since he wanted to be known as a "westerner", he used

his wife's maiden name of Nelson.

In the Carribean he had quite a reputation as a character; however, this did not change the fact that under his auspices were created some truly marvelous liqueurs he had bottled (in both large and small size) in some of the most desirable and highly collectable bottles of the 1950's and 1960's. He sold decanters through his store in St. Croix through the mid-1970's.

This excellent pair of miniatures are but two of the scores of bottles produced by E. Delatour et Cie.

SCOTCH

by
David Maund



In the past few years, a good number of new scotches have been issued. A large number of these have been specialty bottles issued by companies or individuals. To some collectors these don't have the importance of many of the "regular" brands of straight malt or blends. However, no matter how you feel about these, you will have to admit that some of the special bottlings have allowed names and ages to appear which otherwise never would have.

The Mini Bottle Club in the U.K. with the cooperation of James MacArthur Company Ltd. in Edinburgh has issued the first six in series of very limited bottlings of

special malt and grain whiskies.

The three malts are Inchgower 12 years old 59%, Glenfarclas 12 years old 59% and Ardmore 12 years old 56.2%. The three single grain bottlings are Lochside 27 years old 60.5%, Ben Nevis 27 years old 54% and Carsebridge 28 years old at 54.7%. Only a very limited number of these sets were produced and all of those went to Mini Bottle Club members.

Say, on the off chance you might be interested in joining the MBC in the U.K., why not let us hear from you. You'll find the club address in the Club Directory elsewhere in this issue.

—DLM—

MINI SCOTCH



H**HOFFMAN**

Every so often we bring you up to date on what's happening with the Hoffman Originals bottles and Club. For the last quarter of 1991, Hoffman will issue the first mini mug, a picture of which is seen here.

The first one, Mr. Lucky, will be the start of a complete series of all the Lucky family. The price will be around \$10 each, and the measurements of the mini mugs are $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches high by 3 inches wide, which includes the handle.

Looks like many collectors will be able to continue adding Mr. Lucky items to their collections. You can write the club at: 3561 Verger Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45237.

FROM THE

ORIENT

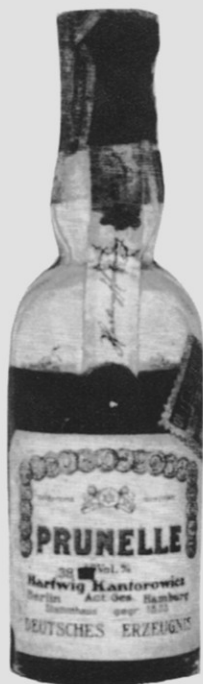


FROM CHINA

In an effort to cover all the aspects of collecting, it is sometimes quite difficult to find bottles which fill those more obscure categories. This time a niche is being filled rather nicely. (Don't ask what niche that is.)

The three vases here are all from China. They are not ceramic but milk glass. The third of the group has no discernible English; however, the first two are Ng Ka Py Chiew (a name not unfamiliar in 1930's bottles which collectors usually refer to a inkypie) and Chu Yen China Chiew. If the contents are anything like Moutai...forewarned is forearmed.

KANTOROWICZ



Back in issue #101 I showed seven of the old Hartwig Kantorowicz bottles from the 1930's. Then in the last issue Holm Hars brought us up to date on the newer bottles from the Kantorowicz company. Now, at the risk of flogging a "mortified" equine, here are four more of the original bottles from the 1930's.

The most interesting of the four is the short Prunelle. It is highly embossed and unusual in shape. The other Prunelle bottle is the more common both in availability and shape. As with the other bottles, these make mention of the company being in Berlin and Hamburg.

The Cacao Weiss (white) is a somewhat taller bottle and may ac-



tually contain 75 ml. As you can tell, these early bottles were extremely well corked as this bottle shows almost no evaporation after 55 years!

The last of the four is most unique. Is it the bottle shape? Is it the contents? The answers are "no" and "no". What separates this bottle from all other old ones from the thirties is that this one is a product of Poland. After Berlin and Hamburg were vacated because of the war, the company evidently went to Poznan, Poland. (Not an auspicious move on their part.)

Now, unless something earth-shattering is found, we'll leave Hartwig Kantorowicz.

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI

This time I would like to present to you some new Japanese whisky miniatures. Mercian Co. Ltd. reorganize their line-up of liquors in September of 1990. They had two new brands of Whisky, Karuizawa 8 y.o. Malt and 12 y.o. Malt, instead of Karuizawa 25 Malts and Karuizawa Exceed 12 y.o. Malt. (Please see the MBC no. 100, 1990.) And also they decided to use the Japanese letters of Karuizawa as you can see on the labels. Karuizawa is a very famous summer resort in Japan and Mercian Company built their distillery in Karuizawa in 1956.

Karuizawa 10 y.o. is the only available miniature and then only as a souvenir at the distillery. This bottle is a complete replica of the regular one which has five dimples added to the bottom. It is 12cm tall in clear glass and contains 100 ml at 43% alcohol. It has a white ceramic plate with golden metallic chain.



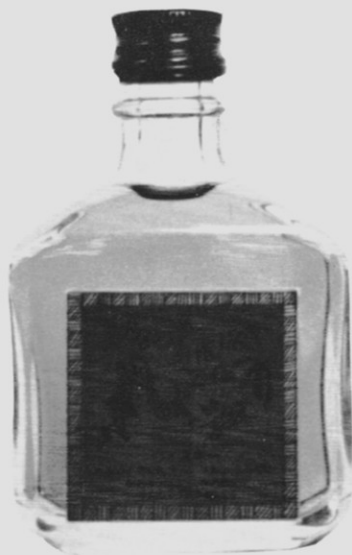
The Karuizawa 8 y.o. Malt miniature was available only as a sample. It is 8.5 cm tall in clear cut glass with a brown cap. It contains 50 ml at 40% alcohol.

The same miniature appeared with a different red label framed in a gold color as a gift for St. Valentine's Day in February 1991. There is a picture of a person playing a trumpet and the letters of "Just my heart" on the label.

The last bottle is Crescent from Kirin-Seagram Ltd. It was born in 1981 but was not available in the miniature for a long time. Now the bottle shape has been changed and thus the miniature is available. It is 8.5 cm tall in clear glass with a blue cap and contains 50 ml at 43% alcohol. There is a half of a golden crescent on the blue label which is trimmed with a golden line.

Until next time...

— T.S. —



Glass!

by **HOLM HARS**



ROBERT MEISNER CO.

Today I will show you some bottles of Robert Meisner, from the little town of Heide/Holstein. Over the years, the company produced and bottled all kinds of liqueurs and brands. Therefore, I now have about 80 different bottles from this firm.

The first bottle is OZDE Scotch Whisky (40%). This bottle is one of the rarest whiskies to be bottled in

Germany. It was only produced and sold for Nigeria. I don't know of another collector in Germany who has this bottle.

The second bottle is Privat Whisky (40%). This whisky is produced with malt whiskey. The bottle was only sold at gas stations, but is no longer available.

The third one is the OZDE Dry Gin (40%). This one was also only



produced and then sold to Nigeria. Next is the Blutoranoje (30%). This was one of the first miniatures from Meisner. It contains an orange liqueur and has a red stopper.

Numbers five and six are Halligwunder (38%). The round bottle is a sample and has a provisional label. The flat bottle is now available and has a new coloured label. It is an herbal liqueur with the word "Seehundsmilch" meaning "Milke of a seal" on the label.

The last two are Weinbrand Dominat (38%). The darker bottle (green) was one of the first to contain Weinbrand (Brandy) while the clear bottle is one of the newer ones.

All the bottles are glass (clear, green, brown) and contain 0.04 L but Meisner also produced minis with 0.02 L. The company still uses all types of bottles and most liqueurs are still available.

Until the next time...

—H.H.—

BEER, BEER, BEER

by JOHN WYSS



Welcome, beer fans, to the first installment of articles on the most scarce mini bottles known to collectors - preprohibition miniature beers. My focus will begin with "prepros" which, to the best of my knowledge, have never been photographed in any of our hobby's magazines or journals. While most of the prepros I'll be sharing with you have never been pictured before, many are now listed in Bob Kay's MINI BEER UPDATE and the corresponding catalog numbers will be used as reference throughout this article.

Prepro beers as a rule are extremely rare to come upon, especially with full labels still intact and in

good condition. The specimens with labels that are pictured command a price in excess of \$150.00...that is if you could find them. I personally feel lucky to add about one of these beauties a year. Oh well, I guess I'll have a nice collection of them when I'm about 90 years old!

When it becomes apparent that quality labeled prepros just aren't available as often as we'd like, it's time to go to plan B. This option is the collecting of prepros that don't have labels but do have embossing. While those bottles are a little less glamorous, they are just as collectable and still pretty tough to find. Labelless but embossed prepros



range from about \$30-50 in price.

In picture number one we find two Bohemian Beers from the Pabst Brewing Company. Look closely to detail here. The first beer (WI-5) reads "Formerly Ph. Best Brewing Company" and the second beer (WI-5a) reads "Formerly Phillip Best Brewing Co.". Also note the different type of print each bottle has. Neither bottle has embossing.

The third bottle pictured is Union Bottled Beer Ale and Porter. This bottle is now listed as Brew 25 and has a copyright and trademark registered 1903. The top enclosure is a leadseal over cork and there is no embossing to be found. This particular prepro is extremely interesting in that it appears to be promoting the "International Union of United Brewery Workmen". I know of only three of these bottles to exist

in collecting circles to date.

Picture two shows us three labelless but embossed prepros. The first bottle shows us the embossed side of a John Weiland's (CA-2) while the second bottle shows the embossment on a Tivoli Lager Beer (CA-3). Bottle number three comes from the familiar Conrad Seipp Brewing Co. of Chicago. "Malt Sinew" copyright 1908 is the label which comes on this bottle. Note the squatty shape...many "cousins of beer" such as maltine, malt extract, malt tonic, etc. were packaged in this style of bottle. The bottle type was consistent with the same full-sized bottle.

In closing, if anyone has any prepro beers that have yet to be documented or need a new home, please drop me a line.

'Til next time...J.W.

SMALL TALK



New or fairly new from Scotland are the ceramic bottles shown here for the first time. Let's begin with the "fairly new".

The dark jug/vase with the golden picture on it is for Glasgow, City of Culture. This appeared in 1990 and was part of a campaign to point out that Glasgow was indeed a marvelous place.

The white jug or flagon next is another in the (seemingly) endless group which have been issued in the last decade. Some of these jugs have been in black, some in light blue, and now we have white. Although

no one ever seems to listen to collectors, wouldn't it be nice if we had more brand names and fewer color variations of the same brands?

Now we come to the newer ceramics. The McGibbons golf bags are a true miniature in that the larger size golf bag also exists. As you note, this comes in two colors (a bit difficult in black and white though): green and red. This is a very, very clever bottle in both style and presentation. If you enjoyed the McGibbons Golf Club head, then one or both of these are a must for you.



The last bottle is the one which "doesn't exist". Bell's said they knew nothing about them at first, even though collectors had seen and held the bottle. Finally a few were admitted to and in Scotland, the hunt was on. Now the bottle is a bit easier to get, but you still have to do a good bit of searching over there. The one pictured here is the true miniature, although three other sizes do exist. If you have the old ceramic Bell's Bell, this new one will make an excellent companion piece.

—DMS—

IVO'S EASTERN MINIS

By Ivan Uhlik



Hello, today I'm bringing you the newest miniatures issued this year in Czechoslovakia. All three minis aren't new creations, but only traditional spirit brands in new packages. They are products of the Pilsen Original Distillery at Bozkov near Pilsen (formerly a division of Stock Ltd., and, today a subsidiary plant of West-Bohemian and Canning Co.)

The first bottle is a domestic rum brand originally entitled Tuzemsky Rum Konzumni (Inland Consumer Rum) at 40% alc. by vol. Its ochre label shows a brown ship with nine white sails; in the top sail there are four red points. The price indication on the label is eight crowns (8,-Kcs).

The second bottle is the Stock Brandy Original four stars, also 40%, labeled with two labels - a main and a neck label. Inside the neck label there are four golden stars in different sizes. The main label is a black paper with golden

printing.

The third bottle is a label variation of the Stock Brandy, I have described before. There are some differences in the Stock's trade mark in the left corner at the top as well as in the price indications' size (both ten crowns) in the right corner at the bottom of the main label.

All three miniatures are round, clear glass bottles with a swelling neck, also used by Kord's. They're 50 ml. although there is indicated 0,045 ltr. on the labels of Stock Brandy. The minis are stopped with a cork and an aluminum capsule because of technical troubles in Bozkov.

Dear Eastern Minis fans, I hope there will be issued some more new miniature bottles in the East-European countries. In the near future I will show you these bottles in our M.B.C. magazine. So long until the next news from my area.

— I.U. —

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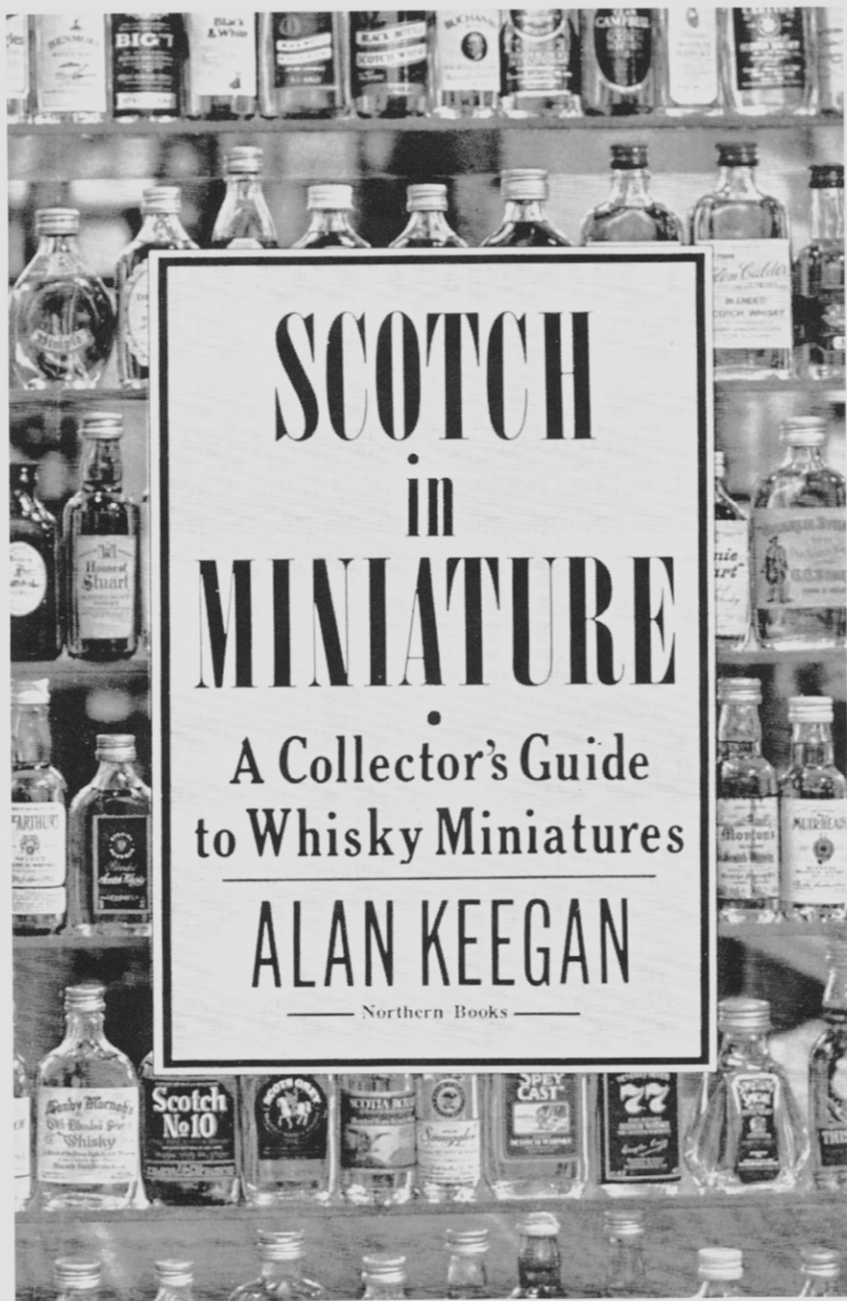
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Daimon, 4-440 Ikebukuro, Toshima-
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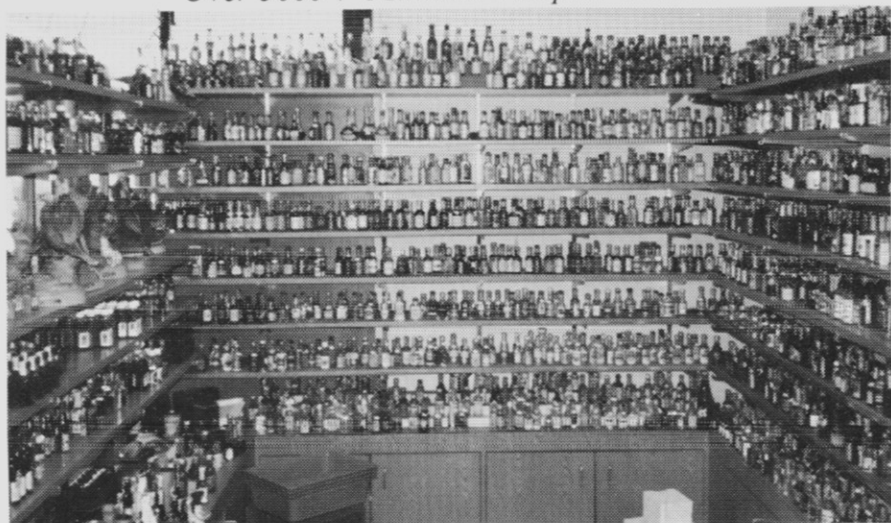
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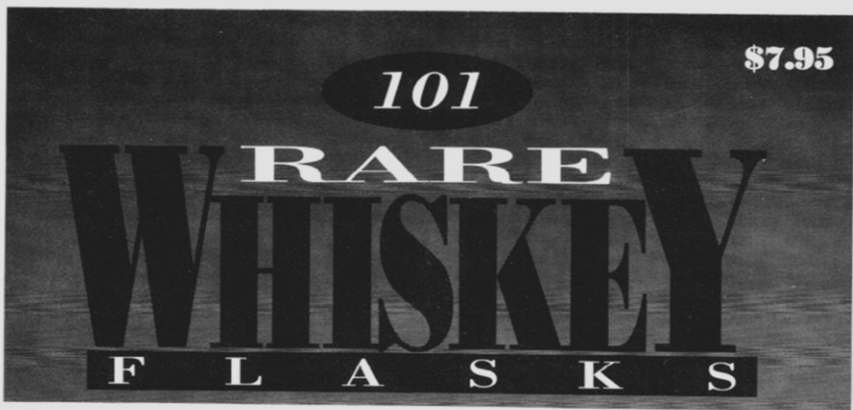
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