

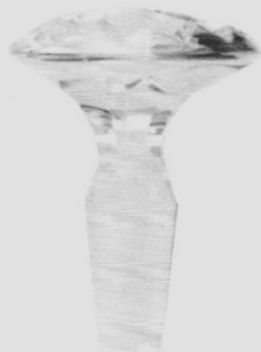
THE

VOL. XIX No. 2
No. 110 1992

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



**FROM
FRANCE**



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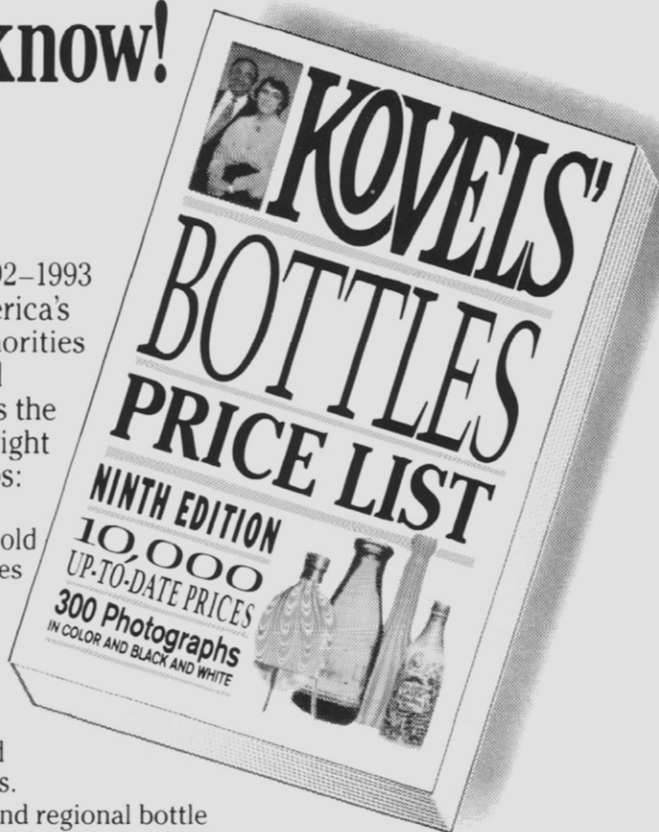
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Let's Talk

We've had a great deal of positive comments on the Renault French taxis from last time. The problem is everyone wants a set...but they're not for sale here in the U.S. The best that can be said is that if you travel or have friends who do, watch the duty free outlets in Asia.

Speaking of duty free: the rumor there is that the Camus Van Gogh books will all be replaced by next year. "Portrait" is the first to go and will be replaced by a Renoir landscape...or so I've been told.

Tony Natelli has a last minute addition to his article on the Vedrenne Grande Dames. He has found out that the series will be expanded; however, there is still no decision on whether or not the bottles will be sold in the U.S. (Note: wait till you see the armagnacs Tony has for you next time.)

Every year in the summer I always climb on the soap box to keep your eyes open for new bottles while you're on vacation. Once again I offer my plea, but this time I can give you specifics to look for. Jim Beam has issued three new glass single barrel bourbons. One of them is Booker Noe, another Baker's. These have appeared in Chicago and San Francisco that I know of. And then there are the plastic gin and vodka bottles sold in the Walgreen in St. Louis. See what you can find when you keep your eyes open.

See you in the early Fall.

--DMS--

THE

VOL. XIX
No. 110

No.2
1992

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Features

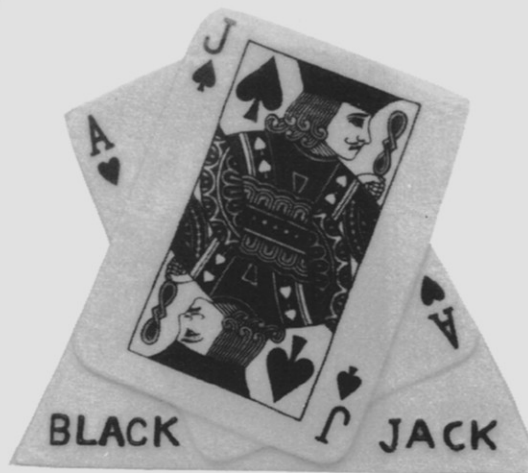
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Our Cover

You'll read all about this bottle and several others from the A. de Fussigny Company when you turn to pages 10-12. Very few crystal bottles have been produced in miniature size. This superb piece is a true mini in that the larger 750ml size is available...and even more spectacular. A. de Fussigny's crystal bottle should be ranked alongside the Louis XIII. Don't you agree?

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SILVER STATE SPECIALTIES



NEW





An even dozen bottles have now been issued by Silver State Specialties. Available only in very limited quantities as most of the bottles go directly to stores throughout Nevada, this is the easy way to add these bottles to your collection. The Mitt and Las Vegas Horseshoe are now in extremely short supply; so, don't delay!

- Royal Flush - Club\$11.95
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- Reno Horseshoe\$12.95
- Pair of Horseshoes\$24.95
- Black Jack Decanter\$14.95

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CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

\$3 postage 1st bottle, \$1 ea. add.

CHIISAI BIN

P.O. Box 90245

Los Angeles, CA 90009

WHAT'S NEW



This time we have bottles from all over; however, all except one are available here in the U.S.A. Let's begin with that "foreigner".

We have good friends who travel to either France or Spain each year. They've seen the bottles down the years and have never noticed minis to buy (ahem). This past trip they were in Switzerland and noticed this "cute" little blown glass piece...which they were kind enough to bring back.

Now, to quote some ancient sage, never look a gift horse in the mouth; however, wouldn't it have been nice to have found the other five in the set of six, each a different fruit. Etter produces the large bottles which are sold here. They are spectacularly made bottles with a little blown glass fruit suspended inside the large bottle. If the set ever becomes available, you'll see it here. (P.S. This is a pear in case you couldn't tell.)

People are always wondering where specific bottles come from. Wonder no more...the next four bottles all were found at Brian's Liquor Collection in Anaheim. (Come to Disneyland, Brian will make it worth your while...an unpaid plug!)

First bottle is the Jean Danflou Grande Champagne Cognac. This is another of those expensive ones, in the \$15 range. Haven't tasted it, but at that price it must be good. Have tasted the Della Notte (of the night) aka The Black Sambuca. Beside having a good label, it's got a good taste. If you're a collector who likes to taste, definitely buy two. The third and fourth bottles are imports from Mexico. These El Tesoro Tequilas are the last ones still made in the old-fashioned way. This means time, work, and every other ingredient which adds to the cost. You haven't seen many tequilas in the \$5 range...but you have



now. The muy anejo (old) is muy bueno (c'mon, know that one!).

The remaining four bottles are comprised of two more imports from Mexico and two made right here. The Kahlua Black Russian plastic is being shown because we haven't pictured it before. (Can't think of any other reason.) The Caffe Lolita isn't bad if you like underage liqueurs. (It's a pun. If you don't get it, you're not old enough...or the writer has finally lost it). It's also another plastic which is a great reason to leave it sitting on a shelf.

Our last two bottles are from New Hampshire and Oregon. Okay, you remember the Clear Creek liqueur we showed last year, but a bottle made in New Hampshire? Clear Creek is turning out some truly stunning products in what were previously domains of certain Europeans. That they have now issued



another mini shows how their products are being accepted and we should surely support them. If you enjoy seeing nothing but plastic imports from Mexico, don't bother to buy this one...otherwise add it to your collection and again, buy one for tasting if you're so inclined.

Rock Maple Liqueur. The very name sets your teeth on edge, doesn't it? Aaahhh, the sweetness. One six year old would (and could...or is that reversed?) run non-stop for several hours just thinking about all the sugar in this one. But, Buy-American-Groupies, it's one of our own. Apple pie, dogs, children, Chevrolets, Abraham Lincoln and Rock Maple Liqueur. It's 50 proof which means it's great after dinner or it will clear up that cough you thought you could never get rid of.

--DMS--



DUG PICKING'S
BROTHEL SERIES



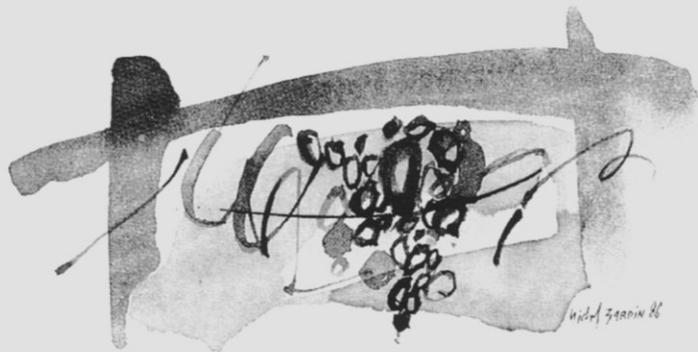
MABEL'S

What you're looking at is the logo of Mabel's, the new brothel release for 1992. You certainly must admit that it's graphic enough. We had our first "topless" bottle just a few years back but the personage portrayed there wasn't quite as revealing.

If we had color, you'd immediately notice the highlights on this bottle. The name is in bright red, her hair yellow and the cleverly placed robe grayish-blue. Only 600 of these bottles were made and like last year's bottle (Sharon) will undoubtedly disappear quickly.

We're not certain, but rumor has it that Dug has another special coming later this year. If so, you'll see it here.

MINI WORLD



A. de Fussigny

Quite a few months ago, two cognacs appeared in the Los Angeles market. These were notable because they had excellent labels, came in clear glass bottles, and were certainly expensive for U.S. collectors. Nothing was known by collectors of the producing firm, A. de Fussigny.

While in France earlier this year, I found an absolutely marvelous crystal bottle (which graces the cover this time) with the same name, A. de Fussigny. It was definitely time to find out more about this company.

A letter to Jarnac, France, brought a quick, cordial reply from Alain Royer, President of A. de Fussigny. Through his efforts you are seeing here the complete line of the company's miniatures. You must agree (even without tasting them) they are special!

If the name Royer is familiar to many of you, it's because you've seen it on many cognac minis. Five years ago, however, Alain Royer left the family business, Louise Royer, because he wanted to produce high grade, quality cognac. Not wanting to use the Royer name, his wife's (Anne-Marie) maiden name de Fussigny was used.

According to *The Wine Spectator* in 1990, "A. de Fussigny now sells about 2,000 cases of various top-notch cognac. About 700 cases are shipped yearly to the United States where they can be found in stores such as Park Avenue Liquor in New York and Sam's Wine and Liquors in Chicago. (Ed. note: And, Flask Liquors in Studio City, CA.) Retail prices range from \$30 for the youngest Cognac, The Fussigny Reserve (similar to a Napoleon, or a 10-year-old Cognac) to \$160 for a bottle of Tres Vieille Grande Champagne a 50-year-old Cognac. The Cognacs are also on the wine lists of restaurants (as you'll see).

"Fussigny, itself, doesn't distill wine, but works with several growers and as the Tres Vieille Grande Champagne Series Rares (very old Cognac from vineyards in the region called Grande Champagne), are bottled from 650-liter oak aging barrels as the orders come in. the cognac was made by one producer from one vintage, believed to be 1937 (it's forbidden to put a vintage on the bottle). No blend here."



Now, if you'd like a critical account, here's F. Paul Pacult writing in his *Spirit Journal* in April 1991. "Every now and then, say, perhaps, once in a blue moon, a line of alcoholic beverage products comes along that is so different, so special, so superlative that it makes wading through the scads of mediocre goods strangely worthwhile. Such a line in the cognac sector is A. de Fussigny, produced in Jarnac, the heart of the cognac region, by Alain Louis and Anne-Marie Royer.

"A. de Fussigny cognacs are regrettably miniscule lots of highly concentrated, very old cognacs, bought from finicky private producers who have stored away barrels for decades.

"For the more adventurous spirit, the de Fussignys are a brandy revelation of the first magnitude, and I can't recommend them strongly enough for lovers of brandy, port, or whisky. Pricy? Yes. Exquisite? Absolutely. Worth the money? Hey, c'mon. Life has to be more than double coupons at the supermarket."



Mr. Pacult goes on to grade the cognacs: XO - 92, Heritage - 94, Fine Champagne Vieille Reserve Series Rares - 95, and Tres Vieille Grande Champagne Series Rares - 96. Naturally this is one the basis of 100 points.

So that gives you an idea of the company and what's contained in the bottles. The one item we haven't discussed is the Stars Reserve. Stars is a very special restaurant in San Francisco. One of several owned by Mr. Jeremiah Tower, Stars is a northern California favorite of both gourmets and "foodsies". A very special blend was created for Stars which is seen here. Take a long, good look at this one as it currently be the only mini bottle sold in America which was created for a restaurant. If that isn't special, I don't know what is!



actual size

With the super crystal bottle on the cover, this is the entire range of the current A. de Fussigny bottles. Note that the Heritage is imported into Michigan and that the Tres Vieille is one made for Hong Kong. The Pineau de Charentes is not available here yet. So we have seven outstanding minis...now go out and find them!

--DMS--

WHISKEY HERITAGE

by

"BUTCH" JONES



The bottles this time have no relationship except that I like them and they're all whiskey! Bottle number one is a SHENANDOAH Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof and bottled by the Penn Maryland Corp. of Baltimore, Maryland. The second bottle is a TOWN CLUB Reserve Blended Whiskey. It's 80 proof and was bottled by the American Distilling Co. The final mini is a TOM MOORE Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It was distributed in 1959 by the Barton Distilling Co.

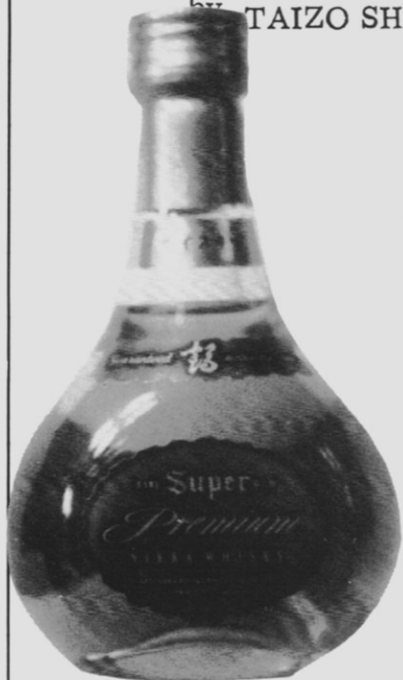
More next time and I'll even expand my criteria!



--B.J.--

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some of the Japanese whisky miniatures which appeared from the second half of 1991 to the first half of 1992.

The first three bottles are from the Nikka Distilling Co. The SUPER NIKKA is very familiar in Japan, and needless to say, the SUPER NIKKA PREMIUM is a good, senior grade of it. The bottle is very similar to the SUPER NIKKA, however, it is a size smaller and slightly more rounded as a whole. It is 9.5cm tall in clear glass



with a golden label. It contains 50ml at 43% alcohol.

The next NIKKA KINGSLAND has a different label 'Le Club GINZA' which is a special brand of the Mitsukoshi Department Store in Ginza, Tokyo. They have many sorts of goods which use the brand of 'Le club GINZA': umbrella, neckerchief, etc. And this bottle is one of them. The label is golden and designed as a gas street lamp. By the way, Ginza is the biggest shopping street in Tokyo.

The third bottle, THE BLEND



OF NIKKA OSAKA BOTTLE, only available in the Osaka area. Nikka Distilling Co. has many regular bottles with the local labels: for example, Hokkaido, Sendai, Osaka, and Kobe, etc. which are available only in each local area. They are not in miniatures though. The OSAKA label miniature was released only for the Osaka Miniature Bottle Club by the Nikka Distilling Co. The label uses a part of an old Japanese screen called Nanban-byobu which are displayed at the dungeon of Osaka Castle.



The last one is the sister bottle of Suntory KAKUBIN (this means square bottle) which has been available since 1937. It is the Suntory SHIROKAKU (which means white square bottle). These are the same tortoise-shell pattern square clear glass. KAKUBIN has yellow labels framed in gold and a cream-colored cap; however, SHIROKAKU has a golden cap and white labels framed in gold. It is 10cm tall and contains 50ml at 40% alcohol.

Until next time...

--T.S.--

LES GRANDES DAMES DU LOUVRE

By Tony Natelli



This gift boxed set of five magnificently labeled miniatures from VEDRENNE of France has to be the most spectacular set of glass miniatures in eons.

The labels are perfect replicas of five masterpieces, each by a different artist, that currently hang in the Louvre. They are respectively:

- The Great Odalisque
(Ingres)
- The Pompadour Marchioness
(Boucher)
- Mona Lisa
(Da Vinci)
- The Broken Jar
(Grueze)
- Portrait of Mariana Waldstein
Ninth Marchioness of Santa
Cruz
(Goya)



There are two types of gift boxes, one for Europe which is filled with fruit cream liqueurs at 18% alcohol and another set for the rest of the world containing 25% alcohol liqueurs such as Cherry Brandy, Curacao Bleu, etc.

The back of each gift box contains pertinent information on both the paintings and the artists. This is in English, Italian, German,

Japanese, and French. A total of 10,000 sets were produced.

It is not known if there will be others or if these will be sold in the U.S.A. But let us hope so. Montserrat (Spain) produced a Gioconda Anisette miniature picturing Mona Lisa some years back but these from Vedrenne are truly works of art!!!

--T.N.--

SCOTCH

David Maund



Only seven bottles for you this issue, but the ones I've picked for you are rather different. And you won't find them in Scotland!

All of these bottles are sold in France. Some are rather easy to find, others not. A great many scotches are sold around the world which are done specifically for stores, special customers, and most importantly, importers. Here we cover almost all of those categories.

The three from Fauchon I don't believe have been pictured together in any collector publication

previously. The original Fauchon Blended has been available for many, many years; however, it is only more recently that the aged 12 years old and 8 years Pure Malt have been added. On the chance you've not heard of Fauchon's, it's a marvelous gourmet shop on the right bank in Paris.

The bottles are all the same, the labels very similar, but do note the alcohol percentage. The original Blended is 43%, the 12 years is 40% and the Pure Malt is 46%.

SCOTCH ...for FRANCE



The remaining four bottles are but a handful of the different ones which may be found in France. I just happened to choose these for you. The oddly shaped bottle is Eight Fellows and it's a blend. The Grand Alastair is a five years old Malt. (I don't think any five years old malts are available in the States. Are they?) The remaining two are The Glendower Pure Malt and Alexander Dunn Pure Highland Malt. Both are 12 years old.

Possibly next time I'll have some new ones for you sports' lovers who collect.
--D.L.M.--

Glass!

RUM



There are six 1930's rums here for your edification. They are truly an international product. They are mostly from French firms which produced the bottles in the West Indies and then sold them to Cuba, France, and China. Get out your magnifying glass and study these labels.

The first four all feature Negroes while the last two have "black" in their names. They are in order: Rhum Nikola, a product of the Cointreau firm; Negro Rum from Jean Rudes Co. (have you ever

Original Dark
RUM



seen a rum which stated it was EAST & West Indies rum?); Negrositta Rum from Martinique; Dominion (an Eastern trading company with their own wine, scotch and gin brands); Black Lion again from the Jean Ruddes importing company; and Black Eagle from C. Rouchal.

The only remaining familiar name is Cointreau; however, their bottle is not terribly familiar to most collectors. And, it's the rarities, those unfamiliar names and labels that keep us all interested.

melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature Bond & Lillard Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. This brand could be the archetype for many of the whiskeys which are known to collectors. Bond & Lillard was established in 1869 and its first miniatures appear before Prohibition, although in limited numbers. This brand is next seen during the Golden Age under the control of National Distillers Products Corp., one of the major liquor conglomerates after repeal. Its final incarnation is in fairly small numbers after World War II and by the early

1950's is history.

All of the bottles have white labels with a red diagonal bar and a whiskey cask in the corner. The first of our bottles is 100 proof, BIB 1912-1916 and was Bottled by Bond & Lillard Lawrenceburg, Ky. Bottle number two is also 100 proof, BIB 1934-1938, was Distilled by Bond & Lillard Louisville, Ky. and bottled by National Distillers. Bottle number three is 93 proof, 3 years old, has dropped Bond & Lillard as Distiller and is from 1937.

The next two bottles have deleted the proof and National logo from

MELO'S



the front label. They are respectively a circa 1941 at 86.8 proof and four years old and circa 1940 at 93 proof and four years old. The last bottle is 86 proof, 4 years old and was Bottled by The Bond & Lillard Co. Louisville, Ky. in 1951.

Finally, I have chosen to designate the period between 1934 and 1942 as the "Golden Age". I think this is very appropriate...and hey, I've got the right!

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

BEER, BEER, BEER

by JOHN WYSS

NEWLY LISTED BEERS MAKE PICTURED DEBUT

Today I'd like to feature several "new" mini beers to review. Actually, all of these beers are relatively aged, but are newly listed in Bob Kay's Mini Beer Update. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time they have been photographed...so enjoy!

In pictured number one we have a pair of Miller High Lifes which are now listed as WI-62A. This variation has exactly the same labels as the previously listed WI-62 bottle. The primary difference is the screw on aluminum cap and the threaded top. The second picture confirms the quite different glass ware style which has the threaded lip. (Note: Although WI-63, CA-16, etc. have been pictured with screw-on aluminum caps, those bottles are not threaded.) The original packaging informs us of a whopping 39¢ price tag and an interesting footnote that this is a product of Bill's Specialty Mfg. Co. of Milwaukee. These subtly different bottle may only spark interest to the "purist" collector, however, I assure you





they are quite hard to come by. I have only seen four of them in my thirteen years of collecting beers.

In the next picture we have a Cruz Blanca which is now listed a MEX-10. It has a nice enamel label on a 4 1/4" brown glass bottle that also has a screw-on S/P cap. There is embossing on the front and back. This is also a tough bottle to find.

The final picture shows the newlylisted Castle Lager Bier, Beer (RHOD-13) next to the previously listed and pictured version (RHOD-12). Both come from the South African Breweries Ltd.

One additional note on African mini beers I might add is that those Castle Beers hailing from the Rhodesian Breweries Ltd. in Rhodesia are ten times as rare as those from South Africa. Several collector friends from Africa have expressed this for this difference in availability as I have yet to come across RHOD-3, 5, 7, 10 or 11 in any condition (hint, hint).

Cheers

--J.W.--



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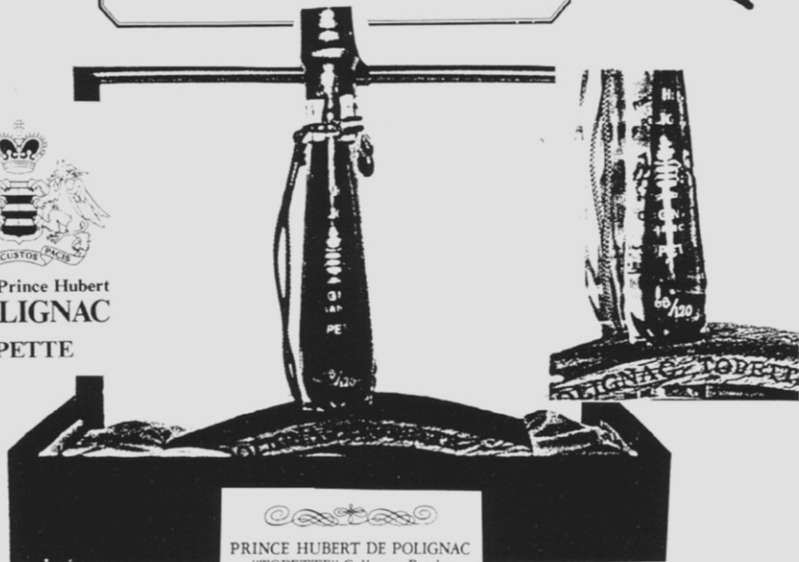
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