

THE

VOL. XIX No. 3
No. 111 1992

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

**NEW FROM
JAMES B. BEAM**



MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY AUCTION CATALOG

COGNACS—BRANDYS—WHISKEYS—RUMS—TEQUILAS GINS—VODKAS—FIGURALS—WINES—BEERS

A Catalog for Miniature Liquor Bottle Collectors, with each quarterly issue featuring 500 to 1000 bottles from all over the world. Follow the bidding and track the value of many of your bottles which will appear from issue to issue. Bids come in from all over the world with winning bids for almost every bottle offered in each issue. The winning bids are reported in each issue for the previous auction.

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B

Let's Talk

By the time you get this, Fall will have flown in. For many of you in the midwest and east it wasn't much of a summer, but we here in the west have surely had a lot of heat. None of this weather makes it particularly fun to go bottle hunting.

If you like to look for old bottles, watch for the antique bottle shows in your area. This summer the Antique Bottle Expo was held in Toledo, Ohio. There were pre-pro whiskeys, jugs, beers and pops, and a great many giveaways available from the approximate 500 dealers.

In what must be the all time Guinness record for costly miniatures, there was an 1890's mini glass figural of a Negro waiter for only a mere \$2,400.00...empty with no labels, of course. However, this was an exception and many excellent bottles could be found for a nominal amount of cash. So be aware of the antique bottle shows as they may enrich your collection greatly.

Comments from the last issue's LET'S TALK need mentioning. The large size Camus Renoir bottle has appeared, there is still no word on whether the Grande Dames will be sold in the U.S., and the Beam minis may be found on the cover. So there's your update.

Many of you will be quite happy to see a Ski Country column again. Hopefully the ceramics they are now issuing will be snapped up by collectors and we'll see even more figurals available. There are a great many figural collectors and too few bottles for them to chase.

All our regulars are with us this time except Mike and MELO will be back in the next issue. Upcoming we also have an article by Fred Hawley on some old American whiskeys which are nothing less than spectacular.

See you next time.

--DMS--

THE

VOL. XIX

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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Features

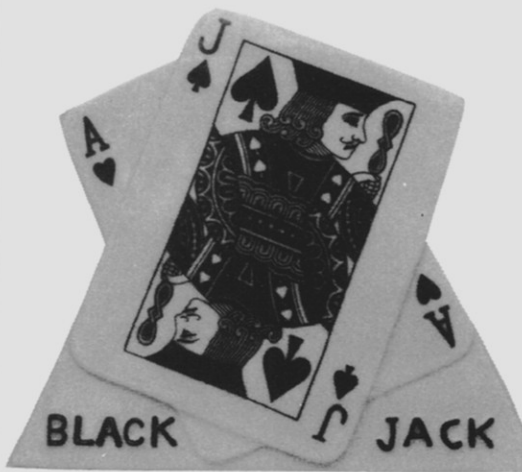
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Our Cover

By the time you receive this issue, the four bottles on the cover should be in a number of markets throughout the U.S. Two of these were mentioned last time, but this is the complete group...at least for now. They are Basil Hayden's 8 year old 80 proof, Baker's 7 year old 107 proof, Knob Creek 9 year old 100 proof, and Booker's 7 year old 124.6 proof (no, that's not a mistake)!

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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!

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WHAT'S NEW



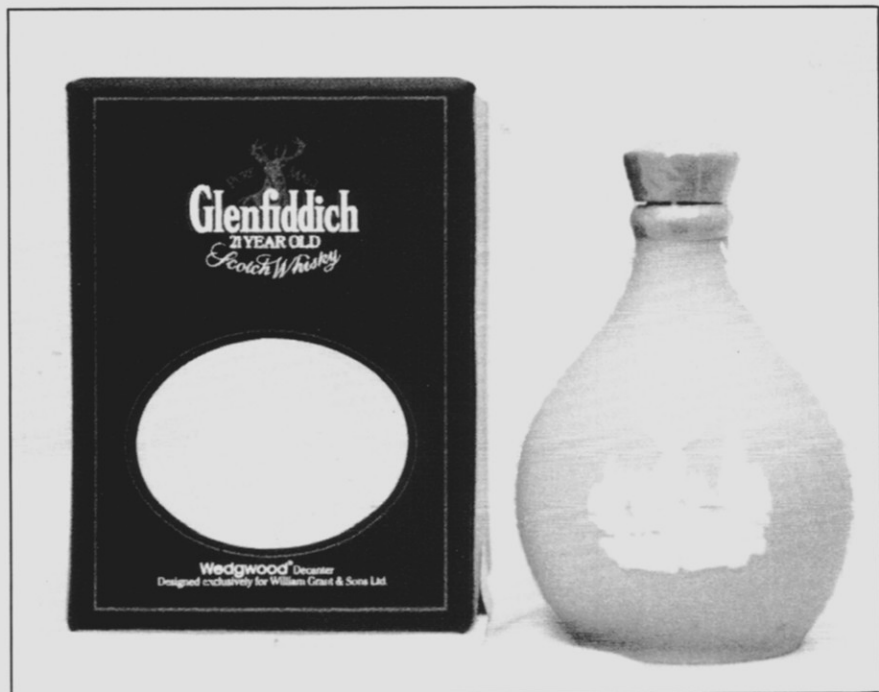
What's new, indeed! There's a good deal new under the sun this summer. The decision was made to feature only ceramics this time as many of you get a bit weary of glass and plastic time after time.

Beginning with the closest to home, we have the mini ceramic beer bottle made by Dug Picking for the Union Brewery in Virginia City, Nevada. This is the second in the series and a great departure from the first one. The nude on the label

is a replica of the nude painting which hangs over the bar at the building itself in Virginia City. The bottle is well made, quite clever and very fairly priced.

The two Metaxas I don't believe have been pictured together previously. Many collectors have thought there was only one bottle, but as you can see, they are quite different.

The taller of the two was issued approximately twenty years ago on



the east coast. Many people thought it was a trifle large for their collections and the bottle was never a big hit. Now two decades later a new version appears...smaller, less crude, higher quality ceramic and contents of 40 year old Grand Olympian Reserve Metaxa. This was a gift so where it was (is) sold is a mystery.

Now we'll venture over to Scotland for four truly excellent pieces. Earlier this year, Taizo

Shiratsuchi showed you the 50 year old Glenfiddich. Well, this is the 21 year old mini in that the larger size has been selling now for about five years.

Wish we had color for you. This bottle was made by Wedgwood in their well known Jasperware. The bottle depicts the white stag which is the symbol of Glenfiddich. This beautiful piece is available at the distillery as well as a very few selected duty free outlets.



Previously we've shown you the other Gordon Highlander bottles. Here are the last three. There are six in the series as of this writing. Four are Gordon Highlander, one is the English Gentleman's Choice (made for duty free) and The Royal And Ancient. This last one was the second to be issued and the only one which does not contain single malt scotch. It contains a 20 year old blend.

It's a bit difficult to tell without a magnifying glass, but the three shown depict shooting, golfing, and hunting (dogs). As with the first three, each comes in its own presentation case. There are to be at least two or possibly three more decanters produced. Then the series will end. When available, you'll see them here.

--DMS--

WHISKEY HERITAGE

by

"BUTCH" JONES



Three From Canada

While I was looking at my whiskeys recently, I came across the three pictured minis all having the same shape. All three were produced in the late 1920's in Canada.

Mini number one is the OLD STONEWALL Brand and contains 100 proof 7 year old Canadian Whiskey. It was imported by United Importers Inc. of San Francisco.

The second mini has been pictured before. It is the UDL

ORIGINAL with 100 proof Canadian Whiskey. The last mini is PAUL REVERE Rye Whiskey, also a UDL.

I think that you can agree that all three are super labels. UDL did a great job on these. Does anyone know of any more in this shaped bottle? Drop me a line if you have one (or more).

'Til next time...

--B.J.--

Ski Country

It's been some time since new bottles from Ski Country have been featured. So let's "rectify" that.

Earlier this year the Talavai or Early Morning Kachina was issued. 960 of both the 750ml and 50ml sizes were produced. This is the first in a group of bottles for the Southwest Kachina Series. Designed once more by Barbara Foss, the Talavia is a very colorful bottle which will be sought out immediately by collectors.

According to the Ski Country company, the Talavai will often appear in pairs on housetops early in the morning, singing to awaken the villagers to prepare for the day's ceremonies.

And not resting on any laurels, Ski Country is now issuing the Banded Oldsquaw Duck. This is number eleven in their Banded Waterfowl Series. Exactly 1146 of the 750ml size were produced while 50ml minis were produced.

The Oldsquaw is a sea duck which makes its home in the Arctic regions. These are diving ducks and are known to dive from 150 to 180 feet into cold water...in Alaska. These are hardly ducks!

Shortly will have some info for you on the new mini Rhino. Watch for it.





Oldsquaw Duck

Glass!

RUM

Martinique



Continuing on with a look at recent rums from the West Indies, we'll return to the island of Martinique for the rums of J. Bally and Saint-Etienne.

The set from J. Bally includes one regular light rum and five vintage aged rums. The labels are basically all the same; however, the years

make some of these quite special. The vintages shown are 1982, 1975, 1970, 1966 and 1950. And there are at least two other years available which have also been used in this set. Note that these are fine rums and would be consumed the same way as aged cognac or malt scotch.



Saint-Etienne

The labels for Saint-Etienne are also similar to one another; however, here we have a proof difference. The Vieux is 45%, the two Grand are 50% and 55% respectively and the Paille is also 55%. The white label which is so difficult to read is a special bottling from 1984 and it's 60% alcohol. Don't mix those in your coke!

The last bottle is strictly not a rum, but it's close enough. Unfortunately you can't tell the vivid colors which have been used on these labels.

If you have friends traveling on a cruise which stops at Martinique, now you'll know exactly what to ask them to look for!

CREAM of the Crop



Just when you thought you'd seen the last of these, three more appear on the scene. The first of these is possibly one of the more interesting ones seen in a while.

Number one is Crema Catalana. The last part of the name should mean something to your right now as it's the Catalan area of Spain where the Olympics will take place shortly. This is a 50 c.c. bottle from the Spanish company Montseny.

If you took just a quick look at the second bottle, you might think

you were looking at a Bailey's bottle. However, it's actually embossed Rayla's. BUT, there is no other identifying mark even on the label. It, and number one, were found in Europe.

Our last one is a plastic bottle which is differentiated because it is dark while the other Devonshire is light. Big deal...but we purists you know notice these things. It's available here in the U.S.

--DMS--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod

On a hill outside the town of Boozeville lives a group of monks. They have established a monastery there to study and contemplate the infinite.

Part of their duties includes tending the vineyards. Wine is needed for sacraments and ceremony. They have become very proficient at raising and stomping the grapes.

As you can see by this bottle, it was a very good year. This piece is blue and has the crown and seal on the bottom. It is 6½ inches tall with #8262 incised. (Special thanks to the person who sent me the photo.)

It is this fellow's job to taste and sample the wines so that a perfect product is produced. From the look on his face, it is evident he has reached his goal!



--L.M.--

SAMALENS

By Tony Natelli

PARFUMS D'ARMA



Arômes très persistants de vanille de peche et de cassis.

Eau de toilette charnue, délicate, souple qui a gardé les parfums de fruit de sa jeunesse.



Arômes odoriférants de fruits de fleurs de pulpe de raisin.

Eau de toilette d'une fraîcheur moelleuse, douce et chaleureuse.



Arômes de fruits rouges et de noisettes parfumément mélangés au parfum de bois.

Eau de toilette pleine et ronde, chaleureuse et élégante. "Roses" importante.



Arômes très délicats de café en casson, de fruits secs et de tilleul.

Eau de toilette élégante, tendre moelleuse, non sèche, vive, simple et pleine.



Arômes de miel de taron, hénat.

Eau de toilette très douce, très moelleuse, d'une extrême délicatesse et d'une grande complexité.



Arômes de réglisse très sucrée, de pin hémale, "santal" important.

Eau de toilette simple et douce, une fleur d'une merveilleuse harmonie.



Notre sélection "Parfums d'Armagnac" est exclusivement composée de Grands Crus, tous issus du terroir le plus noble: le Bas-Armagnac.

C'est au cœur de cette minuscule région, secrète et sauvage, au sein même de cette Gascogne qui vit naître d'Armagnac, que se situe le domaine de SAMALENS.

Seule la terre du Bas-Armagnac produit les meilleures eaux-de-vie: souples et bouquetées, rondes et vives à la fois. Mûris lentement en fûts de chêne façonnés à la main, nos Armagnacs ont vieilli doucement dans le silence de nos chais, élevés jour après jour durant de longues années, jusqu'à ce qu'ils atteignent leur plénitude.

Alors, et seulement, ils ont mérité d'être signés SAMALENS, pour enchanter le palais des connaisseurs.

Samalens

Chaque flacon "Parfums d'Armagnac" soigneusement cacheté à la cire, permet la meilleure garantie d'origine et de conservation. Le possesseur veut en faire un objet de collection, s'en servir, l'offrir, ou l'employer pour vous faire sentir le vrai de votre duché.



Arômes de... et de réglisse importante.

Eau de toilette simple et d'une saveur...



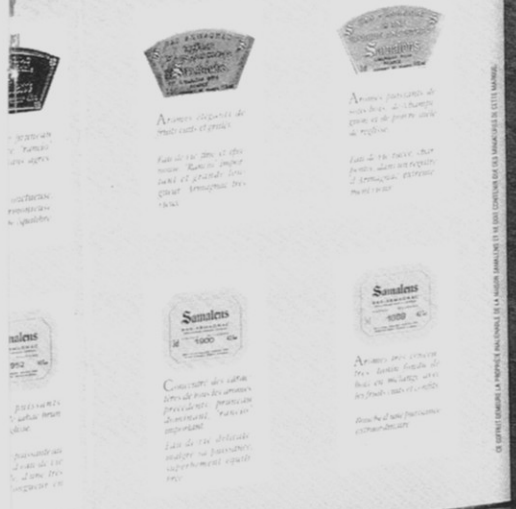
Santal important.

Eau de toilette...



Parfu

GNAC



CE DÉTAIL COMPREND LA PROPRE ÉTANCAILLÉE DE LA MARQUE DÉPOSÉE DE LA MAISON FONDÉE EN 1825 CONTIENANT UN SEUL MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉTAT FRANÇAIS.

Once again, our hats are off to a French firm, Armagnac SAMALENS of Laujuzan, France, for innovative packaging of their miniatures.

They very recently launched two marvelous gift boxes, Parfums D'Armagnac, in France, Germany, and Spain with other countries to follow. The larger box features twelve different armagnac miniatures (V.S.O.P., Vieille Relique, Napoleon Plus Vintages 1974, 1966, 1962, 1952, 1900 and 1888 as well as three fancy ones: Reserve Imperiale X.O., Relique D'Age Inconnu and Relique Ancestrale 15 years. These last come in a beautiful miniature decanter. The smaller case contains the first two and last three described bottles.



Parfums D'Armagnac

These sets are pricey, approximately \$700 for the larger and \$50 for the smaller. However, these are "must haves" for collectors of fine new packaging and wonderful old armagnac.

SMALL TALK

by

Harry Ford, Jr.



After a rather lengthy absence, I've got more of those wonderful old gins to show you. All six of these are from 1930's and five of the six are from Los Angeles.

Previously I showed you Old Man London from Three G. Well, this time you get OLD MISTER LONDON from Three G. It's tall, it's brown and decidedly unlike other gin or even Three G bottles from that period.

MILE HIGH seems as if it should have come from Denver, but it didn't. This very plain bottle and

label was made for K. Hornbein Co., Wholesale Druggists in Los Angeles.

Another very plain bottle but one with a small controversy. Is this MonteRITA or MonteRITO or was it even meant to be MONTECITO? I don't think we can ask anyone at Imperial Distillers Corp., do you?

PEACOCK BRAND from the Hans Dietz Distillery is another very simple bottle. However, all four of these bottles do have something in common besides their gin. They were all 2 ounce or 2/16 pint bottles.

CALIFORNIA GINS



The CLUB HOUSE from Quality Distillers, Inc. is just a tiny bit fancier in its glass than the others. And it's also a "1/10 or 1 pint" bottle or 1.6 ounces (about 48 ml by today's standards).

Our last bottle is the WHITEHALL from San Francisco. As with Three G, Whitehall was known for a variety of products. The same fancy bottle was used for all of them.

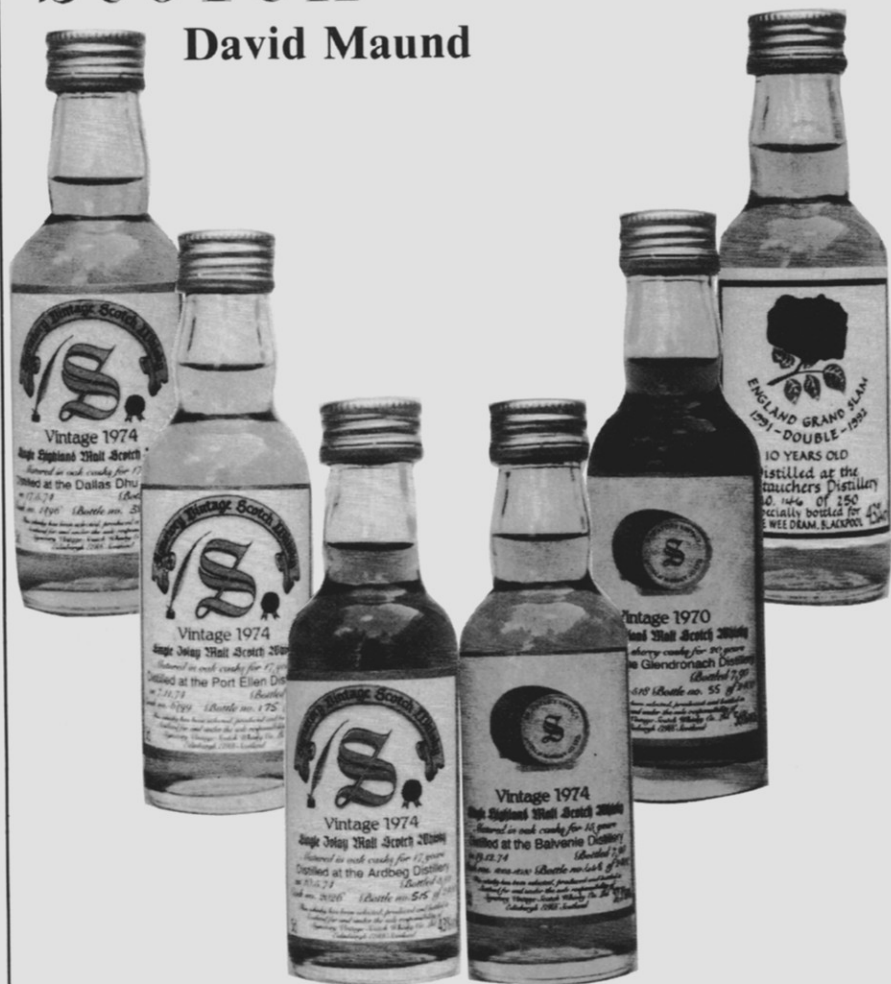
If you've enjoyed these, I've still got more...but that's another issue!

--H.F.--



SCOTCH

David Maund



Without too much ado, thought I'd show you some fairly new bottles brought to the market this spring. The names won't be unfamiliar to you at all.

To begin with six special ones, five from Signatory and one customer item. Signatory have been issuing specific vintage years, some in very short editions (the bottles, not the years!).

Four of these are from 1974 and each is one of only 2400 issued. These are 17 years old, 50 ml and 43% alcohol by volume. They are Dallas Dhu, Port Ellen, Ardbeg and Balvenie.

The fifth Signatory is a 20 year old Glendronach from 1970. It is still from a production of 2400 pieces.

The customer item is from The



Specialty Items

Wee Dram in Blackpool. This name should also be familiar to you as they are long time advertisers in the magazines. This is the England Grand Slam which contains a 10 year old Glentauchers single malt. The numbers here are considerably different as this is but one of 250 produced.

The other six bottles are from the Cumbrae Supply Company of

Scotland. This company have produced a great many collectable scotches over the last twenty years or so. These six speak for themselves, except you might not be able to see that they're 40% alcohol.

To switch the subject, we're now commencing photography on volume two of the scotch books. (Just thought I'd get in an early advert!)

COLLEZIONE CAMEL

By Scott Reinhart

World-Wide Selection of



Ultra-Premium Spirits

This collection of twelve glass bottle from the Camel corporation of Italy shows their product line. The cartoon is heavy weight vacuum formed plastic with a rigid plastic sleeve around it.

Photo #1 - The set as it is presented. The printing in the upper left is bright yellow.

Photo #2 - top row of six bottles: Vite D'Oro Grappa Stravecchia, Sliwovitz Alpener, Apricot Brandy Liqueur De Albricocca, Fogolar

Brandy Gran Reserve, Clan House Fine Old Scotch Whisky, Duchesse Liqueur D'Orange.

Photo #3 - bottom row of six bottles: Cherry Brandy Liqueur Di Marasca, Ovo Cocktail Liqueur All'Uovo, Vite D'Oro Grappa Stravecchia, 1944 Grain Dry Neutral Grain Vodka, Camel - A Fine Liqueur, William Grives Distillato de Pere.

--S.R.--



BEER, BEER, BEER

by JOHN WYSS



Anybody up for a robust bottle of imported beer? How about three? Today I would like to share some pictures and info on some premium beers from the Netherlands (also known unofficially as Holland).

The first bottle (unlisted in R. Kay's books) is Brand Holland Beer which hails from the southernmost province of Limburg. True to its full size counterpart, the 4 7/8" mini bottle is produced in a creamy white ceramic glass-lined bottle which follows the brewery's bottling tradition of white glass since about 1869. The mini has two different decal-type labels on the front and back along with one neck label on the front. There is no identifying embossment. This bottle was produced about ten years ago.

Bottle #2, Amstel Bier, is listed as

NETH-1 in Mini Beer Update. The 3 1/2" brown glass bottle has "30" embossed on the bottom and includes one paper label. It's approximately circa 1985. Amstel is produced in Amsterdam.

Bottle #3, Amstel Beer, is previously unlisted. The 3 1/8" brown glass bottle has "Alpa" (of Italy) embossed on the bottom. The bottle has an unprinted gold metal cap and there is only one paper label. Again, the approximate date is about 1985.

If you come across any of these bottles, consider yourself lucky. Regardless of their relatively recent issue, all foreign mini beers are getting very tough to acquire (hint, hint).

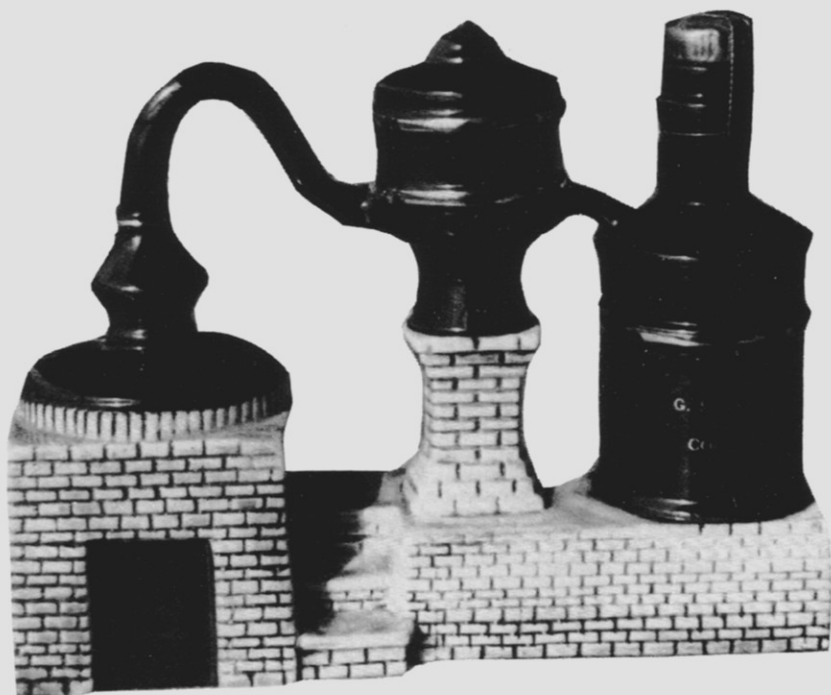
Cheers!!

--J.W.--

MINI WORLD

COGNAC DISTILLERY

By Hamilton Stanford



This is a large, beautifully-detailed French bottle. (Ed. note: So, sometimes we cheat on size.) It is filled with X.O. Cognac made by G. Fransac.

Going from the bottom to the top, we have the following on the base: Modele Depose, Georges de Fransca, Chemignac, France, 750ml. The cap itself is secured with

both wire and a lead seal.

The bottle is 9½ inches wide at the base and stands 7¾ inches tall. The "working" sections are a rich, realistic brown with gold detailing. This was made for the European market and is not sold in the United States. And I promise, next time I'll get back to minis!

--H.S.--

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