

THE

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No. 112 1992

**MINIATURE
BOTTLE
COLLECTOR**



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MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



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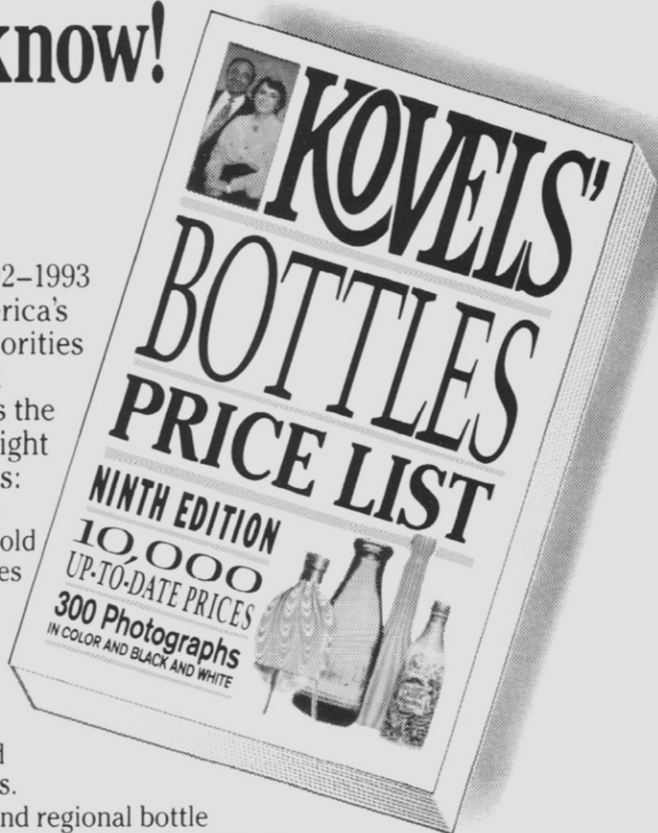
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The CROWN PUBLISHING GROUP

Let's Talk

We've got ten articles for you this time with a good mix of the old and the new. A welcome back to our usual contributors and a big new hello to Fred Hawley of Burlingame, CA who has one of the best whiskey and beer collections around. (Hmmm, memories of boiler-makers!) You'll also soon see Fred as our featured collector in these pages.

The following appeared in the M.B.C. of Australia newsletter. I think it bears repeating. The title is Collector or Hoarder????

"Are you really a collector? Or do you just want the biggest and the best? Can you tell me about every bottle in your collection? Are they all equally special? Do you even remember what you have without having to go to a master list and decipher your codes? When I call you to ask about a certain mini do you have the same old excuse, 'Well, I will have to get back to you on that one.'? I always thought that we joined clubs and met new members so that we could swap minis and make new friends. Let me tell you, there are few 'collectors' that will never be my friends.

"Is it worth having the biggest and the best if no one will trade with you or sell you any of their duplicates? I think not. We are in this hobby for fun & enjoyment, not to outdo others. Of all the thousands of bottles that you have, will the one or two that I really need to complete a set be missed from yours? Or will all the other bottles you have shrivel up and die because their mate left home. I think not. And, by the way, remember that bottle I have that you wanted to buy and I told you I would rather trade it for one of yours that I needed, but you said NO! ...I drank it..."

Interesting letter, isn't it? See you in late December or early January.

--DMS--

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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Features

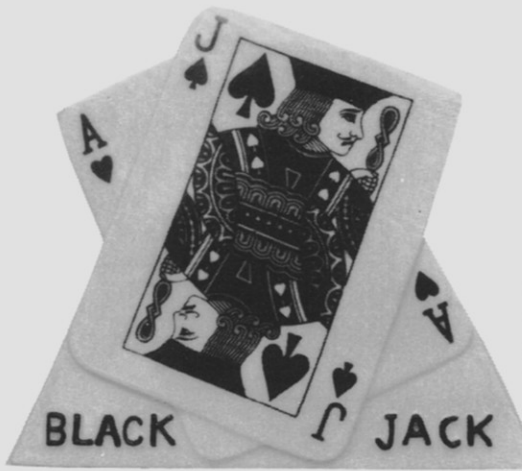
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Our Cover

The bottle on the cover this time is both rare and unusual. The latter is true because this fellow is the symbol/logo of the Herman Jansen Company of Schiedam, Holland. You'll find him on the label of all the straight glass bottles. The rarity...well, how many have you seen? This is a light or aqua blue in color, contains Apricot Brandy, and has the No. KAB./20 on the bottom.

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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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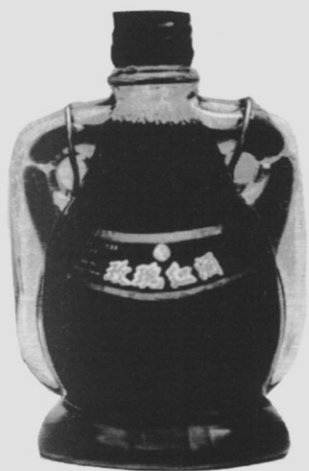
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WHAT'S NEW



Often I feature bottles which you can't find unless you head for the ends of the earth. So this time, with just a small exception, we'll stick with bottles available here in the U.S.

The tall bottle is GermainRobin Alambic Brandy. This is a California brandy produced up in Ukiah, CA. The mini made its appearance just a few months back. It is an elegant glass bottle which stands out from the crowd.

The Aberlour is simply the U.S. label for this scotch. We don't have





that many scotches available here, so when we do, we plug 'em! Comes in a tube...nice presentation.

Okay, now it's time for those bottles from the ends of the earth. Florida collector Paul Hermle found these in Hong Kong a year and a half ago. I'm not sure if they contain wine or highly proofed liqueur. One thing you can tell is that they are nicely done bottles. Hard to tell with black and white, but these are green and red lanterns with Chinese characters embossed in the glass.

The best though had to be saved for last. This is the A. Hardy and Company Cognac set. There are six and each one represents a specific sub-division of the cognac area. The colors of the labels relate to the colors found on the map shown above the bottles. This map is actually the inside top cover of the package the bottles come in. Since it is so difficult to tell from these pages, you owe it to yourself to go out and buy the set!

--DMS--

melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature a mixed bag starting with some early 1930's Schenley products. Also we'll look at four post War bourbons from distillers better known for blends, and finally three seldom seen ryes.

During the golden age, we can find rye, bourbon and blended variations from most major distillers. After World War II ryes virtually disappeared and many distillers opted for a single market concentrating on either a bourbon

or a blend.

The first bottle is Sam Thompson Rye Bottled by Jos. S. Finch Schenley PA. It is 90 proof, five or more years old and is circa 1936. Next we have James E. Pepper A Blend of Straight Whiskies in an odd shaped flask. It is 92 proof and was Blended Spring 1934 and Bottled Fall 1934 by Schenley Dist. Inc. The James E. Pepper Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey was Distilled by Henry Clay Distilling Co. Lexington KY. It is 100 proof,

MELO'S



BIB 1935-1939 and is the first of the many bonded Peppers.

Bottle number four is P M Straight Bourbon Whiskey Distilled by National Distillers Peoria Ill. It is 86 proof, 6 years old and is from 1956. The Gibson's Straight Bourbon Whiskey was Bottled by The Gibson Distilling Co. Louisville KY. It is 90 proof, 8 years old, has a For Display Only stamp and is from 1950. Bottle number six is Melrose Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Melrose and Co. Aladdin PA. It

is 90 proof, 8 years old, and from 1951. The last bourbon is Four Roses. It is 86 proof, five years or more old and is from 1955.

The next bottle is the familiar Blue Grass Brand from National Distillers Louisville KY. However, not only is this a round bottle, but it's a Rye! It is 93 proof, four years old and was bought for 60¢ on 7-28-39 in Frankfort KY. The Old Crow Rye is BIB 1942-1947 and is occasionally seen. The last bottle is Carstairs Blended Rye. It is 90 pro-

MELO'S MINIS



of, 7 or more years old and is circa 1934.

Finally I would like to add a postscript to my article in MBC ©109. The two "large label" Old Quakers are 4 years old and dated 3-'41, while the two "small label" Old Quakers are 5 years old and dated 7-'41. The point of the article was that all four of these variations were on the market for a very short time. I hope this clears up any confusion.

Until next time...

--MELO--

MINI WORLD



BERMUDA GOLD

By Scott Reinhart

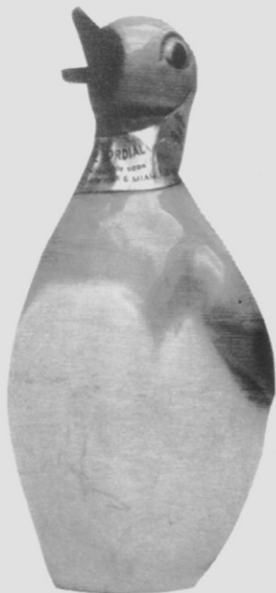
A "Sampler Set" as opposed to a souvenir set, this type of set contains one each of a company's products. The packaging may be of a style that will sell well in gift and souvenir shops, but may also be found in package or liquor stores.

The boxed set photo did not reproduce well but it is brightly printed on the back with a Bermuda beach scene. The opening has plastic cover or sleeve to protect the bottles.

The set is composed of four dark brown glass bottles, square in shape with gold colored tops. They are Sea Venture Rum Swizzle, Bermuda Coconut Rum Liqueur, Bermuda Gold Liqueur, and Bermuda Banana Liqueur.



FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



When you've seen hundreds of collections, talked with hundreds more collectors and tried to find as much information on as many bottles as you possibly can for between 25 and 35 years, you don't expect to come up with ceramics from a famous company that no one has seen nor heard of previously. Such was the case recently.

The three animals shown here came to light when an old collection was broken up. These three (Chick, rooster, and kangaroo) were made in Italy but filled here by Southern

Sales Co. of New York and Miami. Most of their bottles were sold from 1948 to 1952.

As with almost all of their bottles, these three contain non-alcoholic Kuemmel Cordial. The labels are interesting because of a mistake that is famous on many of the Southern Sales labels. The contents is listed as 1/8 oz. The bottles themselves are fairly good size with the Kangaroo being the largest at 8½ inches tall, thus it is shown here at almost full size.

--DMS--

Southern Sales



Glass!



If you've had enough of Martini-que, then we'll venture over Guadeloupe. It is actually composed of two islands which are separated by a narrow channel. They are in the Leeward group of the West Indies and are a department of France. As with Martinique, a good many products are made here for sale in the Caribbean as well as in France. The Madras bottles fit this definition nicely.

There are eleven bottles here which makes one wonder if a twelfth is lurking somewhere. As you can tell, five have exactly the same label except for contents. These are Creme de Banane, Creme de Sapote, Punch Goyave, Punch Maraendja, and Punch au Coco. The Punch Ananas is quite similar

and its strange that the Pina Colada was not done the same way.

The last of the liqueurs is the one which would probably sell best in the U.S. This is the Punch D'Amour au Rhum. There are a few rum punch recipes around, but none which advertise themselves as a Love Rum Punch and feature a naked black girl on the label. (Magnifying glass time.)

The remaining three bottles are an Anisette and two rums which aren't shown to be rums. These are the Dry Madras and the Fine Madras. All the liqueurs are 25% alcohol while the two rums are 40%. And all are 5 cl bottles.

Further visits to the West Indies await.



MADRAS



IF MINIS COULD TALK...

By Fred Hawley



In October of 1991 I answered an ad for mini liquor bottles for sale. I then purchased the collection of 470 bottles. The collection arrived six boxes, and inside the bottles were wrapped in 1937 newspapers!

I couldn't wait to start unwrapping the bottles. As I did, I could not believe my eyes. It seemed as if every other bottle was one I had never seen nor heard of before. I'd like now to share with you eight of these 1930's whiskeys from this great collection.



The first is Acadia Straight Whiskey, ninety proof, bottled by Goodman and Beer Co., Inc. New Orleans, LA. The bottle is clear, flat, and ribbed. The second bottle is Student Prince Whiskey A Blend, ninety proof, bottled by Valley Springs Distillery, Inc. Chicago, IL. This bottle is clear and flat with a white, brown, and black label. Number three is Lakeshore Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 100 proof, bottled by Paramount Distilling Corp. Chicago, IL. This one is clear and flat with a gold, red, and black label. Bottle number four is Old Admirer Brand Straight Bourbon

Whiskey, 100 proof, bottled by Paramount Liquor Co. Chicago, IL. The bottle is clear, round, and sports a gold, orange, and black label.

To begin our last four we have Red Devil Straight Whiskey, 80 proof, bottled for Schuster Wholesale Produce Co. of Shreveport, LA. This one is clear lady's leg with a white, red, and black label. Bottle number six is Choice of Lexington Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 90 proof, again bottled for the Schuster Wholesale Produce Co. of Shreveport. It is clear lady's leg also with a white, red, and gold label. Number



seven is Guardian Straight Whiskey, 100 proof, and bottled for the Samuel Freeman Corp. Cincinnati, OH. The bottle is a clear lady's leg with a white, red, black, and gold label. Finally we have Ranger Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 90 proof, bottled for the Samuel Freeman Corp. of Cincinnati, OH. This is a clear lady's leg with a white, black, and gold label.

If feel very fortunate to have found these eight great whiskeys. They are wonderful conversation pieces and have added much variety to my collection.

CHARLES HOSIE GmbH

By Holm Hars



Today I will show you some old minis of Charles Hosie, GmbH Hamburg. In former times the firm imported will known spirits in barrels then bottled them in their own bottles. Todays Charles Hosie is one of the biggest importers in Germany. All of these older bottles have the same simple label and contain 0.021 (about 2/3 of an ounce.)

1. Ten High Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 43%.

2. Courvoisier V.S.O.P. Cognac, no % given.

3. Krakus Polish Vodka 40%.

4. Gordon's Very Dry Cocktail 40%

5. Drambuie Scotch Whisky Liqueur 40%.

6. Sherry Brandy 30%.

7. Creme de Cacao 25%.

8. Banadry 30%.

Until next time.

--H.H.--

SCOTCH

David Maund



I thought that would be a good title of for the article this time. I've definitely got an odd lot for you; however, they all do have one thing in common. None of these bottles was produced and/or bottled by a company bearing its name. These are more examples of bottles produced for collectors.

The set of three from James MacArthur's was a boxed group available a couple of years ago. These are cask strength which means if you consume these neat, you'll likely wish you hadn't. The

Imperial is 63% alcohol, the Port Ellen 62.7% and the Royal Brackla is 64.5%. These need a wee bit of water...not ice!

The Castle is a 15 year old single malt produced for Edinburgh Castle. Aside of a fellow collector, you've got to go to Edinburgh for this one. It was bottled for Historic Scotland at a very normal proof.

Santa's Dram is what really should be left for the rotund fellow when he makes his rounds. Tell the kiddies that Santa would much more appreciate this than a plate of



ODDS AND ENDS

cookies and a glass of milk. I've shown you bottles from The Scottish Collection previously and this is another.

The last five are all from Gordon & Macphail but with very nice fancy labels. No fancy proofs here, but all the bottles save Ardmore were whiskies distilled in 1979. Ardmore is from 1977. The other notable point is that all are Highland whiskies except for Inverleven which is a Lowland Whisky.

Maybe next time I'll have some older bottles photographed!



FROM HOLLAND...WITH DELFT



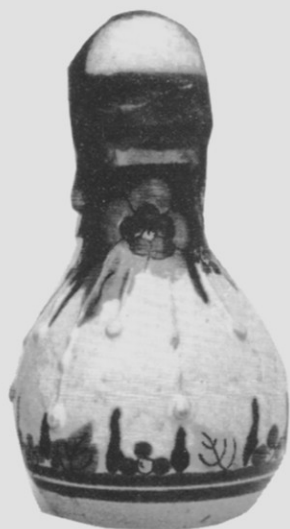
The eight pieces shown here are all Rynbende bottles sold in Chicago in 1937. Along with windmills, shoes, and literally scores of blown glass animals, Rynbende exported several sets of jugs to the U.S.

Five different shapes were used but several different patterns were placed on those same five shapes. The lighter multi-colored delft had at least three different patterns. In upcoming issues we'll show you examples of the other patterns.

The dark colored delft or blackware as some have called it, is

actually Gouda-ware, a special type of ceramic done in the city of Gouda (say Houw-da). With three of the same shapes as shown in the multi-colored delft, we have the Gouda bottles with at least two different patterns. Please note we have the flower pattern on the two handled urn differs from the pattern on the other two bottles.

Along with this minimum grouping of twenty-five jugs and urns, there were also a few "extras" and you can look forward to seeing to some of those shortly, also.



SMALL TALK

by

Harry Ford, Jr.



Continuing on with more of the old 1930's California Gins, we have some truly great names this time. The bottles speak for themselves so I'll only add little asides now and then.

PURVEYOR'S is a Sloe Gin but I still count it. Wouldn't you like to know more about the Association of Liquor Purveyors, INC.? I would. I'd also be interested in why they used an obvious cut down label.

You've seen LUCKY STRIKE Whiskey before, but here are the two gin versions, same label but two bottle shapes. YACHT CLUB is another which is known for its Whiskey.

Ed Hayes was a man whose name appears on a great many California bottles of all different types. Here

his House of Hayes has HI-GIN and FAS-GIN. Surely wouldn't care to partake of either of those.

ENGLISH CLUB is a San Francisco bottle which is possibly most notable for its complete lack of interest. SILVER MIST is a nice flask, but I'll lament once again about the way those old decal stamps were affixed. Seems as if they went out of their way to cover labels.

My favorite of the group is SILVER SWAN. It states right on the front MFG. Dec. 1933. Now since Prohibition ended on Dec. 5th of that year, this is probably one of, if not the, earliest Martinis.

Hope you've enjoyed these "new" nine bottles.

--H.F.--

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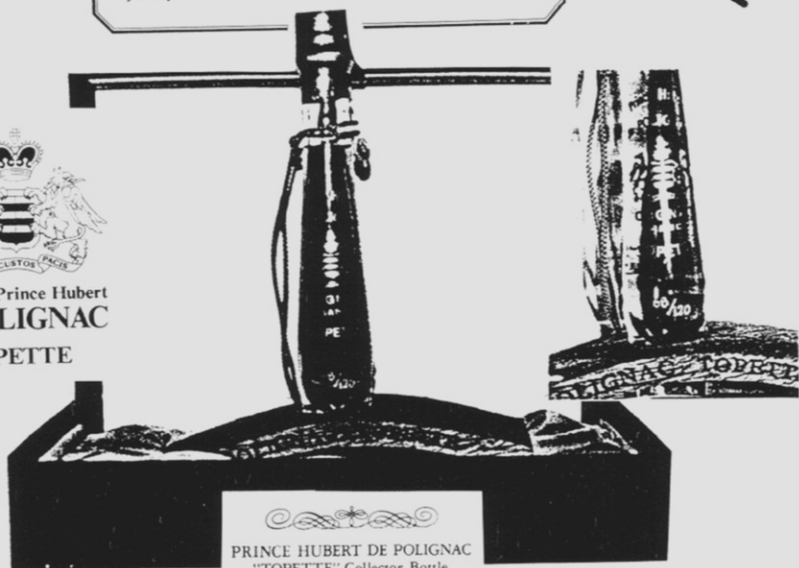
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You are now the proud owner of Topette No. 120/120 and we congratulate you on your excellent taste in cognac.

offer!



Cognac Prince Hubert
de **POLIGNAC**
TOPETTE



PRINCE HUBERT DE POLIGNAC
"TOPETTE" Collector Bottle

The origins of this long, narrow, elegant little bottle are lost in history. But the name "Topette", spelled "Taupette" in the Cognac region of France, comes from the word "topoise", which dates from the beginning of the 13th century, and which evolved to "toupie" in the 14th century. This word undoubtedly reflects Anglo-Saxon influences, being originally derived from the English word "top" of the 11th century, which then became "topet" and then "toupie".

The Topette is used by our cellar master to take samples of our rarest Cognacs directly from oak barrels. Thus are unlocked the perfect harmony of our rarest Cognacs which age peacefully in the silence and shadows of this magic place, aptly known as "Paradis".

Polignac Cognac was established to serve France's oldest royal families. From cultivation of grapes to fermentation, ageing and blending, every step is undertaken with the strictest attention and commitment to quality. Polignac Cognac has been enjoyed in the Danish royal house, France's Elysee Palace, and the finest homes in Europe, justly deserving the title of "The Cognac of Royalty".

Prince H. de Polignac

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PLACE YOUR ORDER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AS SUPPLIES ARE VERY LIMITED, AND WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME BASIS. PLEASE ALLOW 3 TO 6 WEEKS DELIVERY. PAYMENT IN FULL IS REQUIRED WITH EACH ORDER. AMOUNTS ARE PAYABLE IN UNITED STATES DOLLARS ONLY, (USD).

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WANTED: Japanese figural bottles (porcelain/china only) by House of Koshu, Kikukawa, Kamotsuru, Kikkoman, Sasaiti Shuzo, Okura Shuzo, MBC, etc. in both miniature and large sizes. Bottles of Japanese Geisha Girls, Pagodas, Gods, Kabuki players, Warriors, etc. only. Write/call Al Sparacino, 743 La Hueria Way, San Diego, CA 92154 or (619) 690-3632.

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BACK ISSUES



A few (very few) pre-1979 issues are available. Write for details. These are now extremely rare and often have been bought back from collectors.

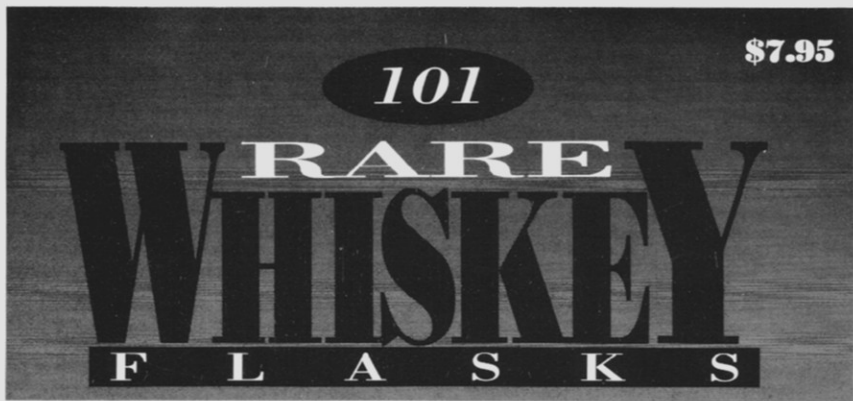
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