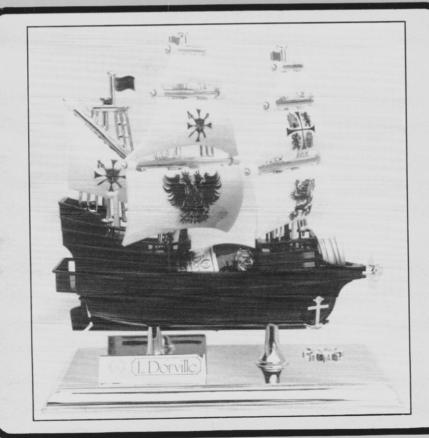
VOL. XX No. 1 No. 115 1993

BOTHER FOR



MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY AUCTION CATALOG

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Let's Talk

And they said it wouldn't last! Well, this is the beginning of our 20th year of MBC and we're still going strong thanks to all of you!

The promises from last time are all here in this issue. The Lava Liqueur is on page 6 and Tony Natelli has returned with part two (or should we say "duex"?) of his Frapin article. Tony is currently in the process of shaping together some great articles on new fancy cognacs and armagnacs. Some of these new bottles he'll be showing are really spectacular.

As an aside and speaking of spectacular, the new Godiva Liqueur looks just as good as the Canton shown this time. We'll have the Godiva shown this time. We'll have the Godiva for you in the next issue. One classy bottle coming up!

We welcome back some names you haven't seen for awhile: Ivan Uhlik, Taizo Shiratsuchi, and Jack Sullivan. Scott Reinhart got squeezed out but he'll be here next time. Steve Franco is a new name for many of you; however, you've seen his WANTS and some time. Steve has excellent taste in his "Wants" and you'll read about some of them on page 25.

In the Club Directory you'll note the absence of the Tokyo Club which is now dormant. However, you'll notice the inclusion of the new club in Hong Kong. Nice to see interest in that part of the world.

Following up on the Camus info from last issue, there are indeed three Renoir books and they are currently available at all DFS outlets throughout the world. You'll see all three here soon.

See you in St. Louieee.

--DMS--

VOL. XX No. 1 1993 No. 1115 BOTTAR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

Features

Our Cover

The bottle on the cover this time is from Kinoshita Shoji of Osaka, Japan. This company imports Dorville Brandy from France to Japan. The mini pirate ship is then constructed around the actual miniature bottle. Issued earlier this year, it was accompanied by two other pieces, a violin and a french horn. There are many pieces in this series and they are all outstanding!

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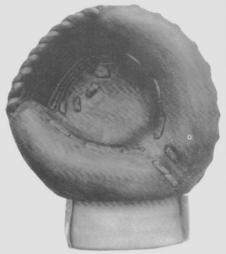
NEW











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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WHAT'S NEW



Now here's a smattering of new issues from hither and yon. And naturally there are some stories which go along with them.

A few issues back the little blown glass pear was shown. So, here's the apple. If we wait long enough, maybe we can have all of them for you. Or possibly there are only the two. This one came courtesy of collector Martin Hemmerle in Liechtenstein.

The other non import is the ceramic Lava Liqueur. There are three different ones, same bottle just different liqueurs. Shown here are Cocoa and Coffee. This pair comes from the island of Bali

through the efforts of French collector Jacques Rollet. The ceramics are actually produced on the island and would appear to be the only miniatures which are made there. Now you have something definite to ask for when your friends go on that cruise. You know the friends I mean. These are the friends who would just love to bring you something but they're afraid you already have it and they don't want to take the chance of getting you a duplicate so they don't do anything. Do you have friends like that, too?

The Canton Ginger Liqueur is a product of China but it is sold here and should be in all markets across



the U.S. It's an excellent bottle with the high standards of production we usually associate with Japan. Hmmm, maybe they can only do nice glass work in other countries. (Pardon the second editorial comment, but after seeing only new round schnapps bottles from our local producers which don't have one iota of craftsmanship, it's easy to be snide.) The Canton is a must!

Mr. Lucky Amaretto? Yes, seeing is believing; however, finding it is another matter. This was going to be done for the Mr. Lucky collectors' club, but so far hasn't been issued other than a few samples.

The Keglevich is from Italy and

it's a name which should ring bells in a few collector's ears. Keglevich is one of the Stock brands. This is a Vodka Lemon Liqueur and comes in a nice frosted bottle. Nothing fancy, just clean.

Finally we come to the best farce, that is. Now we can complain about plastic bottles with zero imagination. But this bottle is in a class all by itself. The label you're looking at is the only label on the bottle. Did they forget to do a front label? The answer is yes. The way you see it is the way it was sold in Tennessee. Well, at least it's something interesting to talk about!

--DMS--

SCOTCH

David Maund



It's winter time and I haven't had some of the photography done that's been needed. So, you'll have to make do with two sets of four bottles each. To get all of these you'll have to do some traveling or letter writing!

The S.S. Politician is just a nice name...too bad it doesn't contain a drop of actual brew which went down on the ship itself many years ago. And, in case you didn't know, there have been some of the whisky which was salvaged from this ship.

The two bottles with the lad's pictures on them are from Miniatura Collectives in St. Andrews, Scotland. These are of Nick Faldo and Jack Nicklaus, each a winner of the Open Championship Golf Tour-



nament. This is obviously a very good example of a collection within a collection. I do know there will be other bottles forthcoming in this series.

The fourth in this set is one I personally had a little something to do with. Only 100 were produced and each was individually numbered. This particular Bruichladdich is number 17. It was issued on the 4th of October last.

The remaining bottles are all from Gordon & MacPhail. They've been standards here in the U.K. for some time; however, I've been told that they are now being made available in the U.S. through a wholesale operation in the State of Illinois. You'll know a good many familiar names there.

Incidentally, I shall be coming back to the U.S. for the show in St. Louis this April. I'm looking forward to seeing a good many of you there.



...FROM NEAR AND FAR



SPECIAL" COGNACS

FRAPIN - PART 2

By Tony Natelli

Besides the beautiful VIP X.O. decanter and Mini Hearts china miniatures shown recently, Frapin also produces a full line of glass miniatures, at least two of which are sold in the U.S.A.

They are Domaine Frapin and Cuvee Rare. The former comes in an old fashioned, numbered bottle. They are available in various states.

Those not sold here are V.S., V.S.O.P., Napoleon and Chateau De Font Pinot. This one (unfortunately not pictured) will be available some time this year in the U.S.

All six are well worth looking for as they support fine looking labels and contain various superior cognacs.

--T.N.--





FROM THE HEART OF

« GRANDE CHAMPAGNE »

TO THE GLASS OF

THE CONNOISSEUR





Frapin

FRORR

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some of the Scotch Whisky miniatures which appeared in Japan during 1992.

The first is McCLELLAND'S KING'S PRIDE Vatted Malt. We can't find this Scotch at the liquor shops as this importer has no market for his liquors and his products are sold only through the private route. The label is black with golden letters and a white picture.

DEW of BEN NEVIS 12 year old



has come out with a new golden label and a flat bottle. Also Dew of Ben Nevis Blended regular bottles have new labels which are the same as the miniatures from the U.K.; however, they are not available in Japan.

The next bottle, ABERLOUR GLENLIVET 10 year old, also has a new label with the Japanese word which means Whisky. It is a normal, clear, round bottle sold in a tube.

The last two bottles are





BARCLAYS 12 year old and 21 year old. They were imported by Barclay & Co. which is in Okinawa, Japan. These bottles are available at only one store in Tokyo and with a surprising price. The 21 year old is 1,800 yen (at current rates about US \$15)! The labels are based on black and golden colors.

All bottles contain 50ml with 43% alcohol.

Until next time...

melo's minis

by Mike Olson





In the article we'll take another look at seven of the finest Kentucky Bourbons produced during the early/mid 1930's, plus a pre-pro that is absolutely one of the neatest bottles I have ever seen. Over the years certain bottles have immediately grabbed my attention and I have always made an extra effort to obtain them whenever possible.

Needless to say, these seven are prime examples and my first glimpse of bottle number one almost gave me a coronary. This is T.W. Samuels Bourbon Whiskey, one of the many brands to come out of Nelson County, Kentucky. It is BIB

1913-1917 and has a great looking multi-colored label featuring ole T.W. hoisting one.

Bottle number two is Old Watermill Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Old Kentucky Distillery, Shively, Kentucky. It is 90 proof, 4 years old and has a white label printed in red and black. Next we have Kentucky's Old Penfield Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for the Penfield Distilling Co., Louisville, Ky. It is 100 proof, 2 years old and has a black and white label printed in green and gold.

The fourth bottle is Corydon & Ohlrich Kentucky Straight Bourbon



Whiskey Distilled by T.W. Samuels. It is 93 proof, 2 years old and has a black label printed red, gold and white. Moving along we come to Cherry Grove Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Acorn Liquor Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. It is 90 proof, 2 years old and has a red and black label over white.

What can I say about Heart of Kentucky Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Byrd Distilling Co. of Louisville, Kentucky. It is 100 proof, 2 years old, has 96 hours fermentation and has a white label printed in black, red and gold. The last bottle is Rosemont

Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by A.L. Hinze Distillery Co. Bardstown, Kentucky. It is 100 proof, twenty months old and has a black and white label printed in red.

Finally, I have always wondered if there is such a thing as a "One of a Kind" bottle. Probably "the only one known" would be more accurate. Anyway, I think bottles two, three and six might fit in this category and I would be interested to hear from anyone who has any of them in their collection.

Let me hear from you! And, until next time...

MEET THE COLLECTOR:

DAVE ALLEN

During the 1970's and 1980's, somehow managed to accumulate around 600 miniature bottles of all shapes and sizes. These were souvenirs of holidays at home and abroad given to me by family and friends. These miniatures were left to gather dust in a large cardboard box in the attic, and were added to every time someone came back from holiday.

It wasn't until 1985 that I was smitten by the collecting bug, and the culprit who "smit" me was my wife's sister who was home on holiday from Australia. We were on one of her gift-buying expeditions in Edinburgh in the Waverly Market in Princess Street. Needless to say, she snapped up all sorts of ceramic souvenirs like Nessie, Haggis, etc. for her friends in the Outback. But, more importantly, I found the address of the Mini Bottle Club of the U.K.

On her return home, the aforementioned sister-in-law suggested that I retrieve the cardboard box from the attic and examine the contents, as she thought it might just make a nice display. She also thought it might be a good idea to join the Mini Bottle Club. This I duly did a couple of weeks later, and since then I've never looked back!

When my collection numbered around 1500, I decided it was time to specialize, as, like most folk, display space can become a problem. I decided that single malt

Scotch whisky would be my collecting interest, with a secondary interest in mini jugs/flagons.

I now have a collection numbering 1200 single malts and 500 ceramics. My favorite bottle though is not a single malt, but a blend of the "Glasgow Cross 8 year old" which I chased for some time before striking it lucky at the Mini Bottle Club A.G.M. (note: annual general meeting) a couple of years ago. My most prized ceramics are the white "Hunting Scenes" set of six mini flagons which were issued by Rutherfords some years ago.

I am now the Ceramics Officer for the Mini Bottle Club. I have held this position for three years now and regularly compile reports on the world of mini ceramics for our bimonthly newsletter.

I'm involved...and enjoying it more and more.





THE SE



Today I am coming to you with a question. Are they miniatures, these little bags from Hungary, or aren't they? I got them from my good friend in Budapest. At present there are two distilleries in Hungary which have sold them there.

The larger of them is the PANALCO Italgyar Kft (Panalco Beverages Ltd.) at Szabadegyhaza. Its transparent plastic bags are about 7cm wide and 15cm long. Their series name is Felles.

There are four brands which comprise this series: Felles Brandy 40%, Felles Golden Vodka 40%, Felles Rum 40% and the Felles Barack 40% which is really apricot distillate.

The second firm is the AGRIA Brandy Kft. at Eger. Its bags are about 7cm wide and 12cm long. At the front they are white with the series title 5 Centes at the top and the brand title in the middle.

There are three brands in this series. They are a vodka, a brandy and a pear distillate called Korte. All the drinks are at 40% alcohol by volume. Both the Felles and the 5 Centes bags are 50ml.

Well, can anyone tell me his opinion about them? I will be pleased with anyone's answer. Until the next issue where I will show you some new "genuine" miniatures from Hungary.

--I.H.--

IVO'S EASTERN MINIS By Ivan Uhlik



BEER, BEER, BEER



by JOHN WYSS



Here's a couple of fine old British brews familiar to many collectors.

The first bottle is listed, but not pictured in Bob Kay's Miniature Beer Bottles and Go-Withs. It is Thomas Hardy's Ale (Eng.-1). This bottle is not shaped like a typical beer bottle. It is an approximately 41/4" tall brown glass flask. It has a metal screw top cap with a tamper evident plastic seal. My bottle is empty, but I'm presuming that it originally came with a real snort of the touted "Strongest Beer In The World". The bottle has a foil label on the front and a paper label on the back detailing the story of Hardy's Ale. To finish off this bottle with an added touch of class, a medallion sporting good old Thomas' profile is royally draped from the shoulders. The slip side of the medallion (on my bottle) states "July 1986". The Hardy's Ale bottle is not nearly as difficult to acquire as the Mather's Black Beers, also hailing from England. I have yet to find the cork-topped Mather's (ENG.-2) despite numerous inquiries. (Can anyone help me out?)

Bottle number two is from the familiar Guiness Breweries. This previously unlisted version comes to us in a 4½" jet black ceramic bottle with a plastic salt and pepper cap. The front label is done in tan enamal. Printed on the bottom is "Bottled in the Republic of Ireland St. James Gate Dublin". This is truly a fine piece of brewery advertising.

As always, if anyone would happen to have any other unlisted English beers to document or sell, please drop me a line!

Cheers! --J.W.--

Boozeville

By Lloyd McLeod



Some people in Boozeville were shocked to see a three-legged man walking down the street (a sight quite common on the Isle of Man). These fellows are like a cat. You can hold them upside down and drop them and they will land on their feet. A cat is also shown in the picture, but that's also because the Isle of Man is the home of the Manx cat. (Say, what happened to his tail?)

This giveaway bottle (shown in



two versions) no doubt caused a lot of conversation. It is 7½ inches tall and one man has a black coat and red boots while the other one has a red coat and black boots. It's difficult to say if the extra foot took a left or right shoe.

Anyway, if you saw this guy coming down the street, you would either take a drink or swear off all together.

--L.M.--

MINI WORLD



Beginning in the late 1930's and into the 1940's, American visitors to Scotland often returned with souvenirs of Scotch whisky in miniature stoneware jugs as keepsakes or to give to friends and family. Sometimes these were filled with an unspecific liquor which carried the legend..."A Wee Tootie of Old Scotch Whisky" or "Cheers for Tomintoul".

But many others bore the name of their makers and occasionally of the pottery where they originated. Scotland for many years had been the scene of a thriving business in stoneware pottery items of all kinds, including miniature whiskies. But World War II decimated the industry.

Here are three miniature jugs characteristic of the type: The two-handled Graybeard-Heather Dew dates from about 1941 and carries on its bottom the stamp of Possil Pottery. That pottery was founded in 1898 and created countless stoneware whiskies, ginger beers, rennet pots and other ceramic items. Unlike others in its trade, it was able to survive into the 1940's but denied its international markets during

SCOTTISH STONEWARE IN SCOTCH MINIATURES



WWII, it too closed its doors.

Like the Graybeard, the Ballantine jug mimics the larger ceramic containers in which the whisky was merchandised. Carrying no mark, it probably dates from the late 1930's when the distillery, founded in 1876, was sold to new interests who aggressively merchandised it worldwide. Today Ballantine is one of the top 10 best-selling scotches in the world.

Currently only one major Scottish pottery remains, Govancroft Potteries of Glasgow, which proclaims "Each year we manufacture over one million hand-thrown flagons for the Spirit Trade throughout the world." These include the full-sized jugs in which Scotch single malts are marketed in the U.S., as well as a range of miniatures. Some of the brands are Old Rarity, Glenfiddich, Glen Garry and King's Ransom.

An example of a contemporary miniature is Usquaeback blended Scotch -- "The Grand Whisky of the Highland". Its shape is unusual, say expert Ala Keegan, because it reflects an old two or three gallon storage jar, rather than the usual pint or quart size. Without a pottery



stamp, it is impossible to know for sure, but the likelihood is strong that it is a product of Govancroft of Glasgow.

This jug illustrates that older may not mean more attractive. As these close-up photos reveal, The Graybeard jug imitates its two-handled quart-sized "parent", but the handles are too large for the body. Both it and the Ballantine jug suffer from too much detail in their transfers that render them both semi-illegible. By contrast, The Usquaebach flagon has style and a readable message.

--J.S.--

TALKING POINT!

By Steve Franco

When you talk about fine & fancy minis, your thoughts automatically turn to Remy Martin "LOUIS XIII". It is said that the original design stems from a bottle found by a farmer while plowing his fields in Jarnac just outside Cognac. Monsieur Remy Martin was passing by on horseback and promptly purchased the decanter. This became the model for what we now know as the Louis XIII. Aside from being one of the finest cognacs in the world, the decanter both in full size and mini which is manufactured by Baccarat, is without question the most prestigious in the world. Originally selling for less than \$40, the mini is now bringing anywhere from \$350.00 to \$700.00 depending on condition and original packaging.

The earliest mini came out just prior to 1950 and had a square label inscribed Grande Champagne "Tres Vielle Age Inconnu". These bottles are Baccarat crystal which was not inserted in the bottle. All bottles had number scratched in the bottom with the same number at the bottom of the stopper. Being hand-made, each stopper was produced specifically for the particular bottle. The second series was the same bottle and stopper but with a sausage or kidney bean shaped label. The inscription on this label was Grand Fine Champagne "Louis XIII Brand". The third and last series which was actually sold on the open market was a similarly shaped label inscribed Grand Champagne Louis XIII "Very Old". Shortly after, a company made a prototype which as made of glass and resembled the original. It was presented to Remy Martin for possible manufacture. After inspection and much consideration, Remy Martin decided not to proceed with this bottle. Fewer than half a dozen were produced before the project was scrapped. Anyone owning one of these prototypes has a real prize. These glass bottles came filled and had a stopper fixed in the bottle.

Rumor has it that in the very early eighties Remy Martin came out with a mini that duplicates the current Louis XIII in Baccarat Crystal. It is said that it comes in a presentation box the very same as the current full size Louis XIII. From what I understand, very few were made and were never for sale. These were designed as gifts, given by Remy Martin to very special friends. How would you like to be the owner of one of these?

For those of you who are lucky enough to own any of these minis, and might have any additional or conficting information about any of the Louis XIII minis, I would love to hear from you so that together we can come as close as possible to the complete story on this wonderful bottle. You can write me at 33 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94108 or you can call me at (415) 392-1104.

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THE MINI BOTTLE CLUB: c/o Mr. David Hamilton, 47 Burradon Rd., Burradon, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE 237NF England.

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLEC-TORS OF AUSTRALIA: c/o Mr. Bob Meissner, P.O. Box 227, Chadstone Centre, Victoria 3148 Australia.

HONG KONG MINIATURE LIQUOR CLUB: Room 1101, Sunbeam Commercial Bldg., 469-471 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel (852) 770-6622, fax (852) 780-7491. Chairman: Mr. Wai Man Chan, Man's.

DEL-VAL



Miniature Bottle Club



present

the 38th and 39th Semi-Annual

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at Bill Johnston's Barn (the Lochwood Barn) Routes 73 & 113, Skippack, Pennsylvania

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Free to subscriber's each issue. One ad limit per subscriber. Please limit your ad to fifty words or less.

GLISSIFIED ADS

NOTICE: Okay, we're making room for the dust mites to do their thing. Thanks to all those who wanted to help me make room. Will be at the St. Louis show in April with lots of new goodies...some old whiskeys, too.

WANTED - WILL TRADE OR BUY: Do you have minis produced or bottled in Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Bali, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, British Honduras, Ceylon, Corsica, Crete, Dominica, El Salvador, Estonia, Falkland Island, Fiji, Guadeloupe, Guam, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, New Caledonia, Nicaragua, Reunion Island, Saint Christopher, Seychelles, Singapore, Sumatra, Surinam, Tahiti, Uganda, Zambia, or Zimbabwe? If so, then I really want to talk with you. I have minis from over 70 different countries, as well as many other types of bottles to trade for any of the above countries. If you would prefer to sell outright, I am also interested. Give me a call after 6:00 in the evenings, or write me so we can work something out. This is a situation where everyone can come out a winner. Jim Crawford, 5537 Cleandor Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238 or (513) 451-2108.

WANTED: Mini ceramic jugs with Meiers, Rosard, and Manhattan labels. Will buy any color or amount; full or empty. Want cats, elephants, horse heads, ring jugs, baseballs, footballs, square, round and canteen shaped jugs. Also need a tank, no label is OK. Connie Hackman, 4574 Aldersgate Carmel, IN 46033 or (317) 846-3629.

FOR SALE: Collector disposing of entire scotch collection. I have decided after 15 years to auction off all 2,500 scotch blends. If you want further details, please write to David Steene, 6 Links Drive, Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 3PS England or telephone 0923 85 7237 or fax 0923 85 9375.

WANTED: Remy Martin Louis XIII miniature and any cognac/armagnac miniatures which were produced prior to 1980. Write Man's Chan, Room 1101, Sunbeam Comm Bldg., 469 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong or fax to (852) 780-7491. Please attach with photocopy to show the minis.

WANTED: Looking for pottery souvenir mini jugs and other pottery souvenir items from the 1920's through the 1940's. These may be from cities, states, parks, businesses or holidays. What do you have? Mark Coleman, 1463 Bolkinwood, Freeport, IL 61032 or call (815) 233-2540.

WANTED: Mini beers - still looking for many different bottles such as: Wagner, Spearman, Ambrosia, Nectar, Manhattan, Topper, Old Union, Old Craft, White Cap, Hochgrove, Jung, Potosi, Pennsy, Harry Mitchel, Magnolia, Southern Select, and 1884 Brand. And, of course, any other interesting bottles you might have. Mike Ginn, 1770 Lorenzen Drive, San Jose, CA 95124 or call (408) 448-7108.

NOTICE: Miniature liquor bottle collectors' checklist booklet. Over 500 minis listed by category and alphabetized. Great for monitoring your collection. \$4.95 ppd. Hollygil Company, 8035 Donna, Westland, MI 48185.

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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.

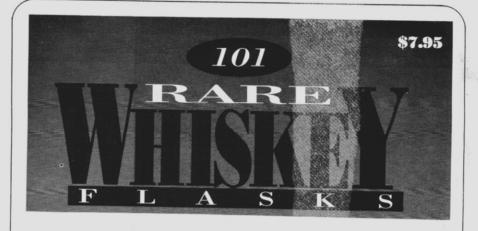
1979 Vol.	VI #'s 31-36	\$5.00@
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1982 Vol.	IX #'s 49-54	\$4.00@
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1984 Vol.	XI #'s 61-66	\$3.50@
1985 Vol.	XII #'s 67-72	\$3.50@
1986 Vol.	XIII #'s 73-78	\$3.50@
	XIV #'s 79-84	\$3.50@
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	XVI #'s 91-96	\$3.00@

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