

THE

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No. 118 1993

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY AUCTION CATALOG

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Let's Talk

Once again I would like to thank those who have written since the last issue, Your cards and letters are very much appreciated.

Something that should be thought about and then acted on is the The Club Report. Remember that column which used to appear on an irregular basis? Well, the irregular has become the missing column. I'd like to see some action in this area. If you're the Sec. of your local club, how about sharing a bit of "club life" with the rest of us. Clever things the club has done, ideas for programs, special outings, etc. If you've got some pictures and would like to see them in the magazine, send 'em on in. This hobby is most enjoyable when collectors are meeting, swapping, selling, etc. with other collectors. So, who's going to be first?

Jack Sullivan is back with us and tells about the end of Michter's. What a shame. I'm often reminded these days of a line from an e e cummings poem, "progress is a comfortable disease". Incidentally Jack also writes for Bottles and Extras on large bottles and has been doing some very interesting pieces.

Some of our regulars are missing this time, but they'll be back. Upon occasion it gets a bit difficult to recharge that creative battery. Can tell you that next time you'll see some unbelievable Alabama whiskeys by Fred Hawley, more from South Africa, and David Maund finally shows some nice old 1930's scotches.

Finally, if you didn't attend the show in your area...you'd better have a good reason!!

--DMS--

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

Shown this time are the worthy successors to last year's bottles, The Ladies of the Louvre. The Vedrenne from France has just issued ten new bottles or two sets of five each. We're only whetting your appetite with this issue as Tony Natelli's article in #119 will tell you all about "Les Chateaux de la Loire" and Les Hauts Lieux de Bourgogne". And believe us, you'll want to know!

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**NEW for Dug Picking
1993 KIT KAT RANCH**



SEAGRAVE

WHAT'S NEW



Let's get the plastic ones out of the way first. The George Dickel is an entirely new label and a good one at that. It's available on the west coast and at least in the midwest. The Christian Brothers Brandy is also a new label to match the one used on the larger bottles. It's here in California as is the Yukon Jack Perma Frost Schnapps. That's a great name and a "cool" label.

While on the subject of the plastic bottles, one which should now be available everywhere is the Southern Comfort Crystal or Crystal Comfort. We showed you this one many issues back when it was first test marketed in Pennsylvania.

The Johnnie Walker Scotch

Liqueur is a nice dark brown bottle with average label. The taste is better than average though. It is found at least in New York...so far not on the west coast.

The set of three Pierre Ferrand cognacs have just been introduced to the U.S. and may be found in major markets. Their names are Ambre, Reserve, and Selection des Anges. These probably would correspond to V.S., V.S.O.P., and Napoleon. They are an attractive, clean-looking bottle and label.

You've seen a a Davidoff Cognac mini in these pages previously, just not this one. What you saw was the 100ml which is available throughout the world and again in major U.S.



markets. This one is a 40ml which was made for Switzerland and is a veritable "hen's tooth" over there.

Our two ceramics this time are not available in the U.S. but undoubtedly they will be hand carried in by some collectors, so look for them at the shows. The Usqueabach celebrates 225 years of superior scotch production and is dated (1968-1993). It is in black with gold lettering and actually produced by the Douglas Laing Co. The Lindisfarne Mead jug or flagon (as is used in the U.K.) also celebrates 1993; however, this one notes the 1200 anniversary of when the Vikings first landed.

That's all for now.

SCOTCH

David Maund



After all the great new glass bottles last time, I thought I would do something different. After a bit a thought, I decided that flagons, both old and new, was the answer. I don't think I've yet done an entire issue of ceramics.

If you're like I am, you love the older bottles. And if you're really like I am, you don't relish paying the price for some of these old flagons. I guess that law of supply and demand must be adhered to though and there very definitely

aren't many of these old ones available.

I can't tell you too much about any of these older ones. Don't have any dates, quantities, or any thing else. However, I can tell you about what's on the bottle that you can't see. "A Wee Deoch...states that it is from W.D. Pickford. "Bon Accord" comes from Robert Watson of Aberdeen. "Royal Deeside" hails from Strachan's of Royal Deeside. "A Wee Tootie" states "Saorochais Maith" on the



back. And Campbell's "Wee Drapple" is from P & J Campbell of the Whisky Depot in Tomintoul. It contains The Glenlivet.

In the new flagons the QE2 is simply the newest variation. The Edradour is from last year and rather limited. The prize here is the blue Thistle Pottery flagon which celebrates 125 years of the A.W. Buchan Company. It is filled with a 12 year old scotch...but no one seems to know what kind.

--D.L.M.--



“THE WHISKEY THAT WARMED THE REVOLUTION” -- An Obituary

By Jack Sullivan



Michter's Distillery, founded in 1753 and claiming to make "the whiskey that warmed the Revolution", has, after 240 years, expired. This facility, which gave us many interesting ceramic minis, has closed its doors in Schaefferstown, PA, and no one is betting that they ever will open again.

The last among the Pennsylvania whiskey makers is shut down tight and people I talk to think the final chapter has been written in a story that began when John Shenk and his brother, Swiss Mennonite farmer distillers, began operations 23 years before the Revolutionary War.

Michter's has an interesting history that space precludes discussing here but we can take

notice of the ceramic miniatures that the distillery released in recent years as it revealed in its antique distillery itself became a National Historical Landmark.

Among the ceramic jugs shown here, my favorite is the stoneware mini whiskey jug and candle holder depicting a Pennsylvania Dutch style dove and olive branch. It carries the "1753" date of Michter's founding. It was produced in the 1980's for the firm by the Hall China Co. of East Liverpool, Ohio, a pottery that itself survived despite shaky beginnings in 1903.

The jugs which were also available as salt and pepper shakers were items for purchase, along with the whiskey, at the Michter's



Distillery gift shop. One shows a "pot still" -- the original way of making good whiskey--on the front and in very small print tells the story of the distillery and of this arduous way of making the "water of life". It does not point out that Michter's pot still worked only during tourist season and that most of the distillery's product was made by modern methods and used to lace other brands. This one was issued in 1976.

An earlier mini jug tells more of the history of the distillery and the fact that it was reactivated at Repeal. This one has no picture on the label, just the name and needed information.

Finally, I have a multi-colored

label on a mini jug (1979) that apparently shows the distillery on its front while on its back a farm producing the rye and corn products that go into the whiskey. Like the other Michter minis, it features line after line of tiny text that requires a high-powered magnifying glass to read.

In summary, keep in mind that this is an obituary. So let us mourn the demise of America's oldest whiskey distillery and the originator of a series of imaginative mini ceramics. Make no mistake: for many reasons, Michter's passing is a real loss for America.

-- J . S . --

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some of the Scotch Whisky miniatures which appeared in Japan during the first half of 1993.

The first is the BALLANTINE'S 17 year old. We are familiar with Ballantine's 17 year old which was available in the 1930's in the U.S.A. Now, after a very long time, it is issued because there is a change of the importer in Japan. The label has

the Japanese word which means whisky. It is 10cm tall in a green, round bottle and contains 50ml at 43% alcohol.

THE SINGLETON 1978 was already available at 40% alcohol in the U.K. This time is 43% in Japan and has the same labels, front and back. It has a pink cap-seal with the importer's name and address printed on.



The last two miniatures are very interesting for us, the ORIANA 8 year old and the ORIANA ceramic ship. The Oriana was one of the largest cruise liners (42,000 tons). She was launched in 1959 and was mainly on the Pacific Ocean route. In 1987 she was moored at Beppu Port, Japan, as a maritime leisure facility.

The white ceramic ship-type

miniature is 15cm long and contains 100ml of scotch. The other bottle is a normal, clear flask bottle with a white label. ORIANA is in gold and then in red is "In Commemoration of Embarkation". Of course, it is 50ml at 43%.

Until next time...

--T.S.--

MINI WORLD



There are six bottles all in the same category for you to feast on. These are all currently available in South Africa. So this is not only an article on the new bottles but on the delights of swapping with someone in a distant land.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of these bottles are the extremely well produced labels. Nice graphics, good colors, and intelligent design have all gone together to make some very nice brandies.

The pair are "PAARL ROCK"

from the Paarl Wine & Brandy Company of (where else?) Paarl. The blue label is the Superior Old Brandy while the red label is the Hanepoot Brandewyn. While I have a nagging suspicion that these are actually identical contents, the red label list alcoholic content at 43% while the blue label shows no listing of percentage!

The remaining four all come from different companies; however, we're familiar with Bols and this 1575 Brandy is produced under license in South Africa. No

BRANDY/BRANDEWYN from SOUTH AFRICA



alcoholic percentage is shown on this bottle either.

The CHANTRE is a product of Union Wine Limited, Cape Province. Again, no percentage shown.

MELLOW-WOOD is the most colorful of all the labels. No percentage listed but it does have a message which wouldn't be allowed in the U.S. To quote: A quality brandy guaranteed to give pure satisfaction and exceptional for medicinal use. This is aged five years in oak barrels.

It is the last bottle that is most in-

teresting to me because of what it states. OLOF BERGH Solera Belee Brandewyn, Voortreflike Uitvoergehalte. Stedig verouderd verbykomende sagtheid en'n ryk, volgeur. Olof Bergh Solera Brandewijn Maatschappij bpk. Goudini, Breerivervallei.

Obviously the last two words are the area of production; however, the rest of that isn't the easiest, now is it?

--DMS--

"SPECIAL" COGNACS

By Tony Natelli



Most cognacs are rather special, aren't they? Sometimes when you have to dig a little deeper into the wallet or purse, you know that they are indeed special. Of course, the design of the bottle and/or label is usually special...and you cannot forget about the taste!

This time there are eight cognacs of varying degrees of interest. However, each in its own right is most desirable. Let's begin with those which are not in the X.O. category.

Otard Jade with a satiny finish. It cries out to be on a collector's shelf. Even though it's a Napoleon

quality, Jade is a special blend made just for parts of Asia.

Turning now to Courvoisier, we can see the two Napoleon bottles. Front and back shots, right? Wrong. These are two completely different labels for the same contents. One even has a neck label while the other does not. And while we're with Courvoisier, the fancy bottle is one which you've seen before...or have you. Actually, you have not. This is the Spanish version of the X.O. which is available in Mexico. It's one of the very few bottles allowed to be sold in Mexico which is not produced there. The



warning reads as follows: El Abuso En El Consumo de Esta Producto Es Nocivo Para La Salud. Roughly that means too much consumption is not good for your health.

The other quite fancy bottle is the Hine X.O. This has been pictured previously, but this is a new label with the Hine stag logo prominently featured.

The remaining three bottles would at first appear to be quite common shapes; however, two are not while the third has silk screened label which is quite uncommon for a cognac. the Hennessy is a V.S.O.P. made for China as you'll note the

characters at the bottom of the label. This is also not a 50ml bottle so could not be imported into the U.S.

The last two are the Courbet X.O. and the Jean Guerle X.O. The latter is the silk screened label. These naturally are also special because they represent two companies which are seldom seen in the U.S. collections.

So there you have eight "specials". If you had your druthers, which would be the most special to you?

YO HO HO and...



A few issues back we featured some older rums with spectacular labels. The interest was great with several collectors asking for more. So with the proverbial, "Your Wish Is Our Command", take a gander at seven more old U.K. rums with marvelous labels.

"BLACK JO" is a Demerara type from Peter Thomson's of Perth, Scotland. Now that name may ring a bell with many collectors. Peter Thomson is no longer in business but it was well known throughout the world for its Beneagles Scotch brand. For those who collect Negro items, this is a must.

We'll go from black to white with WHITE DIAMOND. This is a white rum from British Guiana. If you'll note the rest of the bottles, only one other is a white rum. The darker, stronger rums with heavy flavor seem to be in much greater favor. That other white rum is WHITE PEARL. This is a brand name from another company scotch collectors will note: Gordon & Macphail of Elgin, Scotland. It must be noted that both these white rums just don't have the interesting labels that adorn the rest of the bottles.

It's really quite difficult to pick a



Original Dark
RUM



favorite among the remaining four, but SHIPMATE is easily the least colorful. Wood's OLD NAVY RUM has more color, but it's the last two which are most interesting. BLUE MOUNTAIN and 'OLD BRAGGS' are particularly fine labels. Both these flasks or flats sport labels which would stand out on any shelf. The former is from Jamaica which isn't unusual but it's not the same strong rum as in the others. But no matter which one of these you'd pick, you'd still have a great bottle!



Glass!

By Ivan Uhlik



In the liquor industry those liquors which are clear with no coloring added are known as white goods. The two most well known of these are naturally gin and vodka. For your viewing interest, ten new bottles from Eastern Europe are shown here. Only one, the Kord Vodka, is currently being imported into the U.S. These are all from Germany or the (now) Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia).

--I.U.--

WHITE GOODS



WHISKEY HERITAGE

by

"BUTCH" JONES



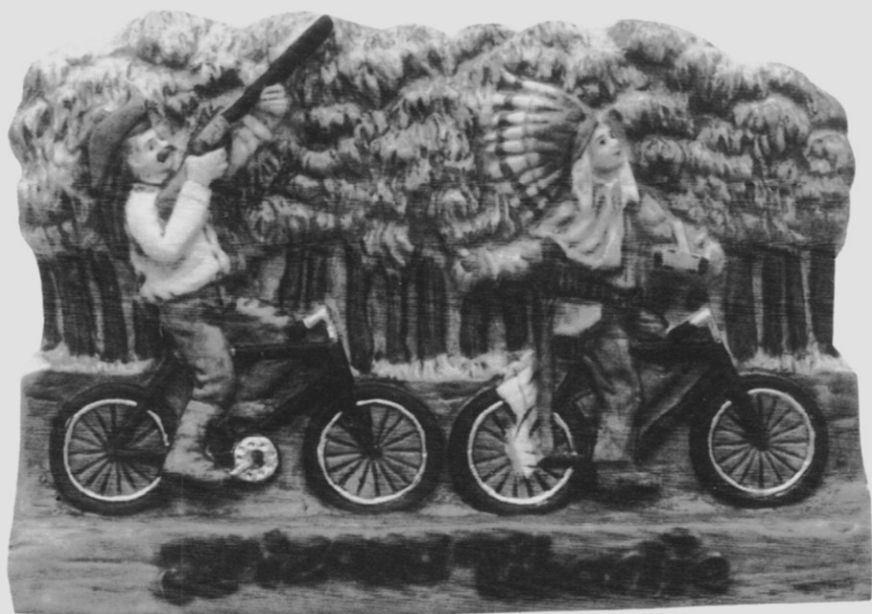
I was attending an antique bottle show and purchased a mini that I didn't know existed. As you can see, the two pictured minis are different versions of Lewis 66 Whiskey. Mini #1 is a clear, round prepro blended whiskey. This whiskey is guaranteed by the Strauss Pritz Co. under the Food and Drug Act June 30, 1906, serial no. 1660.

The second mini is the one that most people are familiar with. This clear flask with screw on top is from the 1930's/40's. It was blended and bottled by The Western Reserve Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. Does anyone know of any other varieties of Lewis 66?

Till next time...

--B.J.--

ARIZONA CHARLIE



This is the fourth ceramic in the Arizona Charlie's series; however, it is only the third bottle. The first in the group (the casino itself) was made as a statue only.

Numbers one and two are completely sold out everywhere. Number three is no longer available from the casino but a handful of extras might be in a dealer's goods. So, look for number four to pull a

fast disappearing act.

This decanter recreates the sharp-shooting act that Arizona Charlie himself had in vaudeville days when he was with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

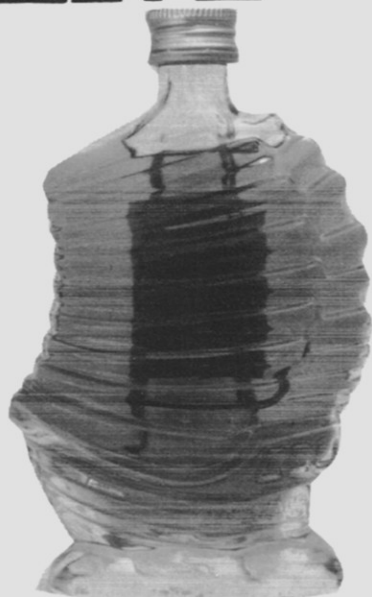
If you visit Las Vegas, you'll enjoy stopping at the Hotel/Casino. It's on South Decatur Blvd. where it celebrates the life and times of Arizona Charlie himself.

Beauties From The ORIENT



We're back to Hong Kong for more interesting pieces. This time we have five ships and one Guhan Wine. Yes, we've got to start with that one because it's another in the series of bottles which tell a great story on the box and/or label.

This is the quote. "China's Guhan Wine is a senile-proof wine with low alcohol. It is made of dozens of first-class ingredients with spring water from Wuyi Mountains and based on the secret recipe of 168 B.C. This recipe was excavated from the Mawangdui Han tombs in Chang-sha, Hunan Province. Furthermore, it is made of traditional, as well as up to-date technology, and has been proved by experts from the research group of Mawangdui Chinese Medical Books and Hunan College to Traditional Chinese Medicines. The wine is good for health, good for stomach



and good for protecting countenance and looks. It is indispensable for both sex." Now you know!

The only non-ceramic in our two part article is this molded glass ship from W & P International. It is called Leadership Cognac and possibly was made for Hong Kong only as no one seems to know of this bottle in France. Toward the base on the front of the bottle, the name Leadership is embossed while Made in France and Modele Depose are found on the bottom. It is definitely a nice companion piece to the older glass Larson Viking ships.

The other bottles are all just variations of the Dragon Sailing Boat which comes in the four colors: white, dark blue, green and pink. It contains 50ml of Chu Yen Ching Chiew.

If the pictures turn out, there will be a part III.



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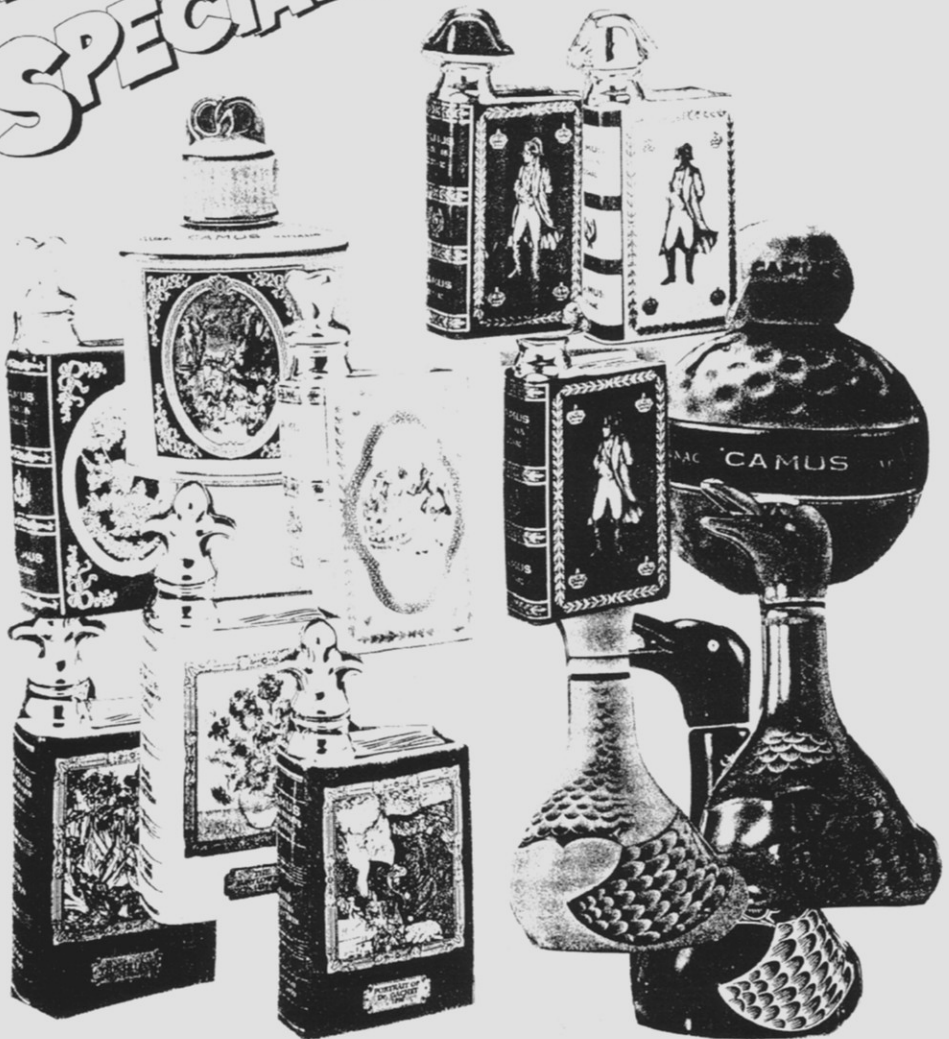
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FOR SALE: We've got them first. The new Silver State jugs made by Lindisfarne on Holy Island in England. One is for the State of Nevada while the other is the first in a series of jugs depicting famous slot machines of the past. Each is \$12.95 or the pair for \$24.95. Please add \$4 UPS for one or both jugs. CHIISAI BIN IMPORTS P.O.Box 90245, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

FOR SALE: Drioli figurals, MBC Laurel and Hardy in the car, Famous Firsts Cable Car and many glass miniatures of various ages. Write to: Mr. Norman Boisse, 42 Alexander Circle, Methuen, MA 01844 or call (508) 975-4075.

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 for us? Mark Coleman, 1463 Bolkinwood, Freeport, IL 61032 or call (815) 233-2540.

FOR SALE: I have over 2000 figural mini bottles which must go. All are in mint condition. I prefer to sell all as a collection, but I would consider selling by groups. Included in the collection is a complete set of Ski Country bottles up to 1989, including 4/5th and gallon sizes, the first 42 of Dug's Brothel bottles, House of Koshu, Isaiah, Jon-Sol, W.A. Lacey, Lewis & Clark, Lionstone, Luxardo, MBC, Manhattan, McLech, McCormick, Royal Jenever, Valente Rynbende and dozens more. I also have 10 Ski Country mock-up bottles which I would sell separately. Two of these are signed by Frank Harrison, the originator of Ski Country bottles. And I have 100 tiny straight bottles and 35 tiny soft drink bottles all 3" tall. I will consider any reasonable offer. For the list, write to Marietta LeBlanc, 5592 W. Geddes Place, Littleton, CO 80123 or call (303) 979-4943.

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