

**THE**

VOL. XXI No. 1

No. 121 1994

# **MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR**

**CRYSTAL**



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# MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



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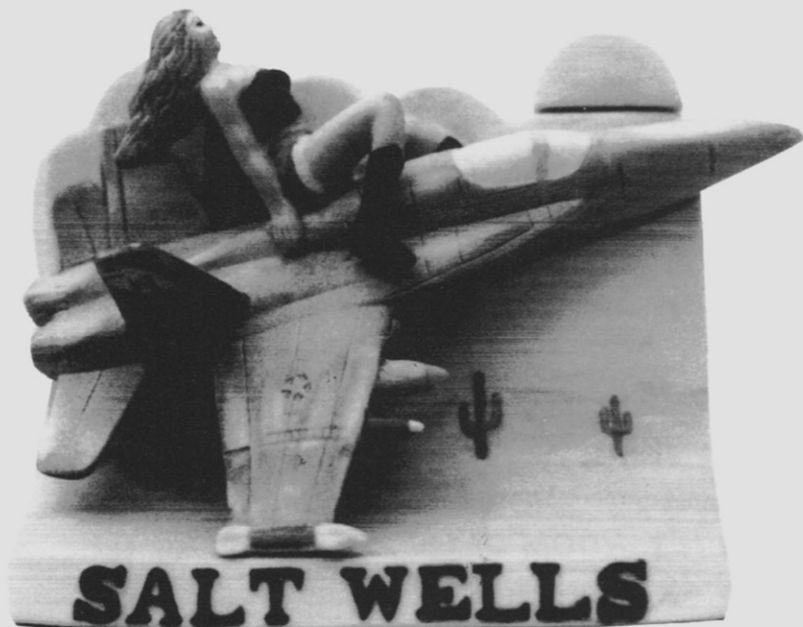
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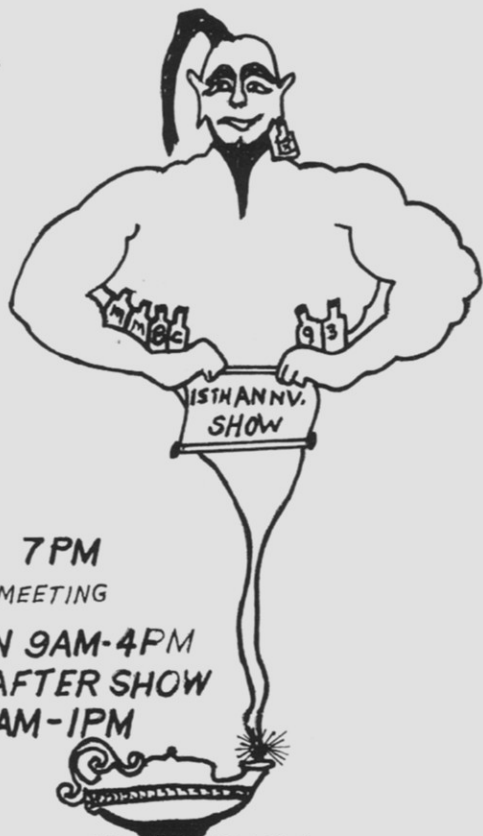
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# Let's Talk

We'll begin by clearing up some "mysteries" concerning bottles shown recently. These were from Germany, so fortunately Frank Gerlach came to the rescue and had the following to say:

"The 'Tee-Likor' means a mix with tea and rum. You can get it in German coffee shops with hot water and cream. The 'Zwetsch' is similar for plum. It's a strong fruit-water done at 90 US-proof. It tastes very good!"

Wouldn't it be nice if others who knew some information about specific bottles would take pen in hand to let the rest of us know. Oh well, just dreaming.

For those with good memories, forget just about everything that was promised for this issue. Trouble with pictures, text and even space had to be overcome. However, those South African bottles will appear; The Spirit of Wales will be seen; and, more German bottles from Holm Hars.

What we do have this time is a three page look at bottles from Finland, a look at some very rare Manhattans, and the second part of Jim Crawford's research on bottle dating. This last article was done in a 7 point type so may require a definite squint (if not the reading glasses) on your part.

Once again I must point out that the magazine is now back on track with a full volume for the year. Essentially this is the January-February issue. Let's hope you get it before March!

Finally, for those of you who suffered through a ridiculously cold winter, give a moment of thought to Southern California collectors who were near the center of the earthquake on January 17th. You must live through it to know what a 6.6 or 6.8 quake can do to your collection. Our condolences to all of you who lost bottles!

See you in the Spring.

--DMS--

THE

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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

The cover this time shows the three now Pascal Dumont crystal bottles in the X.O. "mode". These are known as Chosuble, Triangle, and Trapeze. Each is found with four different contents: X.O. Cognac, Napoleon Cognac, V.S.O.P. Cognac, and a variety of Scotches - Blended, 12 year old Blended and Single Malt. This is the old Blended and Single Malt. This is the first time ever we've featured bottles from the same company twice in one year. We think they deserve it!

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# WHAT'S NEW



This is one of those "around the world" columns where the bottles come from just about anywhere but might be found right around the corner (or five thousand miles away). Some you may definitely get without much effort at all.

Let's begin with the two American Whiskeys...yes, those ones with the Japanese writing on the bottoms of their labels. These two came from Kentucky and Tennessee, but you'll only find them in Japan. True, they've done it to us again.

These labels are a bit dark so hope they show up almost as well as the others. The Early Times is the Premium while the Jack Daniels is Master Distiller. Incidentally, did you realize that you can't buy a glass Jack Daniels mini in the U.S. any more? You can in Japan as they won't accept the plastic minis.

Now we'll turn to the two new Canadian whiskeys, or I should say label-bottle variation whiskeys. The Lord Calvert and Canadian Club





Classic are both plastic and were found in Las Vegas at the end of '93. Note though that the Canadian Club states "transportation" on the label bottom.

The Danzka Danish Vodka and Tiramisu Italian Specialty Liqueur were found in Maryland. While the former seems to have popped up in several markets, the latter is a hen's tooth at this writing. (Of course, someone will read this and know of scores of them sitting in a local liquor store in Maine or Indiana.) The Danzka

## WHAT'S NEW



is a winner because that's an aluminum bottle. The Tiramisu is a good one because it's actually in glass and its name was immortalized in the film *SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE* last year.

The Grappa comes from Italy and is notable because it seems to masquerade as a mini champagne bottle. The three scotches must come from Scotland, but

two of them by way of Japan. Those two are the Knockando 1977 and the Springbank Ten Years Old. The last may be from Scotland but it hails from Blackpool, England. It contains Glendullan 10 Years Old Malt and was produced in a limit of 120 pieces. Love that fellow on the label. How about you?

D.M.S.--

# RENO AIR RACES



Pictured for you is the 1993 Reno Air Races ceramic which was created for the (are you surprised?) Air Races...in Reno, last September.

This is the P51 Mustang and a legend concerning the plane will be found on the back of the bottle.. Earlier a jug was created for the 1992 Air Races; however, this new ceramic is far superior. A 1994 bottle is in the works but we haven't been told yet just what it might be. You'll simply have to wait to see.

# MINI WORLD

It has been some time since we've shown any of the old timers. And since we had some nice sharp pictures of these little ones, we thought it was time to dust them off once again.

For those of you new to the hobby, the seven pieces presented here are from the Manhattan Company of Miami, Florida. They were sold in the late 1930's and early 1940's through the Mannie's Liquor store there.

The little erstwhile Toby jugs were about as miniature as miniatures go. The fellow with the handle on the side of his head is all of an enormous two inches in height. The smallest is exactly one and a half inches tall.

As for contents, this was measured in drams, not ounces. All were non-alcoholics containing either a

Kuemmel or Creme de Rose Cordial. Many other comments might be made about the bottles; however, their wonderful use of color is something very noteworthy.

You're seeing some of these in actual life size. And see them you probably will as they do pop up in garage sales and swap meets. However, my own rule of thumb is never to buy unless they are still sealed or the little "Bottled in Florida" sticker remains on the bottom. Most will have lost their labels and these are probably the only true ways to know if they were bottles as hundreds of thousands or maybe even millions of them were sold as knick-knacks in the late 1930's.

We'll look at more MANHATTANS in the near future.

# MANHATTAN



# Glass!



Okay, all those with bottles from Finland in their collection, raise your hands. Now if this were a crowded room of collectors, I wouldn't expect to find many arms in the air! In any case, the glass and plastic pieces shown here are fourteen which come from OY ALKO AB in Finland. Naturally the company is in Helsinki.

All the bottles are 5cl with varying degrees of alcoholic content. Beside the interesting and often very colorful labels, these are intriguing because of a different number which appears on each bottle. The lowest number is 027 (Silver Dry Gin) and the highest is 211 (Amanda Liqueur). Is it possible there is a different



# OY ALKO AB



bottle for each and every number? We'll attempt to contact the company to see.

The bottles really speak for themselves but we will list so they may be more easily understood. Going from the least desirable plastics (any argument there?) to the glass, we have the four plastic flasks: Lapponia Lakka, Mariner's Schnapps, Tuhla Ryyppy Maustettu Viina, and Maustettu Snapsi. The glass are as follows: Scotch Whisky, Viski 88 (made

with Arctic Barley), Monopol Cognac, Chekov Vodka, Silver Dry Gin, Baltic Rum (light), Baltic Rum (dark), Amanda Liqueur, Punssi Punsch and the ever popular Koskenkorvan Viinaa Brannvin (which must be a brandy).

So there you have it...for now...almost. We must give credit where it's due. Collector John Sullivan (now) of Northern California got these on a business trip to Russia. We can now all appreciate them.



# OLYMPICS '92



Unfortunately, about the time you receive this issue the Winter Olympics in Norway will be about over. Don't have the foggiest notion if any bottles were created for this year's events; however, thought you'd like a small look at four of the twelve pieces which were created for the last Olympics in Albertville, France.

These are the only ones

which would photograph well enough to be included. The labels are all silk screened thus often disappear if not lighted with absolute perfection. The bottles all contain wine.

If anyone knows of any bottle produced to commemorate this year's Olympics, please let us know.

# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



There is an old adage which states that even a blind pig can occasionally find an acorn. Well, I'm here to tell you this this ole hog has found himself a few.

It is safe to say that I go nuts over some of the whiskeys produced during the early 1930's. Anyway does the first bottle shown have two brand names? It states TWO

SWALLOWS BRET HARTE SPIRIT WHISKEY, made by Silver Swan Liquor Corp. San Francisco Cal. It is 90 proof and has a nifty silver foil label printed in blue. The same company gives us SILVER SWAN WHISKEY, which is 90 proof, has a Jan. 1934 permit and a silver foil label printed in black. I know it's not fair, but bottle number three is a taller



version of the Silver Swan.

Next we have GRIZZLY CLUB WHISKEY A BLEND Blended and Bottled by Grizzly Club Co. Inc. Los Angeles, CA. It is 90 proof, has a gold foil label printed in blue and red and I also have a matching Brandy and Rum.

Last but not least is CLOVER LEAF WHISKEY A BLEND Bottled by Simon Levi Co.

Phoenix, Tucson. It is 90 proof and has a silver foil label printed in black and green.

Finally, I recently acquired these bottles from a fellow hobbyist in South Dakota! I was able to help him in another field and the amount of money which exchanged hands was very modest. Hey, this is the way it should always be.

Until next time. . . M E L O . .

# THREE BEERS FROM YESTERYEAR

by JOHN WYSS

Today I'd like to feature several more labelless, but embossed prepro mini beers. Now, while some collectors may snub such specimens that have no labels, most serious beer collectors do recognize their rarity and consequent value. I personally think they display beautifully, especially when the embossed letters have been highlighted with white paint to enhance legibility.

The first bottle, RAINIER, is listed in Bob Kay's Miniature Beer Bottles & Go-Withs as WA-1. A collector friend also informs me that there exists a beer embossed "Seattle Brewing & Malting, Seattle, Wash."

The "Aug. J. Lang" is the reverse side of the very rare RED LION LAGER BEER (CA-1) from San Francisco. This is definitely the toughest bottle of the three.

The "EDELWEISS MALTINE" is the reverse side of one of the most glamorous

labels produced during the preprohibition era (IL-1). This bottle is by far the hardest Edelweiss version to find.

Although \$30-\$50 each is the common price range for labelless, but embossed pre-pros (in good condition), there are a few bottles whose scarcity commands a stiffer price tag. I would not hesitate to pay in excess of \$100 for the following gems: E. Anheuser, Ballantine, George Brehm, Silver Foam (Mercury Glass), Oakland Bottling, or any unlisted variations.

In closing, if you have been fortunate enough to acquire a true "one-of-a-kind" bottle, you have captured a piece of history. (All right, mini history) Just remember, history should be shared for all to admire. So.....take pictures, write articles and expand our hobby!

Cheers! --J.W.--

# BEER, BEER, BEER



# SCOTCH

David Maund



I'm back with a group of eleven new bottles which were issued in the last of 1993. I know many of you like to see some of the older bottles; however, it's these newer ones we can add to our collections that I usually like to picture for you.

The first set of three is a new grouping done for the MBC, that's the Mini Bottle Club in the U.K. Previously I've shown you other sets which James MacArthur has issued, but these new ones are interesting because of their new label. Please note the little still in the upper left-hand corner of the label. I digress. The bottles are the 13 year old Rosebank from 1978; the 15 year old Glen Mhor from 1976; and, the similar 15 year old from Banff, also a 1976 distillation.

The remainder of the bottles are all specialty items, but ones which certainly caught my fancy as I'm sure they will yours. It's those labels again.

The City of Aberdeen has a rather mediocre label, but it is for a special place.

It contains 10 year Glengarioch. The Caerlaverock Castle was made by the Historic Scotland people specifically for the Castle. I am a wee bit annoyed though that they couldn't tell us what type of whisky it contains. The last of the three (the best one) is a 12 year old Clynelish bottled for the city of Embo. This one has some history behind it which makes it more fascinating to me.

Now we get to the numbered series from Miniatura Collectives of St. Andrews. Oops, the 25 years of Integrated Air Defence which pictures the Headquarters 11 Group RAF Bentley Priory is not numbered. It does contain 10 year old Tamnavulin.

The remaining bottles are all done in series of 1000 pieces and have various numbers. 55 Squadron depicts the Victor K2. 12 Squadron shows the Buccaneer in flight. Both these bottles contain 10 year old Tamnavulin.

The last two also celebrate the 25 years



of UK Air Defence and both show reproductions of paintings as well as containing Auchentoshan Single Malt (no age given). The first shows the Tornado F3 from a painting by Dugald Cameron while the latter has the Lightning F1A from a

painting by Will Hardy.

There may be those collectors who feel we may now be just collecting labels; however, labels such as these will always have a place on my shelves. --D.L.M.--



# DATING MINIATURE BOTTLES

by  
JIM CRAWFORD

Following are descriptions and names associated with various state beverage stamps.

**ALABAMA:** In the early and mid 1940's red, white & black circular (like a Bull's Eye) decal tax stamps were used. They had an outline of the State in the center. 1950 was a green rectangular decal stamp with white printing and the state seal in the middle. In the 1960's fancy blue & white decal stamps were used with the state seal on the left side and serial numbers on the bottom. In the 1970's yellow decal tax stamps were used. In 1979 or 1980 tax stamps were discontinued.

**CALIFORNIA:** Tall reddish-orange 2 cent decal tax stamps, with a rounded top, were used on miniatures until 1941. The actual date of issue is stamped on the decal.

**COLORADO:** In the 1930's, 40's, and early 50's, 1-1/4" x 2" orange paper tax stamps were used. 1951 value was 20 cents. In the later 1950's the stamps were reduced in size. 1961 was 5 cents cream colored postage type stamp with green printing; 1-5/8"x3/4" with a 7 digit serial number and Secretary of State's name and date stamped on the bottom. From 1942 to 1949 wine tax stamps were blue.

Secretaries of State were - 1927-1935 Charles M. Armstrong; 1935 James H. Carr; 1935-1941 George E. Saunders; 1941-1943 Walter F. Morrison; 1943-1945 Leslie J. Bennett; 1945-1949 Walter F. Morrison; 1949-1953 George J. Baker; and 1953-1955 Homer M. Bruce.

**FLORIDA:** Decal tax stamps were used from 1934 through June 30, 1969. 1934 decal tax stamps were 1cent yellow on white 3/4"x 1-1/4" with a rounded top, had "State of Florida" on top and "Alcoholic Excise Tax" on bottom. It had a scene of palm trees by the sea shore in the middle. 1935-1936 decals were 7/8" square 1-1/2 cent white with Orange State replica shown on tax stamp. 1937-1938 tax stamps were 7/8" one cent orange with yellow state. 1940 was 3/4"x1", 1-1/2 cent white decal with blue printing, an Orange state outline, a blue State Seal on upper right corner, and a wavy line border.

1941 was 7/8"x1", 1-1/2 cent white with green printing, paper postage type stamp with Directors name on bottom. 1942 decals were 1"x3/4" green with black printing, "State of Florida" was in white across the top; the State Seal was in white on the upper left side, and a white State outline was in the center and right side. 1944 decals were 7/8" square, 7-1/2 cent blue with white printing, two small State



outlines on both sides of the State Seal, and palm trees on each side of the stamp. 1948 decals were 7/8" square, 7-1/2" mustard with black printing, two small state outlines on both sides of the State Seal, and palm trees on each side of the stamp. 1950 decals were 7/8" square, 7-1/2 cents olive with black printing, two small state outlines on both sides of the State Seal, and palm trees on each side of the stamp.

1951 decals were 7/8" square, 7 1/2 cent green with black printing with two small State outlines on both sides of the State Seal and palm tree on each side of the stamp. 1954 decals were 7/8" square, 7-1/2 cent green with black printing with two small State outlines on both sides of the State Seal, with palm trees on each side of the stamp. 1959 decals were 3/4" square, 7-1/2 cream with tan printing and two small State outlines on both sides of the State Seal, with palm trees on each side of the stamp.

1961 was a white decal with green printing, 3/4" square, 7-1/2 cent on upper right & lower left, State Seal on left, and State outline on right side of stamp. 1961 was 3/4" square white decal with brown printing, State Seal in middle and MINIATURE across the bottom. 1963 decals were 3/4" square, cream with black printing, MINI-ATURE in circles in the upper right and lower left corners, State Seal on mid left and State outline on mid right. 1964 decals were 3/4" square, cream with tan printing, the word MINI-ATURE is in circles in the upper right and lower left corners, State Seal on mid left and State outline on mid right. 1965 decals were 3/4" square, cream with tan printing, MINI-ATURE in circles in upper right and lower left corners, State Seal on mid left and State outline on mid right. 1966-1967 was 3/4" square, cream decal with tan printing, the State Seal in the middle with palm trees on each side, and the word MINI-ATURE in circles in both lower corners. 1968 was 3/4" square, cream decal with tan printing, the State Seal in the middle and the word MINI-ATURE along the bottom.

Except for 1934, one of the following Florida Beverage Director's names appears on Florida tax decal stamps. 7/1/33-9/30/35 J. A. Cormier. 10/1/35-1/10/37 Geo. O. Weems. 1/11/37-9/12/37 John N. Allen 9-12/37-2/28/41 Thos. W. Long. 3/1/41-1/2/45 E. W. Scarborough. 1/3/45-1/4/49 James T. Vocelle. 1/5/49-3-21-52 Lewis M. Schott. 3/26/52-1/6/53 John E. Montgomery. 1/6/53-6/5/53 Sam

F. Davis. 6/22/53-2/4/54 J. R. Hunter, Jr. 2/5/54-1/4/55 A. E. McKinney. 1/4/55-7/1/57 J. D. Williamson. 7/1/57-6/30/59 H. G. Cochran, Jr. 7/1/59-1/4/61 L. Grant Peoples. 1/4/61-1/1/63 Thomas E. Lee. 2/1/63-1/1/65 Richard B. Keating. 1/5/65-1/1/67 Ren Morris. 1/4/67-11/25/68 Don D. Meiklejohn. 11/26/68-7-1-69 A. R. Brautigam.

**GEORGIA:** Yellow 3-1/8 cent tax stamps were used.

**ILLINOIS:** Red colored decal tax stamps, in shape of the state were used in the 1930's. The year is indicated on the stamp. In 1934 an orange oval decal tax stamp was used. 1935-1939 wine minis had a 1/2"x3/4" blue and pink tax stamp. The following names of the Directors of State Finance appear on the back of the decal tax stamp. 1934-1936 Knowlton L. Ames. 1937-1940 S. L. Nudelman.

**LOUISIANA:** In 1934-35, 3/4" circular green and white tax decal stamps were used. These decals had the State Seal in the middle, and had a white tab extending downward with 1 cent written on it. If sold in New Orleans, these minis also had a 3/4"x1-1/8" green on white City of New Orleans decal tax stamp.

**MAINE:** 7/8"x1-1/8" white decal stamps with blue printing were used from 1934 through 1974. Stamps had the State Seal in the middle of a State outline with an 8 digit serial number on the bottom.

**MARYLAND:** Large (2-1/2"x3/4") yellowish paper tax stamps with issue dates used through June 1939. In 1939 Maryland issued 1-1/8"x3/4" cream with tan printing postage type wine tax stamps with the State Comptroller's name on the bottom. From 1939 to 1967 3/4"x1-1/4" purple paper postage type tax stamps were used. One of the following Maryland Comptroller's names appeared on Maryland tax stamps: 1939-1947 J. Miller Tawes; 1947-1950 James J. Lacy; 1950-1959 J. Millard Tawes; and 1959-1971 Louis L. Goldstein.

**MICHIGAN:** Michigan used tax stamps from 1934 to early 1970. 1961 was a 7/8"x5/8" white decal with blue printing and State Seal on left side. Has a 7 digit serial number on bottom.

# BOTTLE DATING

**MISSOURI:** Decal tax stamps were used from 1934 to 1949. 1938 stamp was 1 cent green on white, 1-1/2"x5/8" with State Seal on upper middle, signatures of Treasurer & Liquor Control Supervisor, and an 8 digit serial number on the bottom. 1944 was 1 cent, black on orange 3/4"x1-1/8" with State Seal in middle and Treasurer & Liquor Supervisor's signatures on bottom. State Liquor Control Supervisors were 1/26/34-5/26/37 E. J. Becker; 4/30/38-1/31/39 Edmund J. McMahon; 1/28/39-2/1/40 Walker Pierce; 2/1/40-7/15/41 C. R. Noel; 7/15/41-3/22/45 W. G. Henderson; 3/22/45-6/14/49 Edmund Burke.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** 1952 was 33/4 cent green decal tax stamp in the shape of the state, 1"x3/4" with State Seal in upper left corner and a 7 digit serial number on the bottom. 1954 was 3-3/4 cent green decal tax stamp, 7/8"x1-1/8" with State Seal in the middle and a 7 digit serial number on the bottom.

**NEVADA:** 7/8"x1-5/8" green on white 1 cent liquor tax stamps (postal type) with picture of State House Dome. Used from 1935 to 1945.

**NEW MEXICO:** Decal tax stamps were used from 1935 through 1957. In 1935 orange 5 cent tax stamps were used. In 1936 1-1/2 cent orange tax stamps were used. 1940 to 1947 were 1-1/2 cent white decal tax stamps with green printing, 5/8"x7/8" with State Seal in the middle. From 1948 to 1957 1/2"x3/4" rectangular red & yellow decal stamps with an Indian type design (State Seal) in the middle.

**OHIO:** No official record of stamp usage. However, 1938 to 1942 WINE AND MIXED BEVERAGE TAX stamps were 7/10 cent, green 1" square postage type stamps with the Ohio State Seal in the middle. 1938 liquor was a 5/8" square blue decal filled with a circle. Outer circle is white, inner circle is red with a State outline and Seal in

the middle. A blue tab with a serial number extends up. Ohio also used a similar stamp, but with a red background and tab.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Light green decal tax stamps in the shape of Pennsylvania's Keystone State Seal with a serial numbered tab off the top were used from December 20, 1933 to May 23, 1935. It is common to find these stamps on minis up through 1938.

**TENNESSEE:** 5/8"x7/8" white colored decal tax stamps with the shape of the State and printing in various colors. There is also an "ID" in a white circle in the center of each stamp. No one can really say what the different colors represent. Various stamp colors include red, blue, brown, orange, yellow, green, purple, and black.

**TEXAS:** Texas indicates that no miniatures were sold in the State and that no State tax stamps were ever used for minis. However, stamps do exist on some bottles. 1935 was 8 cent white paper tax stamp with green printing, 1"x5/8" with an 8 digit serial number across the middle. It appears that most of the bottles with Texas tax stamps were brought in from Mexico.

Continued in the next issue.

# A SURPRISE

by BUTCH JONES



Short and sweet this time. Have you seen this giveaway before? I had not until I purchased it at an antique show earlier this year. This rattlesnake was produced in Germany and is a super bottle. Don't you agree? Oh, one other thing. I understand he also is available in blue.

See you next time.

--B.J.--

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Debbie & Paul Inglis, P. O. Box 165, South Hadley, MA 01075

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