

THE

VOL. XXI No. 4  
No. 124 1994

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

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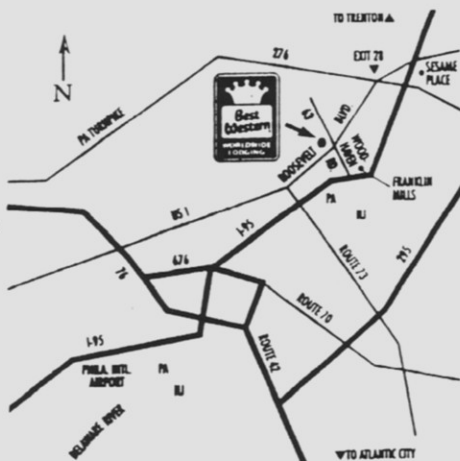
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# Let's Talk

First off, many thanks to all of you who wrote, called or faxed about the last issue. This was our first use of color inside the magazine and I think it turned out marvelously. Thanks to the Lombard Co. for providing the color separations which made it a much easier undertaking.

Once again I must report the passing of another great friend and bottle enthusiast. Jerry Cohen of the Bottle Collectors Liquor Shop in Las Vegas known by probably scores of thousands of collectors. From the days in North Las Vegas to the present location, Jerry always had a bottle or ten that each of us just had to have and practically couldn't live without. Most knew that Jerry retired a couple of years back, but you'd still find him there at the shop... he couldn't stay away. A trip to Las Vegas won't ever be quite the same again.

No color this time, but lots of good articles though. We usually aim for ten articles but settle for nine. This time there are eleven or twelve from a variety of authors. The gamut is run from Paris to New York to Iowa to Oklahoma to Southern California and even on to Osaka.

With this issue we should be officially caught up. What should be a July-August issue will come from the printers in July and get to you in August.

Plugola time. The show here in October looks to be shaping up as a real winner this year. Several dealers will also be selling miniature perfumes and thus attendees will be here from all over the globe. This year should be quite an international affair.

See you in the fall... and keep thinking small.

--DMS--

THE

VOL. XXI

No. 4

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1994

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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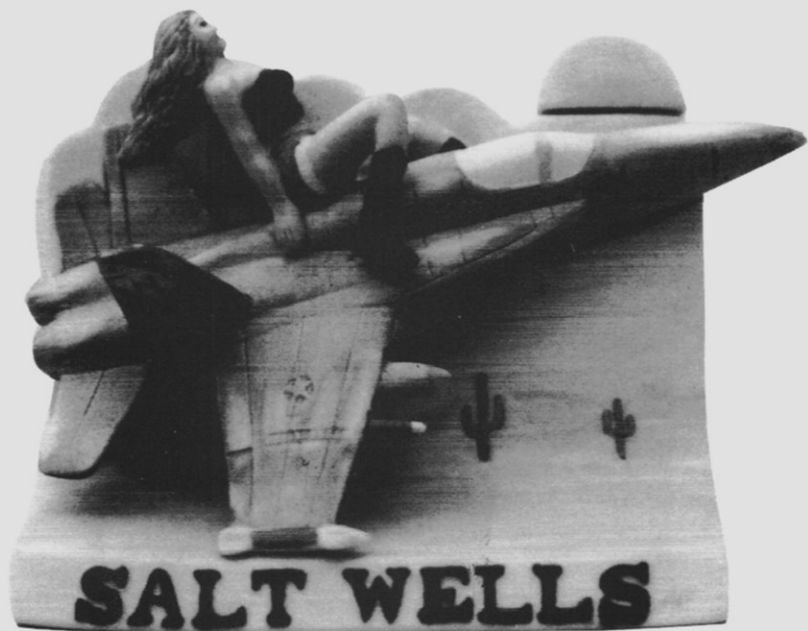
## Our Cover

The cover this issue features one of our old standbys, a German Giveaway. This comes in a blue and white bisque finish quite similar to the Wedgwood Jasperware. It's also quite an unusual shape for a giveaway. This one was found at the MMBC show this past April in St. Louis. You'll note Butch Jones also makes mention of bottles he got there. Question is if you like these bottles, why weren't you there?

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# WHAT'S NEW



Well, there's a lot new! It's just in a particular style that some of us aren't wild about. I'm talking about plastic. Yes, what's new here in the U.S.A. seems to all be done in plastic. C'est la vie. This then is a look at some of the currently available plastic bottles which haven't been shown in these pages.

From Canada we have two scotch whiskies and one Canadian Whisky. These are the Grand Macnish 12 year old, the Islay Malt 8 year old and the Wiser's De Luxe 10 year old. The two scotches are interesting because they're flasks and we don't get too many which aren't the traditional round or occasionally rectangular.

In other whiskies we have the Crawford's Special Reserve Blended Scotch, the Calvert Extra Blended Whiskey, the

Usher's Green Stripe Blended Scotch, and the Rebel Yell Straight Bourbon. This last is most interesting because it was made as an export to the U.K. In fact if the magnifying glass is used, you'll note that it's imported and distributed by Arthur Bell Distillers of Perth, Scotland.

What remains are two with very nice labels which don't show up well in the photos. Pusser's Navy Rum is simply a new label, but DeKuyper's Lime Lizard is an all new label and product. It is also the only miniature I've ever seen that has "Refrigerate After Opening" on the label. In the area of truly fun labels, Lime Lizard has to take some sort of prize.

Next time no plastics, just good old glass and ceramics!





# Beauties From The ORIENT

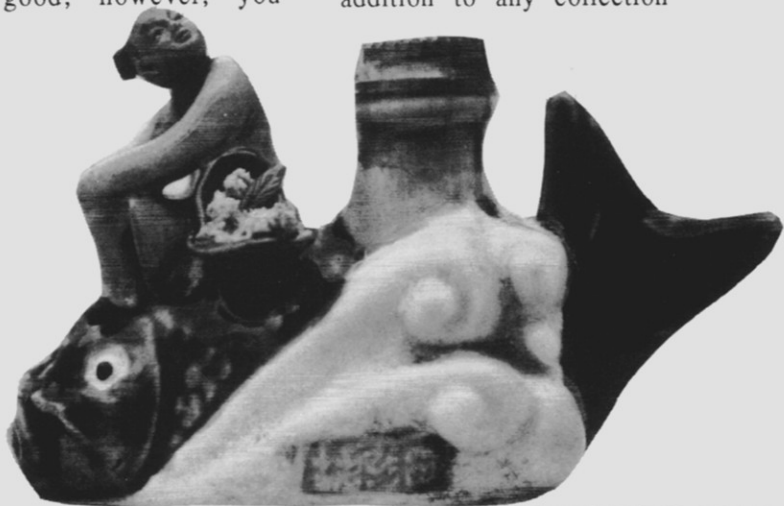


In issue #117, four Fairies with Calabash were shown. There were actually three different bottles with a variation of one.

Now in Hong Kong the other five Fairies may be found. This time they are not with calabash but with very different bases. The pictures unfortunately are not too good; however, you

should still be able to make out the head of a turtle on one while another Fairy rides a large fish. Still another is on a snail while the remaining two may still indeed be with a calabash.

These ceramics are somewhat crudely produced by some collectors' standards; however, they are surely an interesting addition to any collection





**CHINESE  
CERAMICS**

# DUTCH FIGURALS

You're looking at four pictures which represent a minimum of six old delft Dutch men and women. All were produced by the well known firm of Goedewaagen in Holland for the Wyand Fockink Distillery and El Louvre on the island of Curacao.

El Louvre was a hotel which also happened to sell a great many souvenirs down through the years. Many of you probably already possess a delft house or two which either came from El Louvre or was an actual representation of it.

It's the bottles themselves though which tantalize. The two men are obviously from the same basic mold; however, the fellow in the striped shirt is found with blue pants and blue and white shirt, dark brown pants and reddish-brown and white shirt, and light brown pants with a matching light brown and white shirt.



The two women are quite different and might possibly represent separate modes of dress from specific areas.

The woman wearing the choker has been in these pages previously, but no one came forward then to give us any more information. What do you know about any of these pieces?



# Glass!

by Tony Natelli

An old favorite, Cutty Sark, has some interesting miniatures on the market.

The 'Cutty Sark' Imperial Kingdom is a real beauty. Made of green pebble-type glass, it features a small Cutty Sark label on top of old fashioned white writing, giving it an aged and classic look.

The "Cutty Sark Connoisseurs Collection" is a four bottle package that will make collectors very happy. It consists of Cutty Sark, Cutty Sark 18 year old, Cutty Sark 12 year old and The Glen Rothes 12 year old Malt. Other than the first bottle, a standard Cutty Sark miniature, the other three are not sold in the U.S.A. Bottles two and three in clear and green glass respectively, are beautiful 10 sided miniatures. The 12 year old also features a label picturing the ship "Cutty Sark" in six locales from Greenwich to Cape Horn with the slogan "Out by the Cape, Home by the Horn".

These are not presently sold here in the U.S.A., unfortunately, but they are more than worthwhile to search for.

--T.N.--



# "CUTTY"



# WHISKEY HERITAGE

by  
"BUTCH" JONES



The picture shows three whiskeys I picked up at the MMBC St. Louis show last April.

The Black Jewel is hard to read. The label has two jockeys on their horses. The mini contains 90° straight whiskey. The bottle is green and the whiskey was bottled by Lionel Distilled Products Inc. Chicago.

The second mini is a clear flask of 100° straight whiskey. It was bottled exclusively for Philip Blum & Co. Chicago.

The last mini is Buffalo Bourbon 100°, distilled and bottled by Buffalo Springs Distilling Co., Stamping Ground, KY.

"Til next time...

--B.J.--



# MINI WORLD



Figural collectors, please take note. We don't get that many nice new bisque figurals, so don't let this one get by you. This is the third in Dug Picking's Firefighter Series. The first was Julia Bulette in 1991, the second the Seagrave Fire Engine from last year, and now the Coit Tower in San Francisco.

Next to the tower is Lillie Coit, an honorary member of San Francisco's Volunteer Fire Department. Lillie was very well known to the fire fighters of San Francisco, albeit the same as

Julia Bulette was "known" by the men of northern Nevada.

Upon Lillie's death in 1929, funds left by her allowed the "erection" of Coit Tower. (C'mon, use your imagination.)

Finally, for those of you to whom this sort of things is important, one thousand of these were produced and each bottle is numbered and dated 1994. And, if you're wondering about another brothel bottle for this year, the next will in '95 and just might be a "shady lady".

# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some Japanese Whisky miniatures which appeared in Japan during the first half of 1994.

The first is the TSURU Pure Malt from Nikka Distilling Co. This bottle is not a miniature in the strict sense as there is available only TSURU Blended Whisky in the regular one. Nikka launched this one as a tasting sample for the sales promotion of TSURU Blended

Whisky. It is 11.5cm tall in a light brown bottle like YOICHI and contains 50ml at 51% alcohol. The Japanese words on the label mean "article not for sale" in red.

As you know, Nikka has the line-up of Malt Base whisky and this time has added a new bottle, THE BLEND OF NIKKA MARUBIN (it means a round bottle). This whisky is blended caffee malt which is distilled by caffee still. The bottle is a clear dump-



cylinder and 9cm tall, 50ml at 40% alcohol. On the bottom of the label there is a signature of Mr. M. Taketsuru who is the founder of Nikka Distilling Co.

HIBIKI 21 year old from Suntory Ltd. is one of the tasting sample miniatures and is the hardest to obtain. This sample miniature uses a bottle of HIBIKI miniature, but the cap is black, not brown, and appeared in a set of two miniatures, with HIBIKI no age, in a paper box. It is 8.5cm tall in clear glass dump-cylindrical shape with longitudinal shallow cuts and contains 50ml at 43% alcohol.

Suntory Ltd. has two distilleries, the first Yamazaki established 1923 and the second

Hakushu 1973. Ten years later for Yamazaki, Hakushu launched his PURE MALT WHISKY 12 year old finally. As you see the miniature is the same type as Yamazaki but Hakushu is a green glass (Yamazaki is brown) and has a white label and black cap seal (Yamazaki has tan and gold)

On the other hand Yamazaki has issued a new label which is a painting of the distillery in Yamazaki. Please look at this last lovely bottle! Yes, it is available for a souvenir only at Yamazaki Distillery. Both miniatures, Yamazaki and Hakushu contain 50ml with 43% alcohol.

Until next time... --T.S.--

# J. CHATEL & Cie.

by Jacques Rollet



My travels have taken me a good many interesting places around the globe. I have been fortunate to find bottles in most of these far off areas. One place you may not be familiar with or at least with its bottles is Reunion Island.

If you're wondering exactly where this is first go to the Indian Ocean, find Madagascar

and then go east. Its capital is St. Denis which is where you'll find the firm J. Chatel that produces a number of different rum punches and liqueurs.

I've been able to find the ten which accompany my article. These are 3 cl (30 ml for my American readers) and are found with several differing alcoholic percentages. All are glass.



# HILLS:

of the Czech Republic



By now you've no doubt seen these bottles previously. However, what you've seen has been one photo with tiny representations of the ceramics. Here they are individually so that you may experience their uniqueness.

The eight pieces are actually two sets, five (Drunkard Heads) and three (Harem). And each of

the eight comes in four colors: green, blue, brown, and lighter brown. All contain the standard equivalent of 50ml and have either rum, gin, whisky or apricot whisky.

With so few ceramic bottles being produced today, it is refreshing to see something quite different come our way.



# melo's minis

by Mike Olson

In this article I would like to feature four nice pre-pro's, plus we'll take a look at three different versions of Crystal Bay Club. The number of pre-pros in my collection is somewhat limited as I have only added bottles in very good condition. Also, I have traded a number of them for whiskeys from the 1930's. I do try to keep the brands which were produced after repeal. The Crystal Bay Club Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskeys are from Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and are three of the many casino bottles which are popular among collectors.

Anyway, bottle number one is Steinwender Yellow Label Bottling of Old Crow Bourbon out of St. Louis. It has a yellow label and is from 1909. Next is Diplomat Whiskey Blended by Yarzen Distillers Kansas City, MO. It has a dark green label printed in blue, red and gold and is circa 1910.

The Old Pepper Whisky was Distilled and Bottled by Jas E Pepper & Co Lexington, KY. It is BIB 1915-1919 and has a gold and white label printed in red and black. The last of these is Bendigo Club Whiskey Blended by Rochester Distilling Co. Rochester N.Y. It has a light and dark green label with gold trim and is circa 1915.

The first Crystal Bay Club was Bottled by Twin Hills Distilling Co. Bardstown, KY. It is 86 proof and circa 1950. The other flat was Bottled by Medley Distilling Co. Owensboro, KY. It is 86 proof, 7 years old and is from 1952. The last bottle is actually the back of a regular Heaven Hill Bourbon circa 1960.

Finally, '94 has been fairly decent to me bottle wise. Not great numbers, but certainly some outstanding whiskeys which keeps this poor ol' boy going. Until next time.....

M E L O





# BEER, BEER, BEER...

by JOHN WYSS

## PRICING PRE-PRO MINI BEERS

All too often I get requests to help price pre-prohibition mini beers from collectors looking to buy or sell. Robert Kay's books provide a good start and then I offer my additional opinions. The following are some of the pointers in pricing.

### 1. IN GENERAL:

- a. All pre-pro beers are relatively rare.
- b. Pre-pro beers are more scarce than any other bottles.
- c. Condition is still (almost) everything.
- d. Few collectors pay good money for junk.
- e. A labeled bottle in good condition is worth \$150.00+.
- f. A picture is still worth a thousand words.

### 2. REGARDING AVAILABILITY:

Although all pre-pros are tough to find, some are much more common or "scarcer" than others. For example, I can only account for two Fink (PA-2) mini beers in existence (in any condition) while virtually any advanced beer collector has a labelless Edelweiss (IL-3) if they so wish to have one.

Some beers are so rare they have yet to surface. New discoveries continue to pop up as more than several new varieties/variations are brought to my attention every year. So...keep a look out - many "one of a kinds" do exist and their values can be astounding!

A point of interest documents that pre-pro mini beers were produced as early as 1877 and as late as 1911. That's a minimum thirty-four years of possibilities! Also keep in mind that many brewers were constantly redesigning their labels and distributing many different types of beer (i.e. Bohemian, lager, export, etc.).

### 3. LABEL QUALITY:

- A. Few pre-pros have 100% of the label still intact.
- b. Prices quoted in Kay's book presumes 100% labels.
- c. Values drop sharply as label percentages go down.
- d. Unembossed bottles with less than 50% labels are worth little.
- e. A common practice is to refer to the percentage of the main label still remaining intact.
- f. Many pre-pros had neck

labels.

g. Absence of the neck label does not devalue.

h. Presence of the neck label escalates value.

i. Aging usually causes label fading or darkening.

j. Heavy discoloration causes heavy devaluation.

#### 4. CONTENTS:

a. Contents intact does not increase value.

b. Sealing devices intact do slightly increase value (i.e. lead wrapping, corks, wire harnesses and special closures.

#### 5. EMBOSSING:

a. Generally, embossed bottles without labels are worth \$30-50.

b. Top labelless, but embossed, pre-pros presume no chips, cracks or etching.

c. Bottom only embossed bottles do not promote displayability or much value (\$10-15).

d. Some rare embossed pre-pros without labels command values over \$100 such as E. Anheuser, Ballantine, Geo. Brehm, Silver Foam (Mercury Glass) and new discoveries.

The bottom line is that pricing is purely subjective - as long as you have a willing buyer. While the average collector usually won't pay over \$100 for (one) bottle, I personally have paid over \$300 for a top specimen. But...I am the exception and certainly not the rule. (Specializing does have its costly drawbacks.)

In closing, I hope this article has given a little insight on pricing those ever elusive pre-pro mini beers. As always, if anyone might have a question or an extra bottle, please drop me a line.

Cheers!!

--J.W.--



# FASCINATING FIGURALS



Every once in a while a bottle pops up out of the blue that no one seems to know anything about. The McCormick Company of Weston, Missouri, made a great many figurals during those ceramic halcyon years: Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Bicentennial set, Gunfighters, etc. However, this eagle remains a mystery to everyone except the folks at McCormick, and they aren't saying!

The bottom of the bottle states "La Societe Des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux". Translated that's The Society of 40 Men and 8 Eagles. The only other markings state that it was produced in 1985 in Taiwan. It contains 50ml Grenadine.

Will someone please clear up this mystery?

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**MINIATURES**



By David L. Maund and Mike Barbakoff

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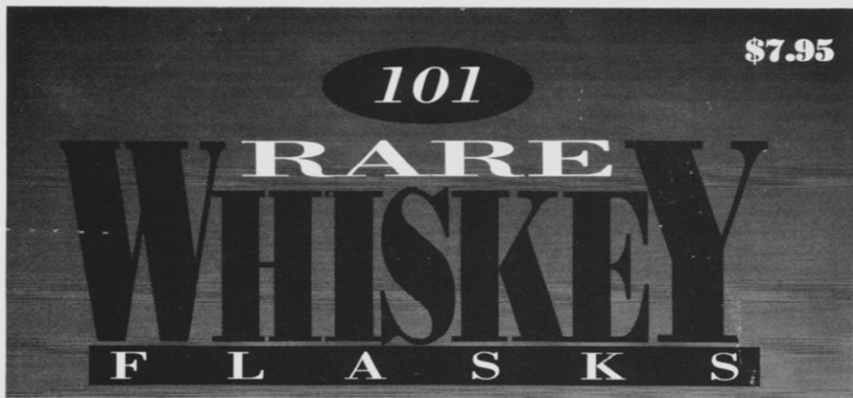
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