VOL. XXII No. 2 No. 128 1995

# COLLEGIOR COLLEGIOR

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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, Inc.

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PRIOR TO MEETING

## Let's Talk

Trite but true, Spring is the time of renewal. We climb out from our winter hibernation and get involved in the hobby once again. We've seen a great deal of interest for the shows this year and hopefully that will carry over into more and more collectors becoming involved. (Now, you thought I was going to talk about magazine renewals, right? I wasn't, but then we must never forget to renew our subscription.)

All collectors are either involved with buying, selling or both. Do you ever stop to think where some of those collections you'd like to buy come from? Do you attempt to add new collectors to the hobby?

Recently a collector of many years contacted us because he'd just found there were other collectors around. Even though he lived in one of the most collector populated areas, he still thought he was the only one around who collected those little liquor bottles.

So here's the yearly pitch to get out there and become involved. The winter doldrums are over. Get out there and find (or create) a new collector.

Moving on to this issue, we have some truly great new and old bottles to show you. The Bourbon Heritage group is a must for everyone unless you have some weird anti-bourbon bias. The Renault shows what a little design will do. And Tony Natelli's STAGS show what some label designing is really all about.

As a little sneak preview, we are working on an all Canadian issue for late in the year. How's that sound?

DMS

14:03

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# DITTIES BOTTES B

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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#### Our Cover

Kinsohita Shoji from Osaka, Japan, has issued its yearly bottles for St. Valentine's Day. This year the highlight (we won't mention the others as they'll make a nice article!) of the group is this race car created for GRANDGOSIER Napoleon Brandy. Note how the glass bottle fits snugly into the body of the car. The checkered flag background is also part of the packaging and signifies a winner. Don't you agree!

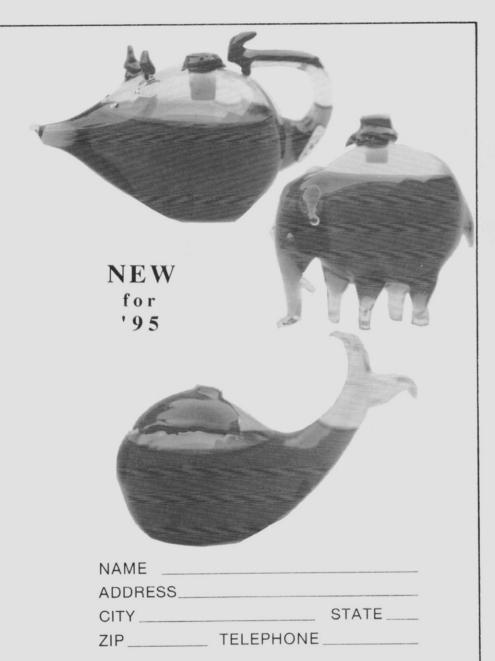
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## WHAT'S NEW





Yes, it's another of those articles where the bottles come from just about everywhere. In fact, there may be something here for everyone. Four of the seven are currently available here, so we'll look at those first.

The pair of Springbank Campbeltown Single Malts are on the shelves in most markets in the U.S. and the U.K. These two are the 12



and 15 year olds and the only aged ones currently sold here. The label is quite a turn around from what we are used to. You can't really tell from these black and whites, but there is a little sprig of heather in color below the large "S".

The other pair are two more of the pull tab top bottles like the Jose Cuervo and the others shown previously. In fact, if memory



serves, the only one not pictured so far is another in the Yukon Jack series, Snake Bite.

Moving on to bottles other lands, we from present the first look at Label 5 from Jordan. This is but one of at least four different scotches sold there. And there are gins vodkas too! We photothe whole bunch graphed but with little success. This one at least is legible. The label states that this is from Jordan and there is Arabic writing on the twist off cap. Moving from the Middle East to the Far East, we have the Kwai Feh Lychee Liqueur found in Hong Kong. If you're a lychee nut lover, this one might be for you...otherwise you pays your money and you definitely takes your chances!

To finish up we come back fairly close to home.... Mexico. Undoubtedly there are lots of new bottles to be found in Baja and the rest of Mexico, but this one brings back memories of the types of bottles which







used to be produced south of the border. In fact, I'm talking about gorgeously embossed glass. This is an excellent bottle. You might not be wild about the Coffee Liqueur contents, but the bottle itself is stunning. Take note, plastic producers.

You'll find other new bottles in this issue, but this mixture seemed to make a nice selection for all.



## POPULAR SQUARES

by Fred Hawley



Part III





I would like to share with you the last eight mini, square whiskeys in my collection. One mini, Fighting Irish, was sold in Indiana. Old Joe has an Italian tax stamp. The other seven have Alabama,

Florida, and Tennessee tax stamps.

ENTUCKY'S FINEST BOX

Bottle number one is Fighting Irish Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. 86 proof. 4 years old, Distilled by Fighting Irish Distilling Co., Lawrencecontd.







burg, KY, Kentucky's smallest distiller. It has a gold label with green and black printing.

Bottle number two is Cream of Nelson Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It is 91 proof, 8 years old, Bardstown, Nelson County, KY. It has a gold label with black and white printing.

The third bottle is Virgin Bourbon Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 107 proof, 6 years old, Distilled by Old Boone Distillery Co., Meadowlawn, KY. It sports a black label with gold and white printing.

Next comes Old Joe Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. This one is 86 proof, 4 years old, Distilled by Old Joe Distilling Co., Lawrenceburg, KY. It has a white and gold label with black and red printing.

Bottle number five is National Velvet Blended Whiskey. This is 96 proof, 6 years old, Bottled by Better Brands Distilling Co., Lawrenceburg, KY. The label here is black and







white with gold and black printing.

The sixth one is Bensons Creek Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. At 86 proof, 6 years old, it was Bottled by 21 Brands Distillers Corp., Frankfurt, KY. The label is white and the printing in black and gold.

Bottle number seven is J.T.S. Brown Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. It's 86 proof, 4 years old, Distilled by J.T.S. Brown's & Son Co., Lawrenceburg, KY. The gold label has printing in red and black.

The last in our series and the last in my collection is Old J.T.S. Brown, Minnesota Fat's favorite. Except for the slight addition on the label, it is the same as bottle number seven.

I have enjoyed sharing with you my collection of mini, square whiskeys. If anyone has others or more information, please let me know.

--F.H.--

## WHISKY **HERITAGE**

by

"BUTCH" JONES





Three great scotches from the 1930's are shown this time. The first is Old Angus Brand Liqueur, blended Scotch Whisky. 86 proof Scotch Liqueur is in a clear flask. (This is NOT a liqueur as we think of them today.)

The second mini is a Black & White Oval in a green oval bottle. The blended Scotch is 13 years old and 86.8 proof. You can't see it in the picture, but this mini has a kickup.

248.01.1.

The third of the group is McCallums Perfection Scots Whisky. The bottle is a green flask and contains 1.6 fl ozs. An interesting aspect of this mini is that the cap is a mini shot glass.

Hope you enjoyed these. 'Til next time.

## MYSTERY BOTTLES from YESTERYEAR

by JOHN WYSS

This time for your inspection I have pictured two pre prohibition miniature beer bottles which have yet to be catalogued in R. Kay's Miniature Beer books or any other formal listing book.

Both bottles are indeed from the turn of the century era (or before). This is evident from the bottle construction which includes applied lips, blown in mold seam lines, and crudely produced glass.

The bottle on the right has been pictured in THE BEER BOOK by Will Anderson (c. 1973) on page 26. Will believes this is a rare sample bottle from the Springfield Brewing Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. This (aqua) bottle is glass approximately 5 inches tall and has "Springfield" embossed on one side "Brewers" on the reverse side. I know of only two of these to exist in collectors' hands today.

The bottle on the left has never been documented (to the best of my knowledge). This bottle is embossed "Springfd Brewers" on the shoulders and is also made of (aqua) clear glass at about 5 1/4" tall. Again I



can only account for two of these bottles in existence.

The real mystery revolves around the fact that there were several breweries which used the name Springfield in their title. There was a "Springfield Breweries" from Springfield. Ohio and I am sure there are several more states which may have played host to a brewery in their city of Springfield.

Without labels intact, one can only make an educated guess as to the true origin of today's specimens. Perhaps someone out there can help sold this mystery?!?

## WHISKEY HERITAGE





It has to be cause for celebration when we here in the United States are actually presented with a new glass whiskey miniature. So what do we do when an entire set of five new ones appears?

Don't know about you, but I scrambled for them and then got out the camera. Their history is a bit unique as they've been on the market now since at least November. Where, you may ask. The answer lies in the machinations of various wholesalers throughout the country.

You CAN find them in selected stores in Massachusetts or California. Who knows where else they are hiding on the shelves. So that I get all the carping out of my system, why were they all done in the same bottle?



Alphabetically we have George Dickel Special Barrel Reserve first. This is a 10 year old done at the normal 86 proof. For I. W. Harper, we drop the proof to 80 but up the age to 15 years. (Sounds mighty smooth to me.)

In the "Old" category, we have Old Charter Proprietor's Reserve, a 13 year old distilled at 90 proof. The second one here is Old

Fitzgerald Very Special 12 years old also at 90 proof.

The last of the bottles is the W. L. Weller 10 year old at 100 proof. If you're a bourbon drinker, you should surely have two sets and use the second one for the minis intended purposes. You'll definitely see what changes age and proof do to taste. And, as far as taste goes here, these are five absolute winners!

## **STAGS**

by TONY NATELLI



A grand subject to specialize in is Stags. These magnificent animals appear on all types of miniatures including scotch, vodka, gin, bourbon, cognac, rye and all types of cordials and liqueurs.

Most stags will be found on scotch labels. This time I'll feature thirteen different ones.

Thomson's DEER STALKER, DEW OF BEN LAWERS, and two SCOTTISH LEADER comprise our first picture...and they are good ones. There are at least three other versions of both Thomson's Deer Stalker and Scottish Leader, but none will be easy to find. Only the first

Scottish Leader may be considered reasonably common among these four.

THE WHITE STAG OF ARRAN, GLEN KINGLAS (12 year old malt), (2) ROYAL STAG and GLEN GARIOCH are next in line. They'll prove slightly more attainable than our first four (#'s 1 & 5 are current), but they're extremely attractive. The Royal Stags were sold in France and are from two different firms. There is at least one more version of Glen Garioch from our old friend, Morrison-Bowmore (see #123).

TWELVE POINTER 5 year, THE MONARCH, GLEN ABBEY



and EILEAN DORCHA complete our article. Twelve Pointer was sold in Japan while Eilean Dorcha is a current or recent issue.

There are many other Scotch miniatures that depict stags. Most are on the rare side, some extremely so. STAG REX, STRATHGLASS HOUSE, LOCH

SLOY, HIGHLAND STAG, THE CHALLENGE, STAG'S HEAD, WHITE STAG, etc. will be found in advanced collections occasionally.

None of these pictured or mentined was sold in the U.S.A.



# Beauties From The ORIENT



It's time to bring you up to date. Since the last issue which showed ceramics from Asia, there have been quite a few issued in China with primary sales in Hong Kong.

The first highly colorful set of four are specially produced just for Hong Kong as they feature scenes associated with that bustling metropolis. The Peak Tram, the Star Ferry, the floating restaurants, double decker buses, and, of course the skyline. These have a

white background for the fired-on, wrap around decals.

The next set is of four violins, fiddles or what have you. These are also very, very colorful, even more so than the first group of four. The four different women are featured on pink, green, yellow and white backgrounds. The reverse of each bottle features a great deal of caligraphy.

Our third group is of three triangular-shaped



bottles featuring a caligraphic symbol or symbols on each of the sides. The pink represents FAME, the blue-gray FORTUNE and the yellow LONGEVITY. Now, if only we could show them to you in color!) There may be others to go with these three ceramics.

The last group on the third page of this article is a set of four rectangular bottles which may represent the four directions or winds. They are tan, pink, green and brown. The third one in green does represent NORTH.

There are also some bar-



#### CHINESE CERAMICS



rels we'll show you another time. Oh, just in case you're wondering, all fifteen of these ceramics were produced for the Sam Seng Wine Company of Hong Kong. The content amount may vary as the space in front of the "ml" on the label has been left open. Possibly we can have a bit more information for you when we present the barrels in an upcoming issue.

## RENAULT

Tony Natelli



RENAULT is a familiar name to readers of this magazine. Their three mini French taxis were featured in issue #109 and are much desired by collectors.

Today's Renault "gem" is this glass decanter with a frosted band across the middle. It has to be seen in person to really be appreciated. The bottle contains Renault's new super premium Carte d'Argent (silver card). The contents are aged more than 25 years in oak casks, "married" for another five years before bottling and then made available for us. This undoubtedly tastes as good as it looks.

Don't pass this one up. It's available in selected duty free shops, France, England, and Hong Kong.



SCOTCH David Maund



You may not have known it and the year might have completely passed without a clue, but 1994 was the Celebration of 500 Years of Scotch Whisky. In the U.K. a good many bottles were available to mark this historic time. In the Nov-Dec 1994 issue (#126), I showed the Allt A Bhainne and now we have five more to add.

The singleton here is the one with the fancier label, Scapa 1979. This fifteen year old was bottled by The Master of Malt who have a great many bottles on the

market currently. Please note that this was only one of an issue of 120. Not the easiest to find.

The other four are all products of James MacArthur & Co. of Edinburgh. The Speyburn and Glen Scotia were both distilled in 1979, Bunnahabhain a year earlier in 1978 and the Bladnoch in 1983. So we go from 11 to 15 years. I should have even more of these from James MacArthur soon.

To finish up this time, I thought you'd like to see







two new customer specialty items. John Brown contains 10 year old Auchentoshan and commemorates Queen's Award to Industry. The Whisky Shop also contains a 10 year old, but we can only guess. It is nice to report that The Whisky Shop in Edinburgh is back in business again. If you can get up to Edinburgh, it's a must. You'll come away with an empty wallet or purse, but you'll have some new lovely bottles.

See you next time.

--DLM---



## melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature five flats from the 1930's in unusually-shaped bottles. This could be considered as frosting on the cake as these are fairly rare brands with attractive labels.

Since I've whetted your appetite, the first of our sweets is Charred Oak Pennsylvania Straight Rye Whiskey Bottled by National Wholesale Liquor Co. Baltimore, MD. It is 85 proof and has a yellow label printed in black and red.

The second bottle is West Penn Five Star Straight Rye Whiskey Bottled by West Penn Distilling Co. New Kensington, PA. It is 100 proof, Distilled March 1934, Bottled Oct. 1934 and has a blue and tan label with white. Next is Trenton Valley Straight Rye Whiskey Distilled by Trenton Valley Distillers Corp. Trenton, Mich. It is 90 proof and has a decal label.

The last three bottles are Burton's Blends Blended by American Distilling Co. Pekin, ILL. Two are rounded flats and all have gold and white labels printed in red and black. The Rye is 90 proof and 4 or more years old, while the Blends are



86.8 proof and 4 or more years old.

Finally, back to the mail auctions as promised. Love them or hate them, they are good reference guides as to availability and price trends. A good illustration of this would be the West Penn Rye. The only example of this brand I have ever seen was sold in the big 1989 whiskey auction. The same bottle was resold at auction (to me) several years later at 60% of the original price. I think the readers can draw their own conclusions.

Until next time. . .M E L O



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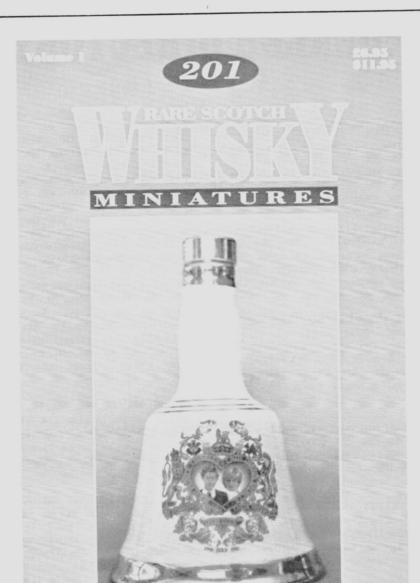
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FOR SALE: Miniatures from Jordan: Whis-\*kies, gin, vodka, cognac, scotch, arak, (ouzo), etc. Write Mitri Manneh. 11333 Lorene Street, Whittier, CA 90601 or call\* (310) 692-2928.

WANTED: Swizzle sticks with name &\* liquor pourers with names - buy or trade, y John Briskie, 7202 Harborview Drive, Lees-v burg, FL 34788 or call (904) 787-6670.

FOR SALE: MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTION started in 1955. Available are a variety of SETS, STRAIGHTS, FIGURALS, BEERS, WINES. Over 3000 bottles available, all sealed and unopened. Selling entire collection only and asking \$3200.00. Contact Mary Masi, 20 Riverview Circle, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or call (914) 485-8551.

FOR TRADE: I have about 190 Bols miniatures from the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Africa, and Argentina. New and older ones. Write for lists. Also, I have more than 200 bitters like Boonekamp and Underberg, mainly German miniatures 20ml, and look for all types of vodka and rum bottles. I will send, a list of my bitters. Let me know. Ivan Uhlik, Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz 6, D-01445, Radebeul, Germany.

WANTED: Mini ceramic jugs with Meiers, Rosard, and Manhattan labels. Will buy any color or amount, full or empty. I want cats, elephants, horse heads, ring jugs, baseballs, footballs, square, round and canteen shaped jugs, also Christmas jugs. Mrs. Connie Hackman, 11757 Whisper Bay Ct., Carmel, IN 46033 or call (317) 846-3629

FOR SALE: CHEAP Collection of 896 mostly straights from all over the world. These are mostly liqueurs. G. H. Ward, 239 St. Leonards Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4N 1K9 or tel (416) 483-7497.

WANTED: 1985 Jim Beam - J. B. Turner (Jersey & Western) Log Car. 1988 Jim Beam General (Western & Atlantic) Woodtender. Joe Reshetylo, 27 Arbour Cres. S. E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2J 0X5 or telephone (403) 252-0895.

FOR SALE: One of the world's most varied collection of miniature liqueurs -- about 3,000 bottles from more than 50 countries (excluding France). No whiskies, gins, etc. and no duplicates. \$2,000 or best offer. Jon Newman, 20 Brookside Blvd., West Hartford, CT 06107.

FOR SALE: Miniature bottle collection of over 2000 bottles, some very old, some old, some new. Would prefer to sell as collection. Cabinets with glass shelves also available. Reasonable offer will be considered. This is a general collection, some of everything. Call George Frazer at (516) 661-6429 (New York).

NOTICE: There're almost gone and this will be the last time we offer them. We've only got a few of the commemorative D-Day Scotch bottles left. So, if you're interested, it's still only \$8 plus \$4 postage. Also we have a few Rutherford and Glen Fiona Scotch jugs available. Write for the list. CHIISAI BIN IMPORTS, P. O. Box 90245, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

## MBG GLASSIFIFIS

FOR SALE; complete collection of 1100+bottles, mostly straights, all types, all for only \$2500.00. There is a list available. Call Jeff Zalewski (602) 561-8412 evenings.

TRADE WANTED; I have the following rare mini beers in good condition for trade: PA-3 Betz best pre-pro 100% labels, NY-46 Black River Ale, NJ-12 Ballantine (no box) unlisted 4" Koppitz with neck label. I need quality pre-pro mini beers, Manru Lager, Old Craft, Old Dutch (deckled), rare oneways, foreign, Monterey Lager, and especially unlisted variations on green glass bottles and familiar brands on unlisted size bottles. John Wyss, 1941 GrantWood Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240 or call (319) 337-9965.

NOTICE: We still have a few of the bottles available from our ad last time. If you put off writing, this is your last opportunity.J. Rubio, 4326 Old Stage Road, Central Point, OR 97502 or call (503) 664-6555 before 7pm PST, please.

WANTED; Tequilas, malt scotches, beers, gag bottles, and N.Y. "liquor-liqueurs". Willing to buy or trade the same, either singles or collections. Call or write to Randy Austin, 535 Fairview Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510 or (516) 378-7166 (evenings).

FOR SALE: Charles and Di miniature Bells Decanter. Very rare, sealed with original whisky inside \$1200. D. McCallum, 43 Kendall Avenue South, Sanderstead, Surrey, England CR2 0QR...

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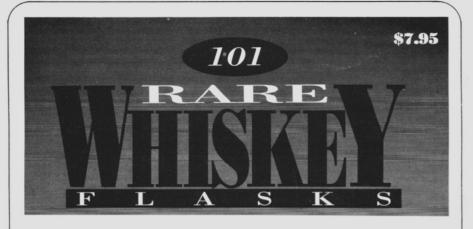
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