

THE

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No. 130 1995

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR



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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, Inc.

Bottles & Extras

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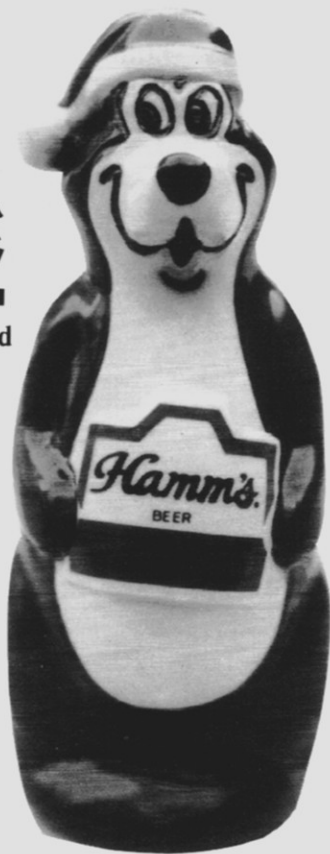
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Let's Talk

OUR MAN IN HAVANA, part two. Last time I mentioned the auction of the Graham Greene bottles and stated that according to the published information, the set of 82 pieces brought about US \$525.

However, there was an article in a London paper which stated that the collection was purchased by Rules Restaurant and that they paid 3520 pounds (roughly \$5632) or almost \$70 per bottle. I guess we may never know exactly...but that's a big difference between \$525 and \$5632! (Thanks to collector Gerald Dewhirst who sent me the newspaper clipping).

Distribution...the nemesis of collectors. How's that, you say. Well, last November I found the Black label Smirnoff Vodka in Tucson. Now just a few weeks ago, the Stolichnaya Cristal mini made its appearance in Covington, Kentucky. Two great bottles...glass...neat, pristine labels...great contents, BUT where are they? Write to let us know if they're in your neck of the woods.

Covington also had E & J Brandy while Lake Tahoe, Nevada had a new Paul Masson on its shelves. Two California brandies...certainly unseen in Southern California. WHY? Enough complaining. It just proves that no matter where you travel, you're bound to find something new.

Except for Boozeville, this is an all glass issue. AND some great glass. Rum, scotch, bourbon, cognac and for sheer thrills and chills, the return of the Cream Liqueurs (again).

Hope you've had a good summer and that your holiday brought some new bottles.

—DMS—

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Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

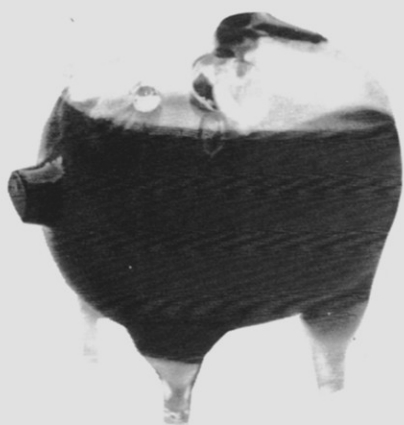
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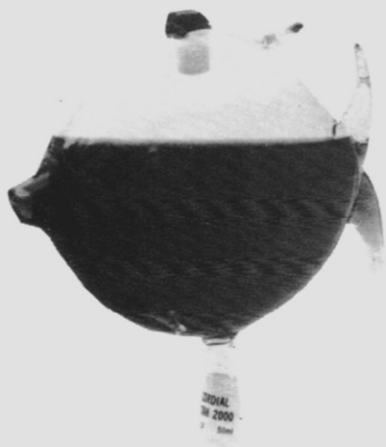
Our Cover

The two bottles on the cover this time are each from a set or pair of bottles. The Meukow XO shows the panther(?) wrapped around the bottle. This is also available in a V.S.O.P. and a Napoleon. These are clear glass and green glass. The Villeneuve shown is clear glass but the Napoleon version is a beautiful cobalt blue glass. These may currently be found in the Far East and (hopefully) France.

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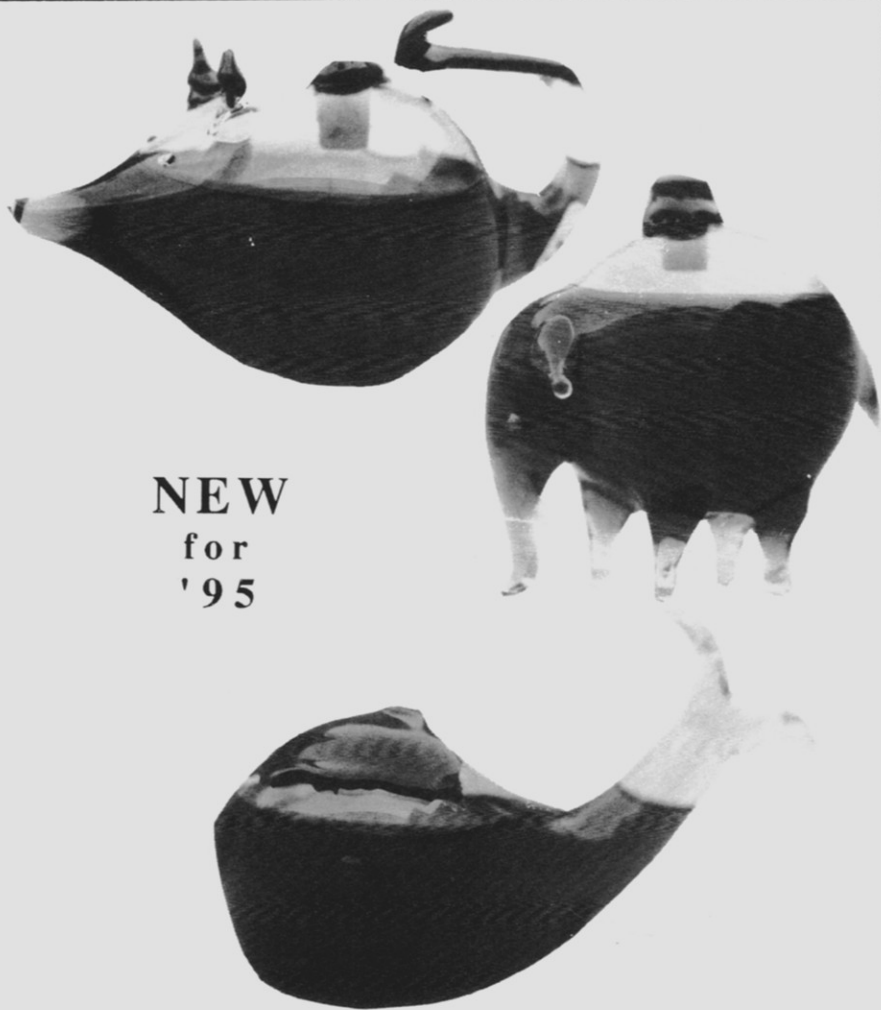


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WHAT'S NEW



This time we're so hetero it's incredible. All but three are currently being sold in the U.S. so with a bit of effort, you should be able to find them.

Let's begin with our "foreigners". The Remy Martin Club Cognac is a variation on a good number of Club bottles which have been issued in the last ten years. You can find Club here in a large size, but the minis are kept for the rest of the world.

Maxim's de Paris Blended Scotch Whisky is a nice silk screen label and the back of the bottle has been well embossed. Get this one at shows through a scotch dealer.

Much closer to home is the Inniskillin Icewine from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. I was introduced to Icewine in Toronto last year and it's quite refreshing. It's also "refreshing" that a dated (1993) vintage would be released as a minia-



ture. Nice for us though!

If you're in Buffalo and you're a good bottle hunter, you might find the Duggans 12 year old Blended Scotch Whisky. There is also a regular Duggans and it appears as if Buffalo is about the only place you will find Duggans.

You won't have to go to any great lengths or extremes to find the plastic Jim Beam bottle. This is the new label which commemorates Beam's 200th Anniversary. It's right up there in red on the top of the label. (Get out your magnifying glass.)

Three which may be found in many places including southern California are After Shock (imported by Jim Beam) which is a hot and cold liqueur (try it, you'll see what I mean), Villa





Massa's Liquore di Limoni from Italy, and Osborne's Independencia from Spain. All good bottles for a general collection.

The last two are plastics with somewhat interesting stories. Rebel Yell 101 everyone knows should be a whiskey, but it's not. This is a schnapps which turned up earlier this year. Nice label...he said...while damning with faint praise. The other bottle is Skyy Vodka, the

vodka without a headache. This product has been available for sometime in a large glass bottle. It was a northern California product which has done very nicely. But where can't you find the bottle...you guessed it, California.

Next time we'll have the new J & B Jet, two goodies from Mexico and who knows?

--DMS--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod

This bottle though is a class German giveaway about 6" tall and all in blue (she's also been seen in multicolor and brown). It's done with a lot of humor. I don't have one yet so I must thank Ron Danese for sending in this photo of his bottle.

You know, I think I will kiss her good night! --L.M.--



This must be one of the "ladies of the night". Who else would be so brash as to go out in public with a sign that says KISS ME?

She must have been waiting for a kiss for a long time because she is turning blue. Wonder what her name is. In Virginia City, Nevada, you can still see the names of some of the "ladies" painted on the windows of the second story. This town is preserved as it was since 1870.

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some Karuizawa Whisky miniatures from the Mercian Company.

Karuizawa is a very famous summer resort in Japan. In 1959 Sanraku Ocean Co. built the Karuizawa Distillery in this location. In 1986 the company changed the name to Sanraku Co.



and in 1990 to the Mercian Co. OCEAN is their whisky brand while MERCIAN is the wine name since their establishment.

The oldest one is the OCEAN KARUIZAWA Straight Malt Whisky from Sanraku Ocean Co. It has no age. The next oldest is the KARUIZAWA 15 year old Malt Whisky from the Sanraku Co. The third one is from the Mercian Co. and is 100% Malt Whisky KARUIZAWA 15 year old with the Japanese letters 'Karu-i-zawa' on the plate. As you can see, the above three have a white ceramic plate with a golden chain. Each came in a paper box.

The newest 100% Malt



Whisky KARUIZAWA 15 year old has a label, not a plate, and comes in a clear plastic box. All four of these miniature decanters are 12cm tall in clear glass and contain 100ml at 43% alcohol.

The last miniature is a blended Whisky, KARUIZAWA MASTER'S BLEND. As the first Blended Whisky of the KARUIZAWA series from the Mercian Co., it was launched in April of 1994. It is a trading sample and was available only in a very limited quantity. The bottle is a clear glass cylinder with a tan label and red cap. It is 9.5cm tall, 50ml at 40% alcohol.

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



BEER

by John Wyss

Today's mini beers may only be of great interest to the purist or serious collector looking for information on variations. But I'm keeping with my vow to picture each and every mini beer not previously seen in any publications.

The beers are now catalogued in R. Kay's *MINI BEER UPDATE* (1989) as WI-62a. The main difference from WI-62 is the aluminum slat/pepper shaker cap and the special threaded bottle lip. These are actually quite hard to come by compared to the printed crown cap version without threading.

Another interesting note is that both versions have Foster Forbes markings embossed on the bottom and were marketed by Bill's Specialty Mfg. Co. of Milwaukee circa 1950. I have found many different "unlisted" variations of embossing coming on Bill's distributed mini beers. It also should be mentioned that while some 3" beers had these S/P aluminum caps, the glassware was not threaded as one may surmise from the pictures in R. Kay's *Miniature Beer Bottles and Go-Withs* (eg. WI-63).

As always, anyone with an extra or interesting mini beer should feel free to contact me.

Cheers!

--J.W.--



WHISKEY HERITAGE

by BUTCH JONES



Three super whiskies are featured this time. Each of these is very hard to find and is a great addition to any collection. Unfortunately, I don't own these bottles; they actually belong to Pat McMullen, a gentleman and collector who needs no introduction. I photographed these in a visit to his home in June.

The first bottle is a Buccaneer Brand Straight Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey. The label is very colorful with the ship and the buccaneers. The clear flask contains 90 proof whiskey and was produced by Lionel Distilled Products Inc.

of Chicago, IL. Even though this one has been shown here before, these great ones demand reshewing.

Mini number two is an Eastern Black and Green Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. The clear flask is filled with 4 year old whiskey, but no proof is shown. This was produced by Old Lewis Hunter Distillery Co. Inc. of Cynthiana, KY.

The last was one produced for the Apple Valley Inn in Apple Valley, CA. It's a BIB 100 proof K S B W. Surely you know those initials!

'Til next time.

--B.J.--

"SPECIAL" COGNACS

By Tony Natelli



Every so often you have to see pieces which are known not by the bottle but by the contents. We have had and will have some wonderfully designed containers; however, let's look at some bottles with wonderful tasting cognacs.

All of these are X.O. quality or better. It should be needless to say, but all come from the Cognac region of France and

with one exception all are 5 cl or 50 ml bottles.

The only 3 cl bottle is from Pierre Seguinot & Fils (Sons). The Prunier brand name is known in the U.S. but this bottle is not. It is the Reserve of the Prunier Family. That extremely small writing below Cognac Prunier tells you so.

The two Lheraud's are the X.O. and the Paradis. Very



seldom is a Paradis mini found. The large size of this would cost a great deal of money.

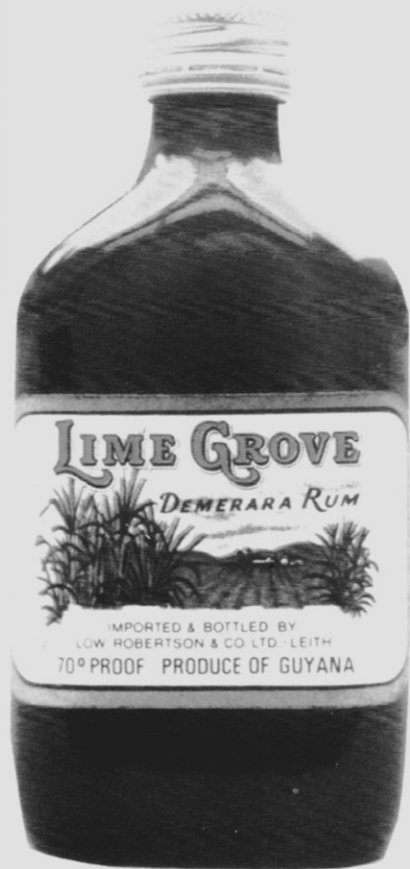
The Hardy name is also well known in the U.S. but the X.O. variety is not. It would not at all be surprising to see Hardy issue a new X.O. bottle.

The other three bottles are

all X.O. quality. They are Château Montifaud, Francois Peyrot and Raymond Ragnaud. Armed with some of these new names you'll never be at a loss when Uncle Ben and Aunt Sarah ask you what you'd like them to bring back from you when they go to France!

RUM

by Jacques Rollet



Some of the finest examples of label art may be found on the rum bottles issued in Great Britain during the 1950's. We talk of great workmanship done on the cigar and orange crate boxes of the past; however, many of these U.K. rums could surely compete.

We'll begin with Lime Grove.



The pertinent information is easily read, but the picture shows a grove in the foreground with the field and farmhouse in the background.

The last three are particularly good. Since life at sea and the navy are popular subjects, it isn't at all unusual to see many labels with ships on them.



Westward Ho! depicts a ship sailing on a sea of green while the rest of the label is in green, black and white. The Killingley shows a ship with stalks of sugar cane on each side.

The most colorful though is the Stewart's Trade Wind. Different shades of blue along with red, yellow, orange, and white



make this label a standout in any collection. In the fine print you could also notice that this is from a Scottish company while all the others hail from England.

From time to time other excellent old rum labels will be shown. Hope you enjoy them.

SCOTCH

David Maund



This time we have a bit of "this and that". I suppose the "this" are the new bottles while the "that" is the excellent old pair from the 1930's. Let's begin with an old friend.

Springbank is indeed that old friend. Previously in these pages I know one or two of the new bottles have been shown. Now you may feast your eyes upon the C.V, the 21 year old and the 25 year old. I don't believe these have been exported

from the U.K., except by collectors. If you come over to my side of the pond, you might find them, but they'll indeed be dear.

The other set is a group of four to once again commemorate Scottish Wildlife. Previously there were some silk screen labels; however, these are highly colorful. The Puffin is a special one to me. They contain Glenturret, Port Ellen, Aberfeldy, and Imperial Malt Scotches.



These are Signatory bottles produced for the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

The next bottle is a 35 year old Cameron Bridge Single Grain Scotch Whisky. Note the word "Grain" instead of "Malt". The single grains have recently been well represented by a large issue from Cadenheads. However, this bottle is another from Signatory.

Now we've worked our way to the "that". These last two are

U.S. imports of 1936. It isn't often you see two aged bottles from the same producer in both round and flat styles. The round contains the 15 year old blend while the flat bottle is only 10 years old. Soon they'll be sixty years!

Next time I'll have some more interesting glass for you and then we'll get back to more of the ceramics. --DLM--

SCOTCH



CREAM

of the

CROP



So far we've covered a lot of territory with the cream liqueurs. Sometimes we slip them in with the *WHAT'S NEW* bottles or as part of another article. This time they deserve their own page!

The one that seems to elude us because there is no label is the new Pisang Ambon for Europe. This bottle has been painted green, is actually glass masquerading as a ceramic.

The Castle Banana's Cream is

a new one from Spain in a bottle reminiscent of many other cream liqueurs. The Columba Cream is another variation. There is a jug or two and a nice flask, but this is the first round one.

Now since we're on the subject, keep an eye out for a Kahlua Cream Royale. The large bottle is available in many markets, so hopefully the mini isn't far behind.

melo's minis

by Mike Olson



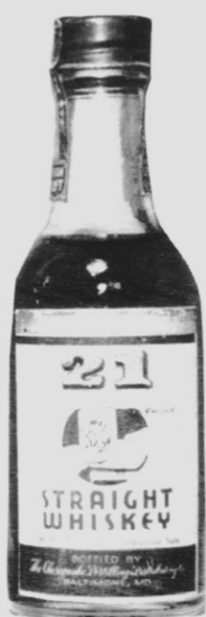
In this article I would like to feature the FOUR ACES brand, plus pursuing the card theme we'll take a look at the 21 brand. Bottles with playing cards on the label are very popular among collectors. Brands such as Four Aces, Four Deuces, Royal Flush, King of Clubs and others are much sought after and rarely stay unsold when available.

Anyway, the first two bottles were Blended and Bottled by Northeastern Liquor Corp., Cambridge, Mass. They are 90 proof, four or more years old,

have light grey labels printed in red and black and are from the late 1930's.

Bottle number three was Blended and Bottled by General Distillers Corp. Boston, Mass. It is 90 proof, 3 years or more old, has a green label printed in red, gold and black and is circa 1937.

The last two Four Aces were Blended and Bottled by Ron Virgin Co. Cambridge, Mass and were produced after the war. The flat is 86 proof, 4 years or more old, while the round bottle is 86



proof and 5 years or more old.

The last pair are 21 Brand Straight Whiskey Bottled by The Chesapeake Distilling Co., Baltimore, MD. Both are 86 proof, 2 years old and from the 1930's. The difference is that one has a white label printed in red and black, while the other has a white label printed in orange and green.

Finally the Four Aces Brand was also bottled in Canada and I recently had a Four Aces Bourbon in a neat little bottle from Mexico.

Until next time. . . . MELO. . .

FROM

AUSTRALIA

by Bob Meissner



Last time we had some old bottles, so this time we'll look at some quite new ones.

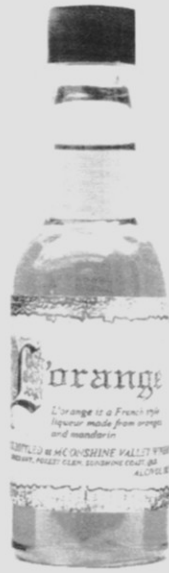
We'll look at the three plastic ones first. Too bad this can't be in colour because that WIPE-OUT is one great label. The curl of the wave with the sun in the background is beautifully done. This one contains our very own rum with some coconut flavors added. Think this just might be a bit of competition for Malibu!

ERIN CREAM and ARABIKA Kaffe Liqueur complete our trio. I've noticed there seems to

be an interest in collecting cream liqueurs both in the U.S. and the U.K., so Erin is a new addition for you. The back label states that it's "Australia's original and still the best. Made from Polyunsaturates, with its great taste it's easy on your waist." Now there's a testimonial if I've ever heard one.

Along with Arabika and Wipeout, Erin Cream is produced by The National Liqueur Company of Canning Vale.

Now we turn to both plastic and glass. The remainder of the



bottles are all produced at Moonshine Valley Winery at Forest Glen on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Only 100 numbered pairs of glass were done of the Old Buderim Ginger and Xporto. Then some were issued in ceramic flagons and most recently the set of three in plastic was issued. The L'orange is a liqueur while the other two are wines.

Hope you've found this to be an interesting look at some of our newer bottles. --B.M.--



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FOR SALE: Stock Egg \$50, Garnier Frog, Duck, Dog, Hen, Elephant \$18@. Garnier Skittles (6) set \$70 or \$15 each. Barsottini 2 different Cleopatras \$15@. Drioli Glass Urn \$10, Gondola \$10. MAB/Droz Fish, parrot, rabbit, dog \$20@ or \$60 the set. Luxardo Maple Leaf Pitcher \$15. L'Abbe Vase \$10. German Giveaways: A Wee Scotch (multicolored) \$45; Your Health (brown) \$60. Potter's Totem Pole \$8. Also many large figural bottles. Postage Extra. Al Manuel, 1225 McDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230 or call evenings (718) 253-8308.

WANTED: VODKA - Serious collector willing to buy, trade mini vodkas! Rod Nykolyshyn, 8820 - 138 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E 2A8 Canada.

FOR SALE: Miniatures from Jordan and the Middle East. whiskeys, gin, vodka, cognac, scotch, arak (ouzo), etc. Write Mitri Manneh, 11333 Lorene Street, Whittier, CA 90601 or call (310) 692-2928.

NOTE: Still looking for good Irish Whiskey, gin, rums, etc (no liqueur, please) Will trade anything I own or pay top dollar. Have some great Irish Labels for trade. Bill Orr, 1680 Glenwood Drive, Twinsburg, OH 44087 or call (216) 425-2365.

WANTED: Buy or Trade - following rums: Javin, Hamon, East Indian Star, Dominion, Barriasson, Volcano, Bronx, Morenita, Noyetta, Rose Marie, Coruma, Plantation, St. Francois and/or any I need prominently featuring natives. Also minis with horses, Napoleon, sailors, pirates, or dogs on the label. AND Sicilian Gold Man, Gallaway Soldier, and older watch bottles. Tony Natelli, 153 - 31 79th Street, Howard Beach, NY 11414 or call (718) 738-3344.

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: Due to poor health, approximately 10,000 assorted minis. Only 250 of these are figurals. Also have whiskey signs, glasses, paper and other go-withs. Call or write: Sheila Sears, 208 Gloucester Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061-4040 or (410) 766-8421.

NOTICE: Looking for fellow mini bottle collectors in New Mexico to form a bottle club. All interested parties please contact: George A. Petroff, 1401 Pennsylvania NE #3143, Albuquerque, NM 87110 or call me at (505) 875-0312. I have club house facilities until 11/95 then we can meet at my new home which will be completed in 12/95. Group meetings there in Rio Rancho. I recently moved to New Mexico from California because of job relocation. Love to talk to one and all. Please call or write. Will respond to one and all!

NOTICE: I am the 'Cognac Secretary' of the Mini Bottle Club in Great Britain. I've taken it on myself to try to write a definitive book on miniature cognacs. Before I can do this, I need to get together as many varieties from collections around the world. CAN YOU HELP?? Please let me hear from you. Mr. Robin A. Gollan, 6 Broom Mead, Bexleyheath, Kent. DA6 7NY, England or call (from the states) 011-441-1322-524246.

FOR SALE: 8 mini whiskey and bourbon bottles from the 1930's plus one Old Forrester railroad bottle made for the MONON line. Also 5 giveaway flask type bottles. Will sell separately. Send SASE or call for list. Also buying German or Japanese giveaways. Paul Stookey, 3015 W. Tate Route 571, Troy, OH 45373 or call (513) 698-3392.

MBC CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Large collection of Ski Country bottles including minis, 4/5's, 1/2 gallon, gallon and 9 mock-up bottles. All priced very reasonably. Write Marietta LeBlanc, 5592 W. Geddes Place, Littleton, CO 80123 or call (303) 979-4943.

WANTED: To exchange information, sell, swap, etc. with other people who collect scotch whisky. I am a brand name collector. CALL George Aldrich at (414) 933-1643 or send information to 3211 West Michigan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

FOR SALE: Hundreds of various LIQUEURS in excellent condition, both individual and sets. Price is very negotiable. Want to sell ASAP, so will accept any reasonable deal. This is an offer you don't want to pass up. Call Fr. Joe Molloy at (618) 783-8741, or write: P. O. Box 225, Newton, IL 62448.

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

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 one-ways, 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.

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