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VOL. XXIII No. 4
No. 136 1996

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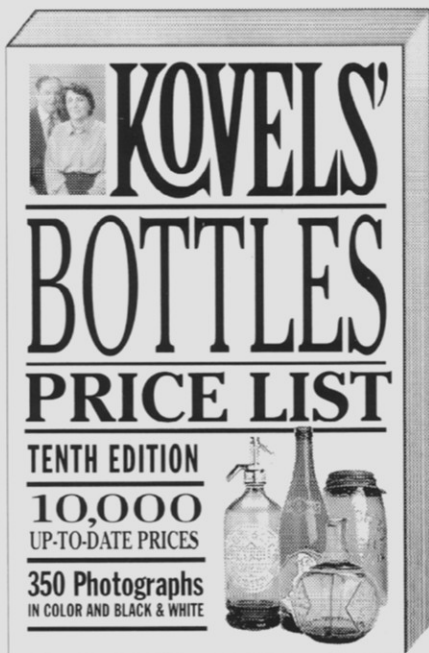
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Let's Talk

It's show time. The Jim Beam bottle show/Wade Fair is now behind us and Expo 96 will be a memory by the time you receive this issue. Coming up we have the Del-Val and Lilliputian shows. If you can't find what you're looking for at these shows, maybe it doesn't exist.

If you've taken the time to look for new bottles this summer, you should have found quite a few as there seem to be a few different bottles wherever you go. The What's New column has been showing a good many of them, but you can't really keep up with the new ones.

What impressed me is that some of the producers are using minis for their intended purpose. I found a new Jose Cuervo Místico a few days ago in a very nice glass bottle. When I saw that it was only 99¢, I bought an extra for tasting purposes. And Bacardi has issued some new ones at introductory prices of only 50¢. Now those are indeed bargains. At 50¢ you might even buy a third one for trading to someone in a different area. Oh well, that was just a bizarre thought.

The Web Site is rolling along nicely. Lots of answers to a question posed: What was the first airline to give out ceramic bottles and what company filled them? The answer (of course you knew) was KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Rynbende. The company is now defunct in that it was rolled into Bols when they purchased it several years ago. Anyway, take a look at pp. 22-23 and get a surprise.

See you at a show this Fall.

—DMS—

THE

VOL. XXIII No. 4
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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

Come on, now. Admit it. You had to smile when you saw the cover this time. This fellow could make a mummy smile. You're looking at the first sample of what might be called The Churchill Bulldog. Who else but a dog owned by Sir Winston would be smoking a cigar and sporting a bowler? This bottle will be available in the fall and should be a smashing success.

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LETTERS

(We haven't had a letters column for some time, but these past few weeks warranted its return.)

Editor:

In the article *Talking Point* in the last issue, the author spoke of "some people" who felt some non-alcoholic bottles sold are cheating the public. Well, I'm the "some people". I want to explain my position and then let you, the reader, decide.

There were, and are, some bottles offered for sale in this magazine that are passion fruit cordials. They are sold as "The Locale Series" and are in unusual bottles. I bought several bottles and opened one to see what the cordial tasted like. This tasted like colored water. This is what I objected to.

The article mentioned other bottles sold 40 to 50 years ago, along with a picture of one, and asked if you would pass it up because of its contents. There is a big difference in these bottles and the ones I objected to. These older bottles were not generally made for collectors and were made when genuine art and craftsmanship were the norm, not the unusual. I seriously doubt that the new bottles will be worth anywhere near what the older bottles bring now. If they are, I'll apologize.

The bottles were unusual in shape, but I, like most readers of this magazine, do not collect just for unusual shapes. I have nothing against the company, but there is an intimation that the bottles contain an alcoholic liquid.

My point is that items offered for sale in this magazine, if not alcoholic, should be clearly labeled as such. The readers are collectors of miniature bottles of whiskey - generally not collectors of glass shapes or fancy labels. Advertisements should clearly state what is being offered if it is not what is generally offered.

Bob Clarke
Austin, TX

Editor:

I enjoyed the article on the Vedrenne bottles and the ones shown in the *What's New* column, but where can I find these bottles?

Erna Hart
San Jose, CA

Editor:

Thanks so much for the information on Edinburgh. If I can get there, at least I'll know where to go to find bottles. Surely do look forward to more articles like this.

Tom Wilcox
Ames, IA

Editor:

One of the bottles I obtained at the last Del-Val show was the one featured in the latest MBC. It is listed under the title, *Talking Point*. Pictured is the Miniature Specialties vase that is one of the two I bought from Sheila (Sears). I agree most whole-heartedly with everything that Dave has to say about these bottles in this article.

I say, "Many thanks", to him for this article, and "cheers" to him for having the good sense and guts to publish it.

Norm Luber
Phila., PA

Editor:

Greetings from Singapore. I would like to know more about miniature bottles and if someone would like to sell some German giveaways.

James Seah
Singapore

Editor:

I have a few hundred bottles in my collection. Most of my bottles came from my grandparents and some are very old. Is there such a thing as a price guide? How do you figure out what your bottles are worth?

Randy Pelm
Chicago, IL

REPLY: This is an area which really needs addressing. You calculate value by being a very active collector, going to shows, seeing what bottles sell for...what dealers ask for them and if they bring the price. Okay, you can't get to a show. Join a club. Most have newsletters if you can't attend a meeting. One thing about almost all collectors. They are willing to share info, time, bottles, you name it. When you do value a bottle, remember it's a bottle, not a gold ingot. Finally, if you can, insure your bottles. Mother Nature seems to be on a rampage for lo these many years now and you don't want your collection to be reduced by an Act of God.

Volume 1

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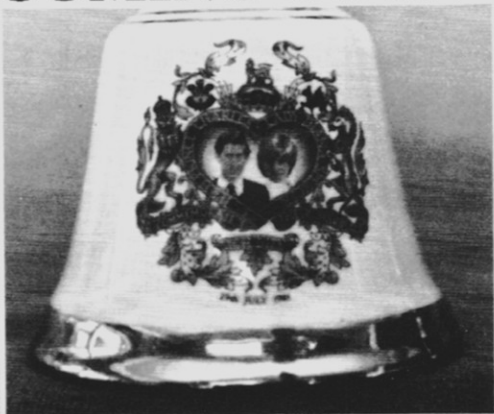
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WHAT'S NEW

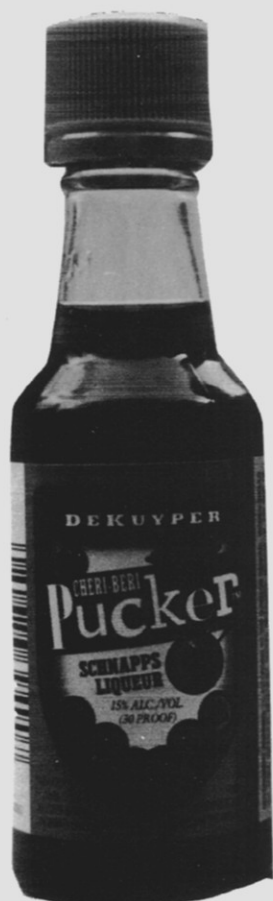


Quite a few new ones for you this time. A couple of them are real gems you're going to have to find at shows or really seek out. Let's get the least desirable (in my opinion naturally) out of the way first.

Yes, these are a bunch of plastic ones. Now I'm not saying I don't collect them because they're plastic, I just wish they were glass. Two of the four have already been placed on the shelves. Those two are the Ryan's Cream from Ryan's

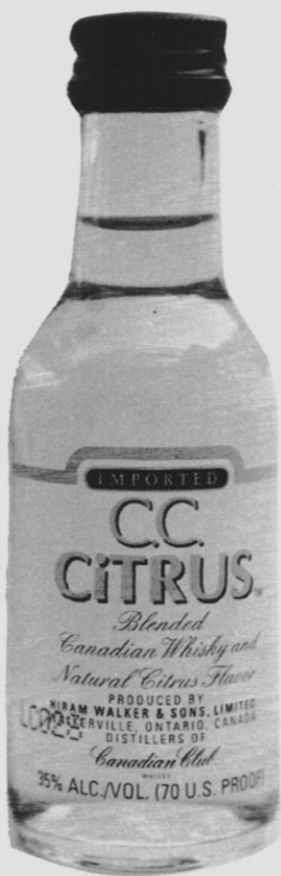
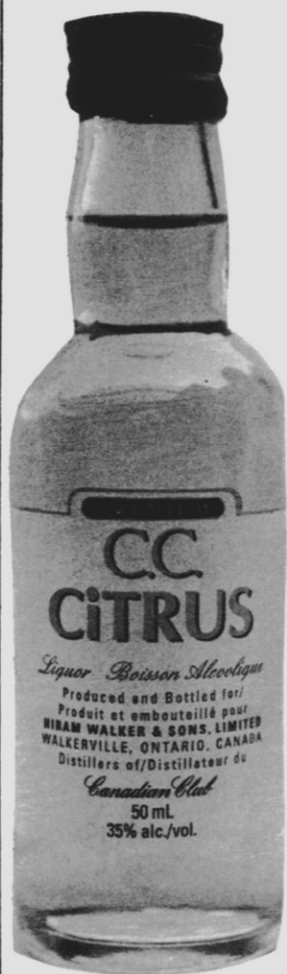
Distilled Products Co. of Lewiston, Maine, and the Grant's Scotch. Both of these are in several areas in the U.S. The other two (of course) are found nationwide...Bacardi Spice Spiced Rum and (are you ready?) Dekuyper Cheri Beri Pucker Schnapps.. That's almost up there with Uncle Oscar's Popcorn Schnapps from last time.

Now we get interesting. You're looking at two pairs of bottles in different versions. The smaller bottle in each case is plastic while



the taller one is glass. The makers have reserved the plastic ones for us here the U.S. but the glass ones go elsewhere. In case of the Early Times, that one is for Japan while the other C.C. Citrus (yes, whisky and lemon) is for Canada I think we got the short end of the stick!

Finally, we come the Waldorf-Astoria Cognac produced by A. de Fussygn in Cognac, France. This is definitely a case of saving the best for last. The label of this bottle is copied from a 1930's label that the



Waldorf-Astoria used at the time. Now don't start writing the hotel in New York City asking to buy a bottle. They won't sell it. You have to stay there in one of the suites and buy it from the mini bar in the room. I'd say that makes this one pretty darn exclusive.

Well, that takes us through nine new ones. How many new and different items are in your area?

--DMS--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Most towns are located by a river, like or ocean. Boozeville just has a small creek so this Boozeville resident had to travel all the way to the ocean to go swimming. Looks like she caught a crab!

This multicolored Giveaway bottle is blue on the back while the girl is in a purple suit and has red hair. The crab is dark colored.

Another flask like this one has the bathing beauty standing upright with the crab on her toe. These are both in the very hard to find category.

--L.M.--

CADENHEAD CORNER

by TONY NATELLI



The ever popular and extremely hard to find Cadenhead miniatures are featured today in their own "little corner". Eleven miniatures from their June 1995 bottling were discussed in MBC #133. The missing one was Glen-Moray. However, the first bottling was in February 1995 and eleven of these are pictured with Clynelish being the "missing piece".

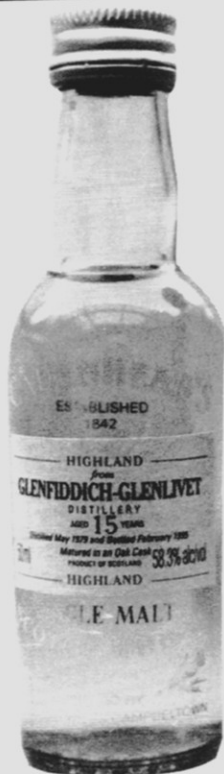
Some of Scotland's great distilleries are represented here, and in all

of the Cadenhead bottlings. These include Glenfiddich, Balvenie, McCallan, Talisker and Springbank. This set also contains Glenfarclas, St. Magdalene, Caol Ila, Ardbeg, Deanston, and Highland Park. Again, the Clynelish is not shown.

There are also sixteen more from a September 1995 bottling and twelve others from a December 1995 bottling with more promised for 1996.

As previously noted, these are

1995

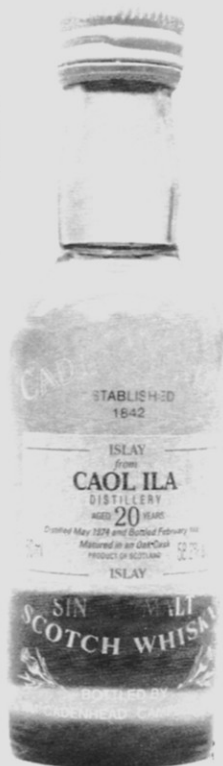
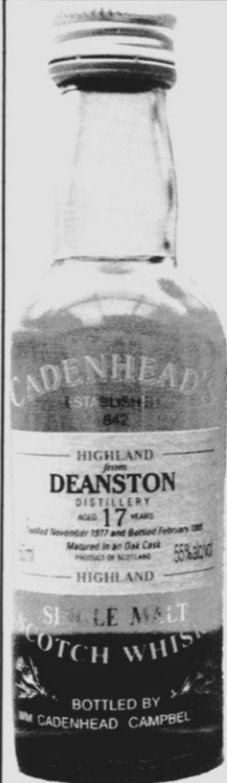


tasting samples only and the whisky/whiskies are out of this world. Malt drinkers and many collectors, who obviously aren't put off by the sameness of the labels, are clamoring for them.

These are very, very difficult to obtain and today's brands will be the rarest. We will try to show you the September 1995 and December 1995 issues as soon as possible and then feature future issues as they are released.

--T.N.--

CADENHEAD 1995



BAYERN

SCHMANFERL

by SCOTT REINHART



This is a souvenir set that I purchased in the Alpine region of Bavaria, Germany. In my travels around Bavaria and in the Black Forest regions, I encountered many of these souvenir sets. The small distilleries, some actually cottage or monastery industries, often sell these in grocery stores, gift shops, liquor stores and souvenir shops. The price of the exact same set may vary by as

when seeking out these types of sets.

The bottles are as follows:

1. Penningers Cusen Hexe Heidelbeer-Wildfruchtliker.
2. Penningers Himbeer-Fee Waldhumbeer Likor.
3. Penningers Bayern Trunk (picture is of the Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria).
4. Der Rottaler.
5. Griesbeck's Magenbitter.

MANHATTAN

by
BUTCH JONES



Recently I had the good fortune to add twenty-two hand-painted miniatures to my collection. These were from the 1930's to the 1950's and this new group more than doubled what I now have!

Featured this time are eight of those special minis.. The first ones are all by the Manhattan Company of Miami, Florida. The first mini has a man in a tuxedo holding a wishbone and a baby sitting on a

little toilet. The saying is "We're both potted." The second shows two faces in a forest with the saying, "Where is Yuh, Honey?" (Needless to say, this would not be sold today.) The third one shows a green couch, a liquor bottle, two glasses and a phone. The second word is missing so it says "Oh ----- It Rings". If anyone has a completed saying, please let me know. The last of this group shows

1930's - 1950's



a chicken being chased by a rooster. The bottle states "It's Business I'm After."

The Manhattan Company and the others who marketed these pieces actually took empty bottles used by other brands. They cleaned them, painted them, and then had them filled with a non-alcoholic cordial. The humorous sayings on these "naughty" bottles made them very popular among collectors.

The second picture shows a pinch bottle and three short, round bottles. The first shows a naked lady and states "Point of Attraction". It was made as a souvenir of New Orleans. The label may be seen which shows that it

contains an Apricot Cordial. Next is a somewhat familiar "Bottoms Up" with a woman bending over and a hand holding a mug of beer. The city or location has been rubbed out and I can't read it, but it was produced by Manhattan as was the next one. This shows a little boy urinating into a creek with two fish looking up. It says, "Don't Drink Water."

The last one is quite different in that it was produced by Wee Scot Scotch Whisky, exclusive distributors Southern Sales Co. of Jacksonville, Fla. This is another "Bottoms Up" (with the girl lying down) and another non-alcoholic Scotch.

Hope you enjoyed these. --B.J.--

FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some NEW Japanese Whisky miniatures. The first is SUNTORY YAMAZAKI 10 yo Pure Malt. It has the same type labels as YAMAZAKI 12 yo and 18 yo, but the color is different...golden letters on the green with a golden line frame. It is 11cm tall in a brown glass which contains 50ml at 40% alcohol.

SUNTORY KAKU-BIN (this means a square bottle) appeared with new labels. Since 1990, SUNTORY LTD. has used this new emblem and since then the bottles have been changed one by one to this new label. Finally KAKU-BIN has also had a new emblem label. It is 10cm, 50ml at 80 proof alcohol.

The Nikka Whisky Distilling Co.



launched two fancy miniatures in May 1996, NIKKA TSURU Decanter and TSURU SLIM. The large bottles of these have been available for years and we were eager for the arrival of these miniatures, especially for TSURU Decanter. We have only TSURU Pure Malt sample glass miniature. Do you remember the article of the MBC

(No. 71, 1985-No.5)? There is a counterfeit of TSURU Decanter² miniature which was made in Korea.

The TSURU Decanter is 11cm tall in a white milk glass with some carved cranes (tsuru) and contains 50ml at 43% alcohol. TSURU SLIM is in a clear glass, 10cm, 50ml at 43% alcohol.

HINE

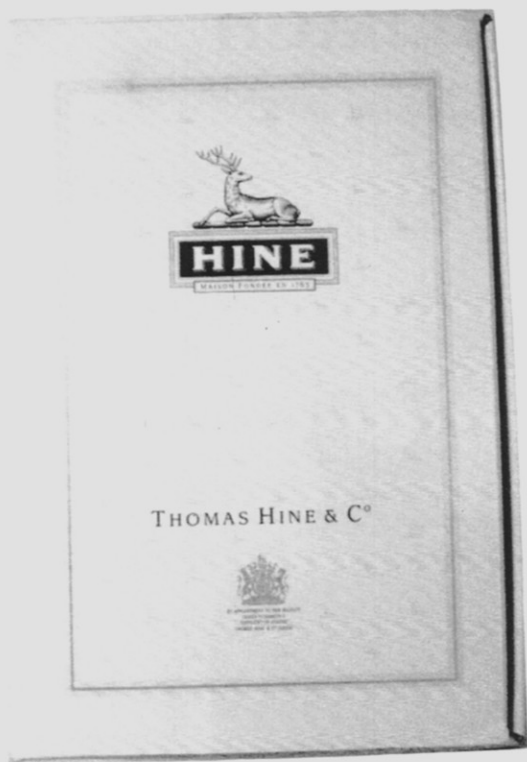
by TONY NATELLI



Everyone is surely familiar with one of the most well known names in all of Cognac. However, very few are familiar with this set of three which Hine produced as 3 tasting miniatures (A, B, C). These were used in 1993 in France for a competition called "Talent Hine des Sommeliers". The participants had to classify the three Hine Cognacs from the youngest to the oldest...and then, they had to identify each Hine Cognac quality.

Now don't grumble that this was found only in France and U.S. collectors didn't get a chance. In fact, they had the first opportunity. In 1989 there was one case of 24 sets (slightly different labels) which found its way to Los Angeles and was snapped up by collectors there.

Don't even think of contacting the Hine Company in France or here as these no longer exist at the distillery!
--T.N.--



USQUAEBACH



Back in issue #134, Tony Natelli showed you the most recent of all the Usquaebach bottles as well as the older glass pieces. Two that were written about were the original crock/jug in brown and white and the more recent one which was sold only in Hong Kong.

The gremlins struck that issue and the picture completely vanished. Well, what was gone is back. A miraculous reappearance means that you now get to see the two ceramic Usquaebachs. Hope the wait wasn't too traumatic!

WHAT'S NEW in BRITISH BREW

by JOHN WYSS



In the last year or so, several new micro mini beers have been produced. To the faithful beer collectors out there this is great news as our opportunity to add any additional bottles is quite challenging.

The four bottles pictures here include: Beamish Stout, Kilkenny Irish Beer (from Guinness), St. Andrews Ale, and the more familiar Tennent's Lager. Not

the Guinness and Harp labels. Several more varieties may also exist.

These bottles come in the familiar Guinness-type glassware and size. Note the two different shaped styles. The paper labels are sharp and colorful. Even the metal crown caps are painted and/or printed. The going price of these classy little brews is only around \$5 per bottle...what a deal!

Cheryl

LW

DUTCH LIFE

in miniature

(Ed. note: The following is really an unpaid ad. However, we knew that this topic would be fascinating to collectors and that a large number would be interested in the book...which is well worth the price.)

Passengers who travel in KLM's World Business Class need no introduction to the miniature Delft Blue genever houses with which they are presented on intercontinental flights - indeed, the "huisjes" have become prized collector's items. Now that the collection is complete - 75 in total, one for every year of KLM's existence - KLM and Bols Royal Distilleries have published a fascinating book titled *Dutch Life in miniature*, written by *Holland herald's* editor-in-chief Ken Wilkie, detailing every single house in the collection.

Dutch Life in miniature - which promises to become as much a collector's item as its subject matter - gives engrossing insights into the history of the houses, with pictures of the miniatures and their original models, together with explanatory texts. Designer and typographer Harry N. Sierman has created a handy, pocket-sized volume, printed on high-quality paper with a luxurious blue cloth cover and silver lettering.

KLM's idea to start making the miniatures germinated in the airline's catering department back in the 1950's. It proved to be a stroke of marketing genius. Like many good ideas, it was the result of cleverly overcoming a practical problem. There was a law forbidding airlines to give presents above the value of 75 US cents to passengers on board.

KLM got round this obstacle by giving First Class passengers a complimentary Dutch gin instead, albeit sealed in a Delft Blue miniature canal house. A last one on the house, as it were. There were no regulations stating that a drink must be served in a glass and it was on this point that KLM won the court case that had been brought against them. Instead of stopping production, more houses were added to the collection every few years.

Most of the 75 porcelain houses are based on actual 17th-century buildings and nearly all are still standing and in use. *Dutch Life in miniature* is not only an inventory of period styles in Dutch domestic architecture, however. Research into the archives of 18 cities revealed facts about the buildings and their occupants that give brief insights into Dutch social history.

The collection includes Rembrandt's home and studio in Amsterdam, a museum with a floating cellar in Edam, Mata Hari's house in The Hague. We also find historic buildings occupied by the Dutch East India Company, the Frank family, a mayor of Moscow, even the abode of the alleged illegitimate son of William of Orange. Nor surprisingly, house number 75, the last in the collection is KLM's early headquarters in The Hague, designed by the architect H. P. Berlage in 1914.

Significantly, the histories of the houses have international dimensions, in keeping with The Netherlands' social and cultural

traditions. In the 17th century, Dutch explorers charted new paths to gray areas of the globe. The Chinese porcelain brought back to The Netherlands by the Dutch East India Company inspired the potters of Delft to develop Delft Blue, while the Golden Age architecture grew on the crest of the wave of international trade that flowed to and from The

Netherlands. At the same time, seafaring merchants were returning from afar with fragrant spices and flavourings that formed the fundamentals for the exotic liqueurs of the Bols distillery, founded in 1575 by Lucas Bolsius.

Dutch Life in miniature is a living distillation of an essentially Dutch tradition which has always been based on travel and trade.

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melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature five California whiskeys from the 1930's. These bottles, while being somewhat rare, can occasionally be found.

The first two are sort of a down side for me in that they are fairly large two ounce glass bottles. I do not like bigger bottles, plus they take up a lot of room on my shelves. (Anyone want to trade?)

Anyway, we lead off with Dominion Six Blended Whiskey Blended and Bottled at 90 proof for Sontag Drug Stores Los Angeles. Bottle number two is Montecito Straight Whiskey Bottled at 90 proof for Ed E. Hayes Inc. L.A.

The next two are Highgate bottles from Whitehall Distilleries Inc. San Francisco. The De Luxe Bourbon Whiskey is 90 proof, one year old and has a black label. The Straight Bourbon Whiskey is 85 proof, Three Months Old and has a white label.

The last bottle is Copley Club Blended Whiskey Bottled by Quality Distilleries Inc. L.A. It is 90 proof, Twelve Months Old and has a tan label with red and black.

Finally, have you ever heard of Tommy's Cabin Whiskey? No...well, we'll be taking a look at it in a future issue.

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



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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTORS OF AUSTRALIA: c/o Mr. Bob Meissner, P.O. Box 59, Ashburton, Victoria 3147 Australia.

HONG KONG MINIATURE LIQUOR CLUB LTD: 12th Floor, Bowa House, 180 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. tel. (852) 721-3200 or fax (852) 314-8022. Chairman: Mr. Wai Man Chan, Man's.

GREAT LAKES MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB: c/o Paul Murray, 19745 Woodmont, Harper Woods, MI 48225.



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WANTED: Old Mini beer/soda bottles before 1970 but they must be the following labels and not have salt & pepper tops: Guinness, Budweiser, Pabst, Carlsberg, Corona, San Miguel, Heineken, 7 Up, Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, Sprite & Fanta. I am also looking for old cognac minis but photos are required for selection. Please write to Man's Chan, 12th Floor, Bowa House, 180 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. fax (852) 2314 8022 or e-mail: hkde@hkstar.com

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FOR SALE: 3000+ minis, all kinds, mostly older ones and some pre-pros. No listing. Send me your want lists and SASE. John Briskie, 7202 Harbor View Drive, Leesburg, FL 34708 or call (904) 787-6670.

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NOTICE: Collector wishes to sell entire miniature bottle collection, comprising approximately 400 bottles, mostly unusual and rare European and foreign bottles. Please contact: Ken Saunders, 315 Tenth Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309 or call (404) 892-6348.

TRADE OR BUY: Do you have any mini liquor bottles produced or bottled in Bali, Bolivia, Ceylon, Corsica, Crete, El Salvador, Fiji, Guam, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Morocco, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, Singapore, Sumatra, Surinam, Syria, Uganda, or Zambia? If so, contact me to talk sale or trade. I have over 100 countries available for trade. Jim Crawford, 6934 Brittany Ridge Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45233 U.S.A. or phone (513) 467-9113 or better yet, e-mail me at crawford.jp@pg.com

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