

THE

VOL. XXIII No. 6

No. 138 1996

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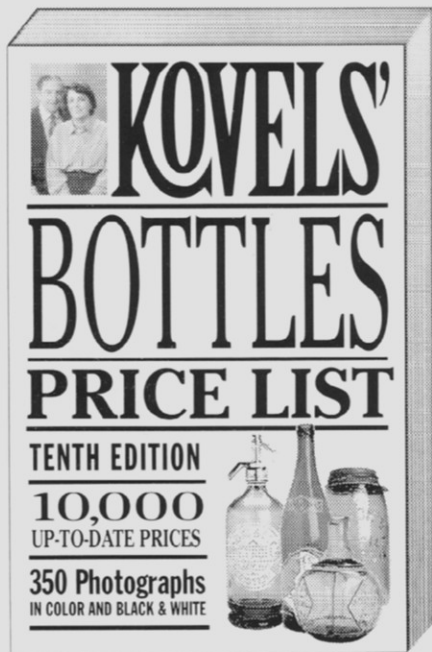
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Let's Talk

A short follow up on the news last time about the "end" of the Del-Val Mini Bottle Club. As Mark Twain once said, "The reports of my death are premature." Well, he at least said something like that and the Del-Val Club may go on. Details to follow.

Many collectors are wondering why prices seem to be going higher and higher on our minis. Well, if the spirit isn't produced here in the U.S., the culprit is probably taxes. One shot (usually less than 50ml) in a bar now costs upwards of \$14 each in Argentina, Monaco and Kazakhstan.

Here are the other average prices as compiled by Business Traveler International Magazine: Japan \$13.90; Switzerland \$12.42; Singapore \$11.10; Hong Kong \$9.82; France \$9.42; Russia \$9.17; Brazil \$8.40; Germany \$8.24; United States \$5.39; Britain \$4.91; Australia \$4.33 and South Africa \$3.03. Guess we shouldn't complain about \$3 minis!

Only a couple of you caught the error in What's New last time. No it wasn't a typo, BUT it was included purposefully. Check back.

Franco Zarpelon has done another magnificent job with his article about collecting in London. You'll find all his articles are both interesting and informative.

Along with London, we travel bottle-wise to Andorra, Australia, Ireland, and France. We're sure you'll enjoy the journey!

See you in 1997.

—DMS—

THE

VOL. XXIII No.6
No. 138 1996

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The pair of bottles on the cover this time are from the McGibbons Company of Glasgow, Scotland. This duo was made for Asian Duty Free shops this year and are actual miniature versions of two larger bottles. Golf enthusiasts will be particularly happy as one bottle pictures the Ailsa Course at Turnberry while the other features a map of The Old Course at St. Andrews.

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WHAT'S NEW



Lots of glass and some plastic bottles for you this time.. With the exception of a couple of new ones from Mexico, everything here should be available in the majority of mini-selling states.

Let's begin with those new ones from Mexico as many of you collectors who live in border states may often easily go across and bring these back. Dispensing with the plastic one first, we have the colorful label of Cascahuin Tequila. This is a flat bottle unlike the majority of plastic or glass bottles seen these days.

The other tequila is El Chorrillo, which is "specially old". Since tequila has become a drink of choice for some of "those in the know" or the "movers and shakers" as they'd probably like to be known, there are more tequila brands appearing than you can shake that proverbial stick at. After this digression, we return to the Añejo Habanero. Nothing fancy here.

The "coolest" bottle for you this time in every sense of the word is the Avalanche Peppermint Schnapps. If you thought that the

WHAT'S NEW



Jim Beam import cinnamon flavor liqueur from last year was a good bottle, you'll love this one. It's the same exact bottle only in blue and not red.

Clear Creek Distillery from the northwest has issued a new bottle shown here, Grappa. It's their answer to what the Italians have had such success with in the past few years. The other two after dinner drinks shown are the Luxardo Amaretto (one of a set of new Luxardos) and the E & J White Brandy (in plastic) from the Gallo Corporation.



Finally we have our two new rums which are actually old friends in new clothes. The Myers's Plantation White is their first venture into the light rum while the Appleton Estate 12 is another variety of one we should just a couple of issues back.

Next time we'll show you Sublime which is now being sold on the East Coast. It's the nicest glass piece we've shown in this column in some time.

ANDORRA



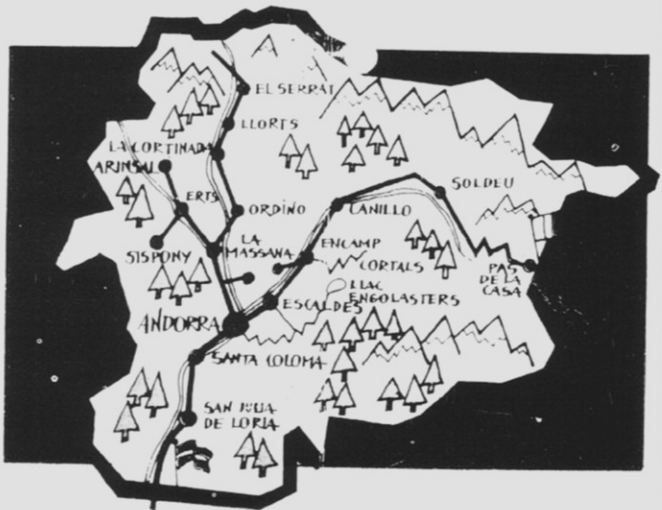
I first heard of Andorra in a Pete Seeger song some thirty plus years ago. I found out that it was a tiny country in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. I also heard that it was a place of NO taxes. And then the father of a good friend confided to me that it was the only place on earth where you could still buy Absinthe. Being a collector, that was music to my ears.

So I finally made it to Andorra. Great little country, no taxes, and indeed there was Absinthe or Absenta as the Spanish say. Don't know if it's the only place you can still buy it as rumor has it that

China also allows it to be sold, but I now have another Absinthe mini.

You'll note it mixed in with the others. This was a set sold as an Andorran souvenir group. To my knowledge nothing is actually produced in Andorra; these all came from the Montana Company of Barcelona. Undoubtedly you've seen one or two of them before; however, you probably haven't seen the 55% alcohol Absenta.

Fairly soon we'll do a large feature article on Absinthe bottles. Anything that eats away your brain as well as your liver deserves some coverage! --DMS--



IRISH WHISKIES

by TONY NATELLI
and
BILL ORR



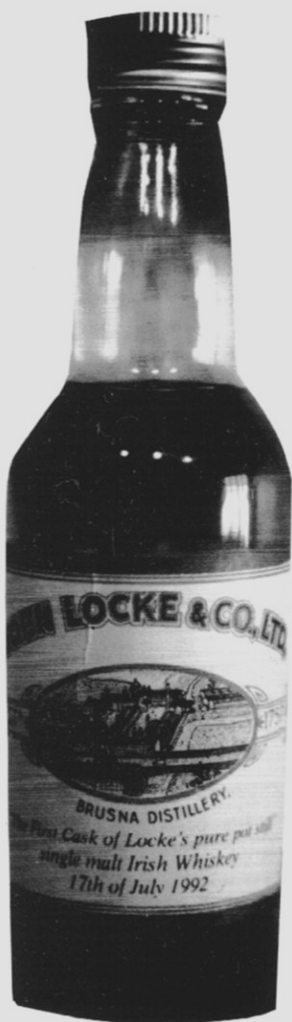
The Cooley Distillery of Rivers-town, Dundalk County, Ireland, produces the small amount of Irish Whiskey today that is not being produced by the giant firm, Irish Distillers. But their brands are very popular and are being exported to many countries including England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, U.S.A., and at least ten others with more being added each year.

They have four miniatures: The Tyrconnell, Kilbeggan, Sainsbury's and Locke's. These are sold in various markets and all are pictured today. They're plastic

miniatures and three more: Connemara, Inishowen, and Millar's should soon be available. The Sainsbury's is a private bottling for the supermarket chain in England while the Kilbeggan is sold in the U. S. A.

Also pictured are three John Locke's, a sample bottled July 17th, 1992 for some V.I.P.'s, which is extremely rare, and two old "corkers" when the brand was independently owned. Finally a Millar's when that brand was also independently owned.

A very nice assortment...with more to come!



FROM AUSTRALIA

by Bob Meissner

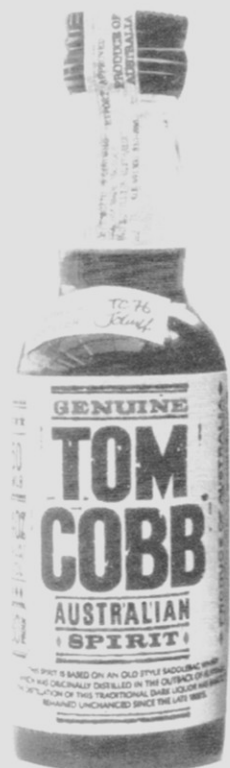


It's been a long summer, fall and winter (remember, our seasons are reversed) as few bottles have been issued. But I've five here to interest you which became available in the last few months.

Everyone knows the Rebel Yell but it's quite different from what you'd find in the U.S.A. Did you

notice the old confederate flag and the Australian importer's address on the label?

I've shown you Moonshine products previously and here are the two newest: Tropicana and Strawberry Port. That Tropicana with its mango and passion fruit sounds rather refreshing for our



upcoming summer.

The last two are the Deer Horn Liqueur and the Tom Cobb. Don't know if the Deer Horn label will turn out too well as it's rather on the dark side, but you should have no trouble with the Tom Cobb. I call this one the Whisky wannabe. It comes with a marvelous little legend: "This spirit is based on an

old style saddlebag whisky which was originally distilled in the outback of Australia. The distillation of this traditional dark liquor has remained unchanged since the late 1800's."

Don't know when I'll have more to show you as everything is very quiet...down under. --R.M.--



TREASURES OF THE PAST

By Vic Visalli



When you begin to read this article, you may think that what is pictured here is a traditional Canadian Club Straight Whisky. But, perhaps a closer look should be taken.

What is really pictured here is a Canadian Club Straight Whisky bottled at the Chicago World's Fair in 1934! Also pictured is the box, the face of which is similar to the traditional bottle label. However,

the back of the box features a lively, multicolored (twelve colors in all) label, indicating a souvenir bottled at a Century of Progress, Chicago, 1934. It is this proposition that makes this Canadian Club so interesting, for it was bottled at the World's Fair, not for the World's Fair.

According to a source who specializes in World's Fair memorabilia, an event so prestigious as

JUST ANOTHER CANADIAN CLUB?



the World's Fair did not want to be associated with whisky, especially since prohibition had ended less than one year before. Sponsors were not pleased with the slogans "World's Fair" and "Century of Progress" that appeared all over the bottle: at the bottom of the label, the box and even embossed on the front of the bottle, above the label, obscured a bit only by the Illinois 1934 tax stamp!

Promoters of this souvenir were asked to limit its availability, if not suspend it altogether, making this bottle just not another Canadian Club miniature.

Another point of interest is that Hiram Walker has reproduced this gate bottle (so popular during prohibition) as a new, limited special edition for its Canadian Club brand whisky. So far there is no miniature, but we can hope.

DROZ & MAB

by BUTCH JONES



When you look at these pictures, your first reaction might be that there are duplicates in these pictures. That is definitely not the case. What you see are figurals produced by A. Droz and MAB of France.

One interesting difference between the two brands is that the Droz minis are the more colorful of the two. In picture number one, the first squirrel is the Droz, filled with 46° Blackberry Liqueur while the second one is the MAB.

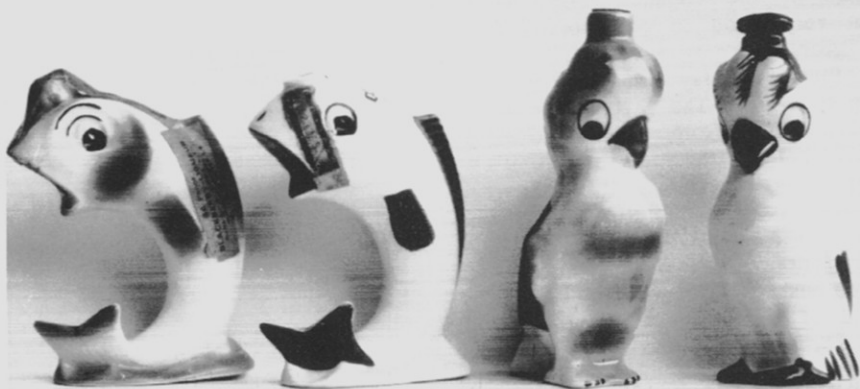
In picture number two the first

fish is the Droz, also filled with the Blackberry Liqueur. The MAB is also filled with Blackberry Liqueur but it's only 35°. The Droz parrot is first again with the Blackberry while the MAB parrot contains Cacao.

One other interesting difference between the two brands is that the Droz Co. used paper labels MAB used foil labels.

Hope you've enjoyed these great figurals from the past. 'Til next time.

--B.J.--



COURVOISIER

by TONY NATELLI



please turn the page

Courvoisier, one of the great brands of the cognac world, has been very good to collectors over the years.

Pictured today are some gems from their past. The first one, a 7cl miniature is from 1934 and is shown both with and without its label. This is rare in itself as it doesn't list the quality of the cognac it contains. The back, which might not be visible in the photo, is embossed "Courvoisier - The Brand of Napoleon".

The second photo is of a six bottle presentation pack dating back to 1964. The real prize in this group is the last bottle, Gala Club.

--T.N.--



WHISKY and MINIATURES in LONDON: THE NEVER ENDING STORY...

by FRANCO ZARPELON

People who think that there is just one London have probably never been to London. Covent Garden, Soho, St. James's, Brompton Road, Marylebone...many areas with individual characteristics and, as in a puzzle, they "create" the large metropolis.

Every time I am in London the city shows me a new portion of its polyhedricity and some new discovery also appears. The same versatility appears to me also as a *whisky and miniature prospector*. The stores in the central streets, as St. James's St., are quite different from the others in the fairly jubilant Covent Garden area; the distinguished and detached refinement of Brompton Road clashes with the (handy) cordial hospitality of Soho, the folk-quarter of the city.

Our London tour, combining both culture and whisky miniatures, starts from Brompton Road in Knightsbridge. Here you'll find the largest department store in the world, Harrods, a destination for all tourists and magnificently aglow with millions of lights. This mega-market, where you can find everything, features a large choice of malt whiskies and other bottles in a space adjoining one of the food halls. You'll find both glass and ceramics of whisky and mead which have been personalized for Harrods.

Moving east, we come to the heart of the English capital, inside the aristocratic and royal St. James quarter. Here will be found two ancient whisky stores which are "purveyors to Her Majesty": Berry Bros. & Rudd and Justerini & Brooks.

Berry Bros. & Rudd, in a refined wood covering, features its Cutty Sark Whisky which was created for the American market in 1923. The firm is essentially family based since the 1690's and its actual manager is Anthony Berry. Inside it's possible to find the classical gift pack (boxed) *Cutty Sark Connoisseurs' Collection*. This contains Cutty Sark, Cutty Sark 12 years old, Cutty Sark 18 years old, and The Glen Rothes 12 years old.

On the opposite side of St. James Street, a smaller but very elegant Justerini & Brooks is found. Inside many examples of whisky and gin will be found including the classical J & B and the single malt Knockando.

The last part of the visit is in the West End, where you can find the London of theatres and cinema, of music hall and peep show, of pleasure and sin. In this quarter, extending along a tangle of little roads and alleys between Soho and Covent Garden, there is the "Mecca" for whisky, wine and miniatures. There are found The Covent Garden Whisky Shop, Milroy's of Soho and The Vintage House. If you have just an afternoon to dedicate to miniatures, it's better to visit them in the order I am going to described them because of their different closing hours. The Vintage House closes rather late at night.

I have been to Covent Garden many times and always found new kinds of exhibitions. In fact, every day there is the "Jubilee Market", but it's best during the weekend. There is a craft fair with over 200 craftsmen selling and demonstrating and you can hear the



performances of many musicians and soloists. Near to the market, at no. 3 Russell Street, there is The Covent Garden Whisky Shop. It was established in May 1995 and it's the Cadenhead London retail store.

The proprietor is Mr. Sean D. Ivers and the style of the store is similar to the other Cadenhead's in Edinburgh. The store markets many Cadenhead and Springbank scotches in both miniature and full size. There is also a particular whisky miniature bottle produced for The Covent Garden Whisky Shop: a 10 years old blended scotch called Covent Garden Unique Blend.

Now we can go to Soho. At the beginning of Greek Street, you will find Milroy's of Soho, The Whisky Specialist. When you enter the store you'll find a barrel to the right which is used for the tasting of whiskies. Tasting a Milroy's

bottling of Allt A Bhainne (gaelic for Born of Milk) single malt whisky, it begins a pleasant conversation with John Milroy, the store's proprietor. He tells me that the store was established by himself in 1964 and since then it has been one of the most well-stocked whisky stores in London. For the Milroys, the passion for whisky is a family tradition. He shows me the new edition (the 6th) of *MALT WHISKY ALMANAC*, written by his brother Wallace.

Milroy's has over 400 different kinds of whiskies. It's not only scotch whisky, but also from Ireland (twenty-two labels minimum), Wales, U.S.A., Canada and Japan. Milroy's store is a member of The Keepers of the Quack, an exclusive society established by the Scottish whisky industry to project the value and prestige of scotch whisky internationally.



left: John Milroy
right: Franco



Some whiskies sold in the store are produced directly by Milroy. Not on the store's list is a 41 years old Macallan (distilled '49, bottled '90). It was produced, principally, to be sold on the Japanese market, packaged in French crystal (Baccarat) decanter. Part of this production was bottled in a limited miniature edition of 135 pieces, numbered and signed (by Milroy) on the back of the label. The next Milroy bottling (both full size and miniature) will be an 18 years old Port Ellen.

The final destination of our tour is The Vintage House. It's a retail store of liqueurs, wine and whiskies with a huge selection of miniatures. As the ad states: 250 Malt Whiskies, over 500 miniatures, Cuban Cigar Special-

ists, One of London's Largest Selections of Champagne, Fine Wines and Spirits.

The store, as the proprietor Malcolm Mullin (son of Miss Donati) tells us, was established in 1942 by the Donati family of Italy and since then it has always belonged to them. Inside the store you can see hundreds of miniatures, but there's something more interesting in the store.

When I tell Mr. Mullin of my hobby, he invites me in the back of the store. Between the two rooms, over the doors, there's the first part of his private collection, a series of ceramic miniatures. In the second room miniatures from all over the world fill every bit of space. While I pay him many compliments for His collection, he



tells me that the large (and the most rare) part of his collection is located at home and includes almost 7,000 different miniatures.

The London tour is finished here, but... The last night of my most recent trip someone told me that there are other stores in London selling miniatures. These are the stores of the "Best of Ltd." chain in Charing Cross Road east of Marylebone Road. I do not have enough time to visit them, but the next visit, I will find the time.

--F.Z.--

Berry Bros. & Rudd, Ltd., 3 St. James Street, tel 8399033

Justerini & Brooks, 61 St. James Street, tel 4938721

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The Covent Garden Whisky Shop, 3 Russell Street, Covent Garden tel 3794640

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MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article I would like to feature Barclay's Niagara, plus we'll take a look at a couple of Barclay's Straight Bourbons. Barclay's produced a fair amount of miniatures during the 1930's, including some nice foil label bottles. Jas. Barclay and Co. was headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, and in most cases used whiskey distilled by Hiram Walker of Peoria. These bottles are not extremely rare, but they are hard to find in excellent condition.

Anyway, bottle number one is Bourbon Whiskey at 90 proof, 3 months old and has a 1936 Illinois tax stamp. The label has a "B" in the crest and I have the same bottle with a pull-off cap and a 1937 tax stamp. Bottle number two is Straight Bourbon Whiskey at 90 proof and three months old. The

next bottle is Bourbon Whiskey at 86 proof, 1 year old and features the waterfalls on the label. The last Niagara is 90 proof, 1 year old and has a 1937 Illinois tax stamp.

Bottle number five is Barclay's Straight Bourbon Whiskey at 86 proof, two years old and has a 1930's Alabama tax stamp. The last of these is Straight Bourbon Whiskey at eighty and six-tenths proof, two years old and has a different style 1930's Alabama tax stamp. This bottle claims Peoria, Illinois, as its home, as do the Barclay miniatures produced after the war.

Finally, I saw a photocopy of the Max Baer Whiskey and it appears to be a larger sized bottle, possibly a quart. So, hopefully, my boxer bottle set remains complete.

Until next time.....

MELO.....



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FOR SALE: Miniature wine collection, only \$1 per bottle. There are 743 bottles with no duplicates. Price is firm. Call F. E. Harris (714) 893-2318.

WANTED: Dutch collector is looking for Ski Country mini decanters and for KLM Canal Houses. I have over 2,000 scotch, malt and blends, for trade. Jan Albert Elzinga, Postbus 693, 3200 AP Spijkenisse, Holland.

WANTED: Rynbende Cow, ballerina, cats, bulldog, glass fruits, Manhattan Pinocchio, Dancing Woman, golf bag, James Bond straights, Blown glass, houses, Chuck Norris, O.K. Corral, Elvis, Luxardo Clowns, monarch Loch Ness Monster on Water, Goebel girl and boy, Garnier Safari Animals, Ramirez Women, books with castles, etc. Misc. figurals also for sale. Robert Waldman, 1102-1835 Morton Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6G 1V3 Canada tel (604) 687-4647.

FOR SALE: Scotch Bulldog as shown on cover of issue #136 (\$30), Rutherford 1996 Christmas jugs (Robin and Teddy Bear with toy bag) \$12 each, McGibbons Golf Course (Old St. Andrews & Turnberry) decanters - made for Taiwan duty free \$35 the pair), Glenfiddich set of four in decorative tins (made for Christmas 1995 and sold at the distillery) \$30 for the four, Bowmore round can of four different aged malt scotches \$35 and Glenfiddich Wedgwood Jasperware Stag Vase with 21 year old scotch. Originally \$110-125, now only \$50. Silver State Specialties, 2916 Briarwood Drive, Torrance, CA 90505.

NOTICE: I have a collection of miniature beer and whiskey bottles that I would like to sell. Lionel Spencer Jackowitz, 955 N. Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06117-2033.

FOR SALE: MBC back issues #31 (Jan-Feb 1979) through #137. A total of 106 copies. Will sell for \$2.00 each plus postage or you can pick them up at 1124 Lucille Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. Ask for Kermit McFadden.

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Price \$7500.00 cash for all includes: 7-8 thousand miniatures, comprised of wines, liqueurs, blends, bourbons, rum, vodka, gin, scotch, etc. Mostly American and some foreign. Less than 200 figurals, the rest are straights. Also 100 or so 1/4 pints, 1/2 pints and a few 5ths. Less than 200 5th size figurals (eg. Jim Beam) and antique bottles. Boxes of key chains, openers, swizzle sticks, shot glasses. Lots of paper signs and posters and reference books. Miniatures date from the 1920's through the 1980's. Display cases available if you want them. Leave message if not in. Call EST 7:30 am to 11 pm to Sheila Sears, 208 Gloucester Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 tel (410) 766-8421.

WANTED: I am looking for Cadenhead's miniatures which were done for the U.S.A. as tasting samples, as shown in issue #136. I am looking for certain ones bottled in 1995 and all of those bottled in 1996. I will pay excellent prices. More than one is wanted if possible. Sukhinder Singh, c/o The Nest, 106-108 Uxbridge Road, Hanwell, London W7 3SU England.

WANTED: Schafer and Vater porcelain figural schnapps bottles with or without trays and shots. Also interested in any information you would like to share with me about Schafer and Vater. Peter Spirito, 362 Eagle Drive, Jupiter, FL 33477.

WANTED: Manhattan, Meiers & Chateau Rosard mini ceramics. Will buy any amount, color, or shape. Please write or call if you have any! Connie & Glenn Hackman, 11757 Whisper Bay Court, Carmel, IN 46033 or call (317) 846-3629.

WANTED: Scotch & Irish Whisky jugs in either large or miniature size. Haven't found much of late, so "make my day". Of course, I'm also still looking for those giveaways too. Lloyd McLeod (360) 892-6337.

NOTICE: Yes, I'm still buying and selling pre-prohibition and variation mini beers. Call me at (313) 337-9965 or write to John Wyss, 1941 Grantwood Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240.

FOR SALE: German nippers and other figural minis. Please send S.A.S.E. for list. Lillian Hazdovac, P. O. Box 11, Carmel, CA 93921.

TRADES WANTED: I have lists of duplicates broken down by type. List of all types. Would like to trade. Write for list if interested. Bob Clarke, P. O. Box 141331, Austin, TX 78714-1331.

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

FOR SALE: Miniature bottle collection, 1025 bottles, most of them inventoried. Have been kept in a glass enclosed case. Will sell only as a collection. Asking \$3,000.00, may be negotiable. Serious inquiries only, please. Call or write Bernice Janzing, 2801 S. Cedar St., Sioux City, IA 51106 or call evening and weekends (712) 274-1516.

FOR SALE: Antique miniature liquor bottles. These bottles are out of a private collection. They are hand blown (pre 1903) and embossed. Some have labels. Bottles will be sold individually, or together. Please send SASE for list to: Marc Lutsko, 147 Reserve Road, Libby, MT 59923 or call (406) 293-8442.

FOR SALE: New 1996 Zippo lighters. There are 4 Jim Beam (\$22.95 to \$26.95). There are 4 Miller Beer, 4 Red Dog Beer, 4 Budweiser beer, and 5 Corona Beer (all \$20.95 to \$26.95). There is a trick brass Champagne lighter that pops its cork when the lighter is opened (\$28.95). For more details, e-mail "BOBV3@gnn.com" or write Bob Verburg, 4076 Summit View, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

WANTED: Still looking for good Irish Whisky, gin, rums, etc. (no liqueurs, please) Will trade anything I own or pay top dollar. I also have some great Irish labels for trade. Bill Orr, 1680 Glenwood Drive, Twinsburg, OH 44087 or call (216) 425-2365.

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).

TRADE: I like interesting and different bottles. I'll trade Canadian bottles for...what have you? Lee Smith, 71 Willows Lane, Ajax, Ontario L1S 6E7 Canada or e-mail at steady@enterprise.ca

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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