

THE

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No. 139 1997

MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

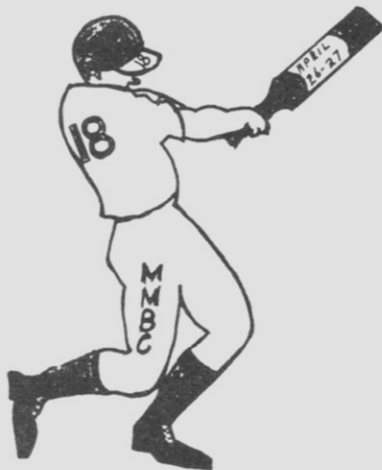
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Let's Talk

Welcome to year number 24! I can't say it seems like only yesterday that we started all this, but it surely doesn't seem this long. Through all these years we've seen some great bottles come and go; however, quite frankly this issue contains some truly excellent bottles. See if you don't agree.

As Tony Natelli points out, some of his rums might not be politically correct but they certainly are fabulous labels. Wish we'd see more art work like these today.

Some people bemoan the lack of figurals; however, the Marina Series shows what can be done when we desire some truly fancy bottles. This set is a real winner. Hopefully some day Lombard will issue miniature replicas of some of the large bottles which contain birds. These sea creatures are great, but wait until you've seen some of those birds of prey.

For those collectors who turn to the Boozeville section first, we have some real beauties coming up in the next few issues. A couple of real surprises which are even better than the marvelously strange one pictured this time.

A short word or two about those vodkas from John Sullivan. Where does he find these things?

Finally, we have to toot our own horn. After what seems like an eon or two, the new Scotch book from David Maund is at long last available. We're certain you'll agree it was worth the wait as the pictures are crystal clear and the bottles are ones you can go after both here and abroad.

See you in the Spring.

—DMS—

THE

VOL. XXIV No.1
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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The cover this time shows what could easily be considered two of the best offerings from 1996. The Hennessy Cognac comes in it's metal stand and is an exact replica of the larger size. The Macallan is also an exact replica of a specially bottled 35 year old whisky. The art work is by Ralph Steadman who should be familiar to wine lovers everywhere.

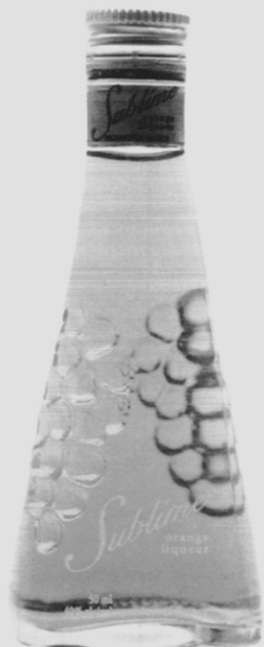
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KIT KAT RANCH



SEAGRAVE

WHAT'S NEW



I thought it would be good to start the new year with another of our trips around the world. We've got bottles for you from a good many different places.

To begin, let's look at **SUBLIME**. This is an import from France of a very tasty looking orange liqueur. Currently it's on the shelves on the east coast. You may be able to tell that the glass appears to have little oranges(?) embossed on each side. This is a very, very nice bottle.

Jump from there up to Canada...Ontario to be precise.

There you'll find three new ones, **WILLIAM'S EAU DE VIE** (pear) by Rieder, **HARRY'S HURRICANE**, and **SANDPIPER RUM**. Harry's Hurricane may be familiar to some of you as this is a new rendition of one from several years ago. This time it's also in plastic.

Back in our jet, we go due south to the sunny isle of Curacao (sounds like a travel brochure). For years and years the **SENIOR COMPANY** has been producing their exquisite curacao liqueur. In the last few years however they've



done the standard bottle and contents with various food colorings. You'll find a boxed colorful set of five and also this boxed set of three which has three different liqueurs. My favorite is the first one because I've never seen a rumraisin before. Have you?

Since we were going south, we'll continue on down to Peru for a new **INCA PISCO**. For well over thirty years, these matte black containers have delighted collectors everywhere. With all the gold and silver variations of all the different pieces, it's

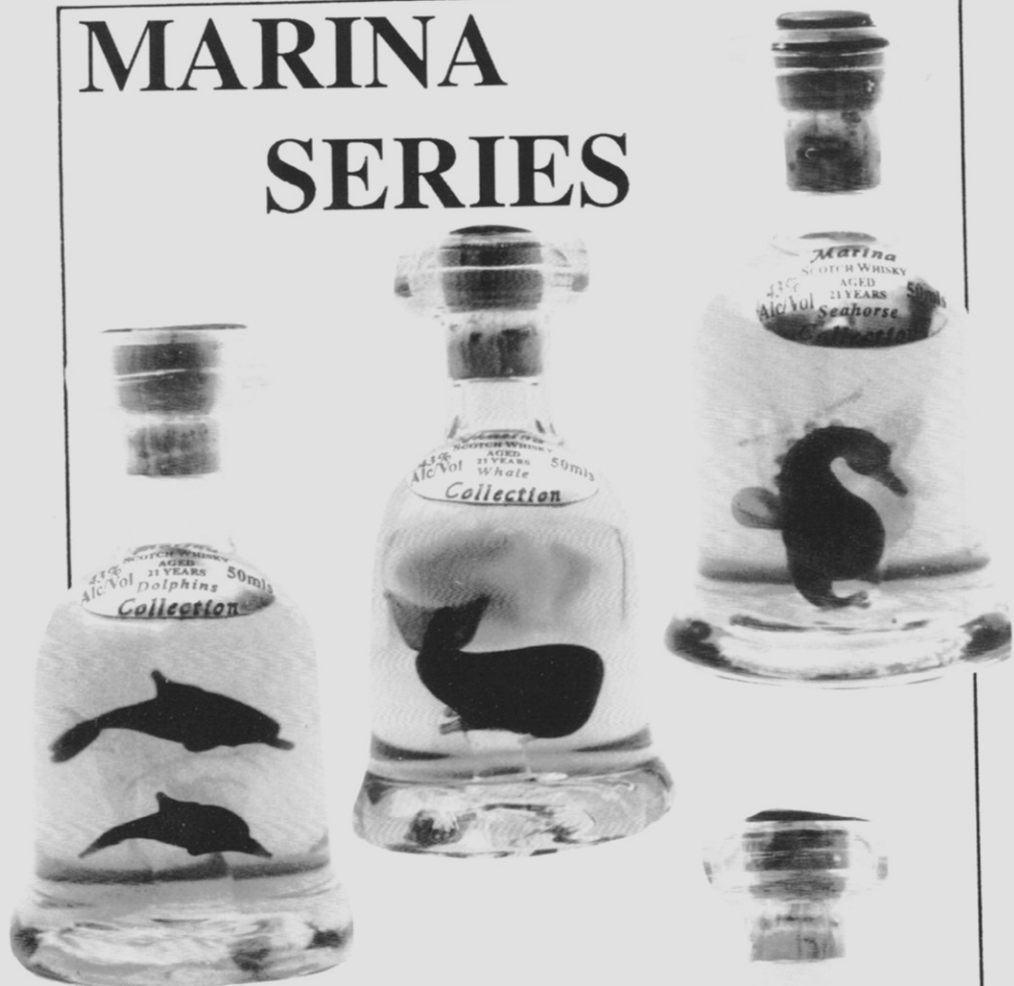
WHAT'S NEW



extremely difficult to find exactly how many different ones there are. However, this is a noteworthy addition.

Finally we come back above the equator and east to England where we find the three new variations from the wonderful **HARRODS** Department Store of London. The scotch was just issued this past September while the other two are almost as equally new. I've heard tell there is now a malt scotch one available also, but haven't seen it yet.

MARINA SERIES



Some time back we ran two articles with color pictures of the bottles from the Lombard Company of the Isle of Man. At that time the Marina Series was available, but only in foreign markets. Now the series, along with the Jewels of the Kingdom set of ten, has been imported into California.

The bottles are exquisite. Each blown glass bell-shaped decanter contains not only 21 year old scotch whisky, but also a blown glass character. The set is comprised of the seahorse, the dolphins, the angelfish and the whale. Suffice it to say that they are expensive!



RUM

SPECIALTIES IV

by TONY NATELLI



Back in issues #125, 126, and 127, we ran three articles featuring rums with gorgeous, colorful labels dating from the 1930's to the 1960's. Many pictured native women and men in caricatures or exaggerated depictions that would, in many cases, be considered taboo today.

Nonetheless, they are high collectable and, on the whole, the most attractive of all miniatures, in my opinion. All fourteen of those shown this time are on the rare side, some extremely so, and are highly sought.

RUM ABADIA, **RHUM MOYETTA** and **RHUM DECLA** are prime examples of this topic. The Abadia is from Portugal, the Decla from France, and all three are knockouts! **OLD VATTED RUM** (Rob't Allen - British West Indies), **THEO**, **RHUM DOUMBA** and **MONTBERG** (France) are also very rare and with the exception of Old Vatted Rum (which shows up on occasion) are not often seen.

RHUM PEPITA, **RHUM VANA** and **RHUM SUPERIEUR** (R. Berthelot) are not common, either.



RUM

Contd.



The first three are from France and were probably sold in the West Indies and other islands.

RON VENERABLE (Puerto Rico) and **ROBINSON CRUSOE** finish us up. The first Ron Venerable was sold in the U.S.A. during the 1930's.

There are many more like these out there as I have a "want list" of at least 50. However, since some were only sold locally in the Caribbean, South America, etc., they are generally on the scarce side.

--T.N.--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Every once in a while the citizens of Boozeville throw themselves quite a little party. This year it was a Costume Ball. The belle of that ball was the damsel who came dressed in the colorful low cut evening gown and the very lifelike rabbit head mask. The problem was that when the ball was over, our belle disappeared before she could be unmasked!

If you think you know her story, please let me in on the news. I only know she's from Germany and at seven and a half inches tall, quite beguiling!

SCOTCH

David Maund



Just a short article this time. Thought I'd give you some of the newer glass specialties and a set of five character flagons from Glen Fiona.

The two Signatory are the thirty year old Laphroaig which is one of a bottling of 190 pieces and the twenty-eight year old Ardbeg which is one 370 pieces. The other two are the latest from the Milroy's Shop in Soho. You'll remember that from the article last time

about bottle shopping in London. These two went on sale October 3rd. If you're lucky, some are still available.

The Glen Fiona set depicts five well known Scotsmen: four warriors and a poet. I still find it interesting that all the warriors lived longer than the poet. If you collect the flagons, this is a very nice set.

I promise to have more next time.
--D.L.M.--



Robert Burns
(1759-1796)



Rob Roy McGregor
(1671-1734)



Bonnie Prince Charlie
(1720-1788)



Robert The Bruce
(1274-1329)



Sir William Wallace
(1267-1305)

JAMESON IRISH

by **BILL ORR**
and **TONY NATELLI**



John Jameson is one of the five Irish whiskies currently being marketed world wide by Irish Distillers.

The first miniature is their standard version and will be seen in both round bottles and flasks. The flat/flask also comes in plastic.

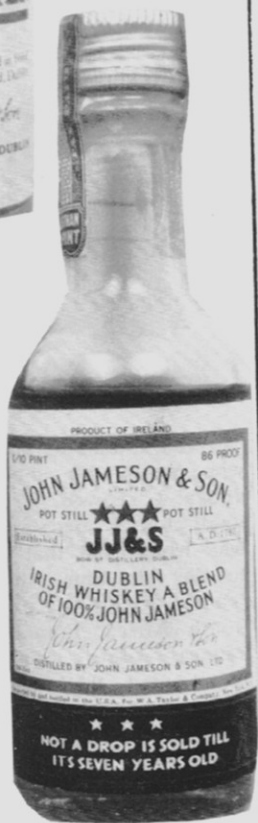
The 1780 12 year old is also current and is believed to have replaced the second one very recently, although both will be rather easy to come by.

Red Breast 10 Year Old might

still be sold in some markets while Crested Ten probably dates back to the 1970's.

Two versions of J. J & S 3 Star 7 Year Old complete our grouping. The round mini was imported here some years back by W. A. Taylor and like all of the others is familiar to collectors. The flask, however, which is numbered, will prove much more elusive and is a non-import.

All of these were bottled by John Jameson & Son.



VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



First I want to thank those of you who wrote me about the Chinese vodka I showed. I liked the piece itself but I also enjoyed where it was from. And that is what I won't do this time, show you vodkas from different places. Canada, South Africa, France, Scotland, and several other countries are all represented this time.

The bottles pretty much speak for themselves and besides I don't know what to tell you about them anyway, so here goes. Since Russia is the best place to start, we'll

begin with **ULTRA** from St. Petersburg.

Canada is represented with **PRINCE IGOR** while South Africa has its **COUNT PUSHKIN**. England has three: **VLADIVAR**, **COSSACK**, and **IMPERIAL CZAR**. This last one states that it was bottled for Bestway Cash and Carry.

Also in the U.K. is the **PRINCE CONSORT** which states that it is produced in Great Britain but seems to only be found in Scotland. Across the channel we

Vladivar



GOLD

VODKA

100° PROOF



VODKA

Contd.



find a French vodka, **PONIATOWSKI** (which comes in a traditional green glass cognac bottle.

Finally we go further east and north to find the **PUSCHKIN BLACK SUN** (great shape) and the set of four flavored vodkas from the **BÖKLAND** company. There is another one from Puschkin with red contents, but I wasn't able to get that one, and it's always the one you can't get that you want the most!

--J.S.--



SAYBREX



The bottles which accompany this article are sold by the Saybrex International Company of Beverly Hills, California. However, you'll never see them for sale in the United States!

Saybrex represent a good many spirits from companies far and wide (eg. Usquaebach Scotch in China), but so far have never sold a bottle here. Even that is scheduled to change though. According to Vice President Ari Bussel, 1997 should see the introduction of American Country Bourbon...and we can hope for miniatures.

If you're wondering about the little "pod" on top of the Baller Mann. It's an explosive and you're meant to hit it against the top of your head before opening the bottle. Now that's marketing.

"SPECIAL" COGNACS

Everyone likes fancy glass bottles and great labels, don't they? We've got one of each for you this time plus a set of cognacs which should not prove to difficult to obtain.

The great label is provided by the Camus Josephine. This one was introduced in the spring of 1996 through the Duty Free Shoppers stores in some airports. You could find it in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hong Kong and possibly a few other ports of call.

Introduced in both large and our favorite 50ml size, this is a cognac blended especially for women. If you can have cognacs blended to be consumed while cigars are being smoked, you surely can have lighter cognacs blended for the ladies. So far a couple of other companies have picked up this idea, but only in the larger size bottles.



The set of three is from Leopold Gourmel. The usual designations of V.S., V.S.O.P., etc. have been replaced with Age des épices, Age du fruit, and Age des fleurs. The set comes banded together in a burlap bag for a unique presentation. The three, along with their larger counterparts, have been imported and are now on the market in California.

So, two to look for when traveling and three to have your California collecting friends dig up for you!



MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article I would like to feature three pre-pro ryes, plus we'll look at Glenmore's Old Thompson Blended Whiskey in three flat variations. Pre-pro brands are obviously the least well documented of all miniature whiskeys. Bottles still turn up which amaze long time collectors such as myself. The early 1930's are also a fertile field for unique brands and/or variations. That aside, let's get to the bottles.

Number one is **Cream Rye Whiskey** by Dallemund & Co. of Chicago. It is a small embossed bottle circa 1910. Next is **Gun Club Rye Whiskey** by A. Hirshman & Co. of St. Paul, Minn. The label has nifty graphics and is printed in red, gold and black. This bottle dates prior to 1906 as there is no Pure Food Law statement on the label. The last of these is **Finch's Pure Rye**

Whiskey. It has a gold, red and black label and is circa 1900.

Now to the other bottles. The first **Old Thompson** showed up in St. Louis at the 1996 bottle show. I had never seen this variation before and consider it quite rare. It is 90 proof, was blended in February of 1934 and comes from Louisville, Kentucky. The next of these is 90 proof, three years or more old, has moved to Owensboro, Ky. and is from the mid 1930's. The last one is 86.8 proof, five years or more old and was made after the war. Post war flats from Glenmore are fairly rare, especially the Old Thompson.

Finally, the Gun Club Rye was purchased at an area flea market for \$5.00. It is finds such as this which keep me going in this silly hobby.

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



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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.

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