

THE

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**MINIATURE
BOTTLE
COLLECTOR**

MEMPHIS BELLE



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MINIATURES



By David L. Maund

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B

Let's Talk

Just about every year at this time I make my pleas. So here goes.

When you're out there taking a vacation and going hither and on (or wherever it is you go), remember to at least let other collectors know what you found and where you found it. Bottles seem to be so fragmented these days that what's in one major city isn't in another.

Number two request: Support the bottle shows. Thanks to the absolutely horrendous mail service we're now getting with our 3rd class non-bar coded magazines, many of you will receive this after the show in St. Louis. However, it's not too early to plan on next year's show there.

And while we're on the subject, the Lilliputian West Coast show is once again in October and Anaheim is lovely at that time of year. The club is also working on a big show in Las Vegas in 1998. More details as they are known.

This issue continues Franco Zarpellon's travels. You don't have to go to Vienna to get a sense and feel of the city. His article brings it to you. What with Boozeville and the Thistle we've also got some nice figurals for you this issue.

Next time Jack Sullivan will be back and Tony Natelli with some of those marvelous Irish whiskies.

Have a great Spring.

—DMS—

THE

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MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

He's back. Yes, Dug Picking has a new decanter and it's on view for the first time with our cover. This is the first of the World War II Fighting Lady Series. Only 1500 were produced and each bottle is numbered. And as an added bonus, each one sold helps restore the Memphis Belle at Mud Island in Memphis, Tennessee. This is a winner!

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KIT KAT RANCH



SEAGRAVE

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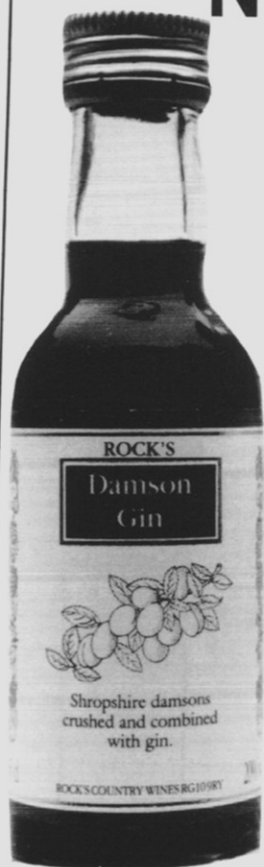
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WHAT'S NEW



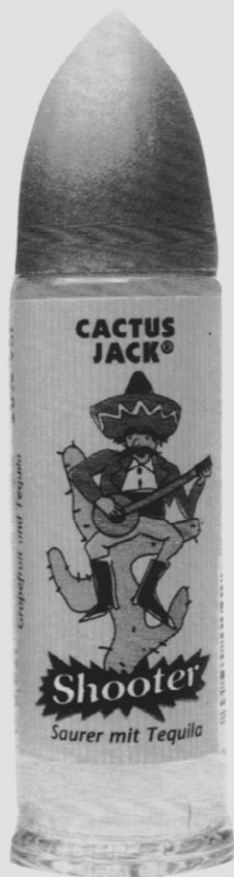
When we say we try to bring you a little bit of everything, we really mean it. This time there's not a whisk(ey) in sight, but there's still a lot of variety.

Let's begin with the bottles from Europe. We have two gins from England, Rock's Damson Gin and Gloag's London Dry Gin. The first is flavored with crushed damsons while the second is a luxury gin produced by Matthew Gloag and Sons of Perth, Scotland. Both were introduced in 1996.

From Germany we have two more of the Shooter series. This brand has been featured

previously, but these two new labels show great humor. Coco Loco pictures our main character taking a bath in a coconut shell and Cactus Jack has our man playing a banjo while seated atop a cactus. The first is a coconut-banana liqueur with white rum while the second is a sour liqueur with tequila. Shooters are sold all over the world except the U.S. Here they are not approved because they only contain 20ml. The shape of the bottle would also be a detriment here.

From Spain we have Yurinka Vodka from the Larios company.



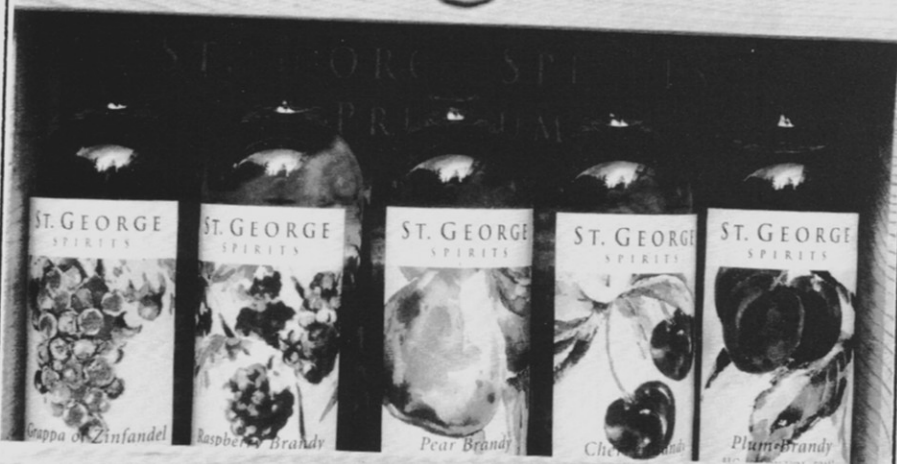
Larios produces one of the world's largest selling gins; possibly they're now aiming at doing the same with the vodka market. This is a plastic bottle.

Jumping from Spain to Mexico, we find one export and one non export. Taking the latter first we find the Damiana naked (and headless) woman. In the large size she's been available for decades in Mexico but only recently appeared in miniature size. Never having tasted Damiana, I can't tell you anything about it.

The export from Mexico is the Arguila Tequila in the cobalt blue



WHAT'S NEW



ST. GEORGE SPIRITS

blown glass (with pontil) bottle. This is a 100ml bottle so some of you might shy away. However, you really shouldn't. It would be almost impossible to hand-blow a smaller one of these and I have no idea of the difficulty of working with cobalt blue glass. For you samplers out there, this is one excellent tequila. (Don't know how well the picture for publication will turn out, but it's a super bottle.)

We end up with a marvelous set of liqueurs from Northern California. St. George bottles have been pictured previously, but none have had the beautiful labels before. This boxed set was available for Christmas and hopefully will sell for some time. The set includes from left to right: Grappa of Zinfandel, Raspberry Brandy, Pear Brandy, Cherry Brandy, and Plum Brandy. If you collect liqueurs, or just pretty labels, this set is for you.

--DMS--



A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Make way. Make way. There's a rodeo comin' to Boozeville. Why, there'll be Bronc Ropin', Barrel Racin', Bull Throwin', and, of course, Bottle Ridin'. This bottle ridin' is a new event...a special one created just for the youngsters of Boozeville. Thought you'd like to see one of the boys all saddled up and ready to go.

Enough with the hyperbole. This multi-colored piece is similar to several others such as The Nineteenth Hole and The Spirit of Hollywood but it's much less seen. Our little rider is very colorful in his red bandanna, yellow cartridge belt, and brown and white chaps. And he seems up to the challenge.

Now, the question is...are there any other riders out there waiting to be included in these pages?

--L.M.--

SCOTCH

David Maund

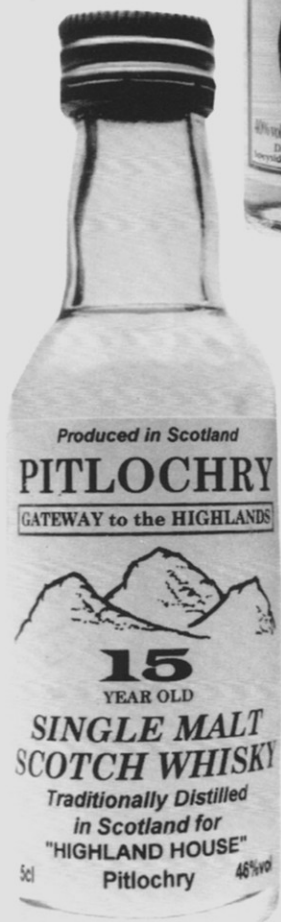


A couple of issues back Franco Zarpellon did a marvelous article on stores and buying in Edinburgh. With this as impetus, I decided to show you some bottles currently only available in Scotland.

With hopes that the three special Glenmorangies would be issued individually, here is the set which is the only way you can get the new ones today. The three from the middle to the right are the Port Wood Finish, the Sherry Wood Finish, and the Madeira Wood Finish. The labels are white, tan and green. Makes a great set, doesn't it. This set is available in most areas of Scotland.

To the north and east of Edinburgh you'll find a small distillery which sells its product as Coopers' Select. The two shown here are the blend and the 8 year old pure malt. They are produced by Speyside Cooperage in Craigellachie.

Down closer to Edinburgh and just a bit off the motorway is the town of Pitlochry. It's a delightful place made even more so by an excellent shop named Highland House. You'll find a great selection of glass and fancy minis there but you must also come away with the two made especially for them, the 15 year old Single Malt and the Blend. It's the only place you'll find them.





We'll end our short tour back in Edinburgh with a visit to Royal Mile Whiskies which Mr. Zarpellon told you about. There you'll find a huge number of bottles and three made especially for them. Actually there are several but I'm showing you the 10 year old Blend, the 13 year old Caol Ila bottled just last August, and the special Glen Fiona flagon available only at the shop.

Hope to see all my U.S. friends at the MMBC show in St. Louis the end of April. I'll have lots of new scotches to show!

--DLM--

OLDIES FROM RUSSIA

by HOLM HARS



Today I will show you seven old bottles from the LIQUEUR AND VODKA FACTORY in Moscow.. All the bottles are liqueurs and have a cork top with sealing wax.

The bottles are as follows: Chartreuse 44%, Coffee 30%, Chocolate 23%, Sweet Liqueur 40%, Benedictine 43%, Mixed Herbs 39% and Rowan berry Creme 20%. --H.H.--

GIN



Ever noticed that one liquor in particular seems to not get its fair shake when it comes to articles? You may have your own candidate for this dubious honor; however, gin surely has not received nearly as many pages as most other liquors. So, here's a few absolutely great gins for you to ogle!

From that "gin haven" south of the border comes **BEECH-NUT**. This oldie is from the 1930's and as you can see, it was bottled exclusively for Heraglio Ochoa in Mexicali, Mexico. No doubt some gringo squirreled this one away some sixty years ago. Do you think Senor Ochoa might have had a tie-in with a certain chewing gum?

The pair of **ANCORA** Gins are from Lisbon, Portugal. The "woven" bottle is seldom seen but its

companion, the cannon shell, is known to a great many collectors with any number of liquor/liqueur contents. This one has been around for years and is still available.

As nice as those two are though, the prize duo has to be the **THREE PARROTS** and **PEACOCK (PAUWVLEUGEL)** gins. Black and white completely fails these labels. They are two of the most beautiful labels to be found. (In fact, we should have a Beautiful Label Contest to see what would be entered.) Naturally they are from Holland. An odd note: the "blob" on the bottom under the peacock's tail is actually the manufacturer's wax seal.

From time to time we'll feature many more great gins!



MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



Let me tell you a little story. A gentleman calls me from Arizona and asks if I would be interested in buying some old miniature liquor bottles. Seems he had bought a rock collection and the lady had insisted that the bottles be part of the purchase. I tell him that I only collect whiskeys and ask if he would be willing to sell only the whiskeys out of the collection.

After some discussion, he agrees. I ask him to list some brand names. The second brand he lists is Fillmore. He has my attention. This is followed closely by Lucky 7, Red Robin, Old Cellar and Blue Hills. Now he really has my attention. Anyway, the deal is done and here is some of the loot..

Bottle number one is Red Robin Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Distillers Distributing Corp. Los

Angeles, San Francisco. It is 90 proof, Distilled Summer 1934 and has a black label with white, red and green.

The same company gives us Blue Hills Blended Whiskey. It is 90 proof and has a yellow and blue label. Bottle three is Fillmore Straight Whiskey Bottled for S. E. Rykoff & Co. Los Angeles. It is 100 proof, has a light yellow and red label printed in blue and brown. It was Bottled Fall 1934.

We return to Distillers Distributing for Lucky 7 Straight Whiskey. It is 90 proof, has a white label printed in red and black and was Bottled Spring 1934. Bottle number five is Old Cellar Straight Whiskey produced by Bernheim Distilling out of Louisville, Ky. It is 100 proof, has a tan label printed in red and brown and was Bottled Spring 1934 at San Francisco Ware-



house Co.

The last of this wonderful (Note: the last word was inserted by a jealous editor) group is Ye Old Bar Favorite Brand Straight Whiskey Bottled for America Cut Rate Drug Co. Los Angeles. It is 100 proof, has an orange and black label and was



Bottled Summer 1934 by Continental Distillers Corp.

Finally, this small bonanza has renewed my enthusiasm for our hobby. This "fix" should last for quite a number of months. Until next time. . . . M E L O.



SAMALENS



Back in issue number 111 five years ago, Tony Natelli showed you **Parfums d'Armagnac**, the magnificent boxed set of Samalens Armagnacs. Its price tag was hefty (approximately \$700), but it was an opportunity to obtain some very old vintage armagnacs. The set was sold in various European countries as well as several in Asia; however, it was never imported to the U.S.

Now that has been changed...sort of. Gone is the fancy box and many of the bottles. What remains are five vintages in new fancy bottles with 50ml contents (previously it was 30ml contents). The price tag is still hefty, but a much more reasonable \$180 (including tax). The 1966 vintage may be lost but that is more than made up by the new 50ml bottle. Availability now is limited to the west coast.

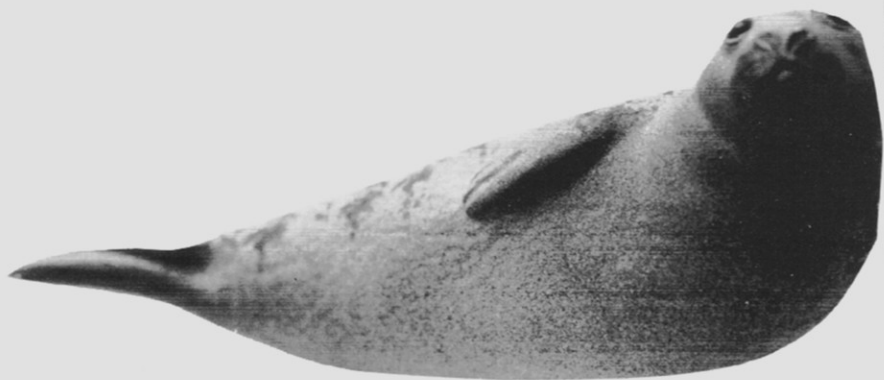


THISTLE



Isn't it nice to see some figural bottles once again! As you can see, that's a statement, not a question! The four pieces shown here all come from Scotland and contain Thistle Scotch. They are produced by the same company which issues the world's smallest bottle of scotch which most collectors should be familiar with. This is the one that comes in the matchbox.

These were issued in the early part of this decade in Scotland and England. All told there are nine pieces in the set; however, I know of no collector with a full set. The complete group is composed of two Scotty dogs (black and white), two cats (black and white), two seals (large and small), the Eagle and two Owls (white and brown).



Interestingly enough, some of the pieces have also been found with different labels. Souvenir Scotch Whisky has been spotted on a couple of the pieces while the Owls have been seen with malt scotch whisky contents from the Cumbrae Supply Company. In all probability, the three companies are only one with a variety of dba's. However, no matter the label, they are surely worth adding to your collection. Possibly some UK readers can help us here in the States.

VIENNA

by FRANCO ZARPELLON

DOWNTOWN:

Vienna, a "Mittel-European" city with two extraordinary characteristics: romanticism and artistry. In the air you can hear the vibrations of thousands of waltzes. Waltzes of the present time, sung by extemporaneous musical groups along the streets around St. Stephen Dom Plaz, and Waltzes of the past that come back to your mind because of the various statues of the most important composers which are scattered throughout the city. But it is Mozart you think of most: from the impressive statue at the Burggartner to the Mozart-Kugeln, the famous marzipan chocolates; from the paintings on the sidewalk of the streets to the chocolate liqueur which bears his name.

In the center of Vienna, in most of the souvenir stores it is possible to find the classic ball-shaped miniatures by H. C. Konig (Salzburg) which are wrapped in tinfoil. There are three different kinds of liqueur inside: The Mozart Liqueur Salzburg Nougat Schokolade (golden tinfoil), the Amadeus Mandel Orange Liqueur (brown) and the most recent Capucine Cafe Cream (white). The Amadeus Orange Liqueur miniature was sold also in a very attractive package with a standard cognac-type bottle used. It was some time ago before the Mozart Liqueur Manufactur changed its name to H. C. Konig.

To find all the traditional "made in Austria" miniatures, I suggest the two stores in Kartner Strasse, *Opern Confiserie* and *United*



Chocolates, where you'll also find good chocolate. These stores also stock miniatures by Bailoni (Krems/Donau) and Nannerl (Salzburg). The first are rounded and flat miniatures filled with liqueur (Fruchtsaftlikor at 30% alc/vol.) and distilled (Spirituosen at 40% alc/vol.), especially apricot. The second type are violin-shaped miniatures in different sizes (4cl, 5cl, 10cl) filled with liqueurs and fruit-based brandies too. What you can find at present are miniatures with unpretending nearly rectangular labels. More characteristic were nannerl's miniature



labels used ten and more years ago. You have some chance of finding them in the street markets.

Another store for tourists, but with a lot of strange and original articles, is *Schoko Shops*, at the end of Rotenturm Strasse, close to Donaukanal. A big basket contained a lot of different miniatures by Nannerl, shaped as a little amphora with its handle. Almost all of them are filled with brandy and fruit liqueurs, but in this series there also appeared a very unusual "whisky - made in

Austria". In a complete bookcase are stocked hundreds of miniatures produced by Austrian distilleries with most original labels. Some have the sexual scenes (by Gerhard Otto Plage...see photo).

Coming back towards St. Stephen Dom, at the beginning of the long Wollzeile, in an environment that simulates the atmosphere of an old tall-ship, there is the most refined tea importer store: *Johann Schonbichler*. Its main offering naturally is the large variety of tea



(a list painted on the window shows 120 different types) and tea related articles (tea-pot, cups, etc.). However, liqueurs (rums and others from South American regions) and whiskies (single malt labels above all) are well represented in the store. A great many miniatures from all over the world are stocked in the store.

They told me, "We find for our store very particular products, that is not possible to find in the supermarket or other shops, and the same is true with miniatures. For this reason we have special whisky mini from Scotland and cognac and armagnac mini from France." A complete series of armagnac (and Bas Armagnac) called Chateau de Laubade is sold, with miniatures from 1904 to 1984. The labels look similar to each other with something like a stamp impressed on them with the year of production. Another armagnac is the Classic V.S.O.P. de luxe by Davidoff (the cigar house). But to find the more interesting Selecte (or Extra) Davidoff Cognac you need to go to their London store in

St. James Street.

A bit more information before we go to the airport. The first is about some original Austrian miniatures found in Julius Meinl supermarkets. The "Weinbrand" label produced just by Meinl should be sought. It's the least expensive I've found in Vienna, less than 13 ATS (\$1.25) and it's a good sample. The second is a 4cl miniature by Qualitatsbrand: the Wieselburger Bock Bier Brand. It's a new kind of liqueur, a brandy distilled from bier and sold in a bottle with a long neck and an unusual stopper. I found it in a restaurant in Elizabeth Strasse.

(Part II will continue next time with a look at Vienna's Schwechat Airport and Tyrolean Airways.)

Opfern Confiteries, Kartner Strasse 45/47

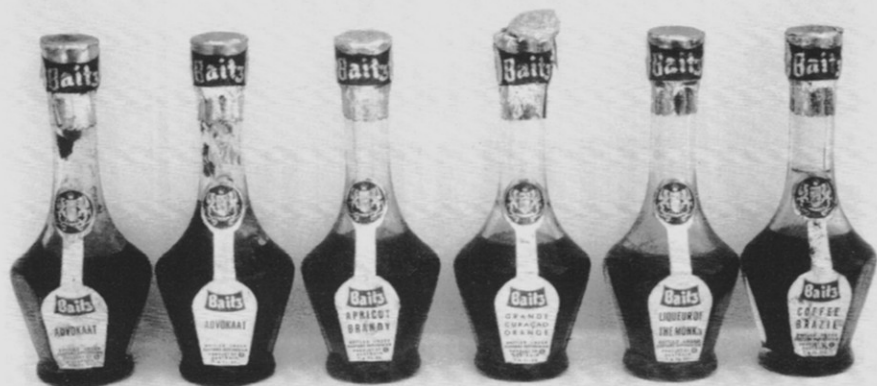
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BAITZ

by BUTCH JONES



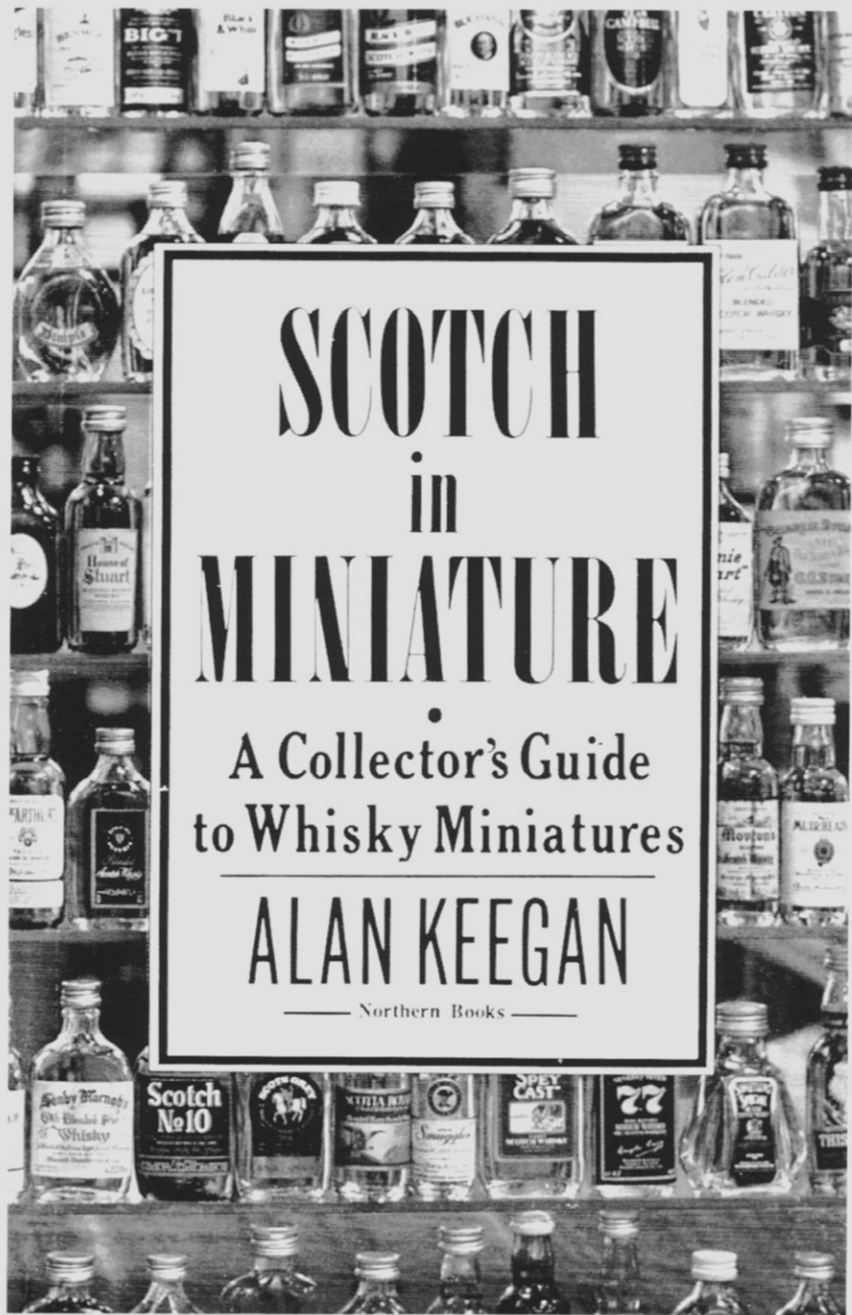
The miniatures featured this time are real gems of the past that I'll bet not many people have seen or have in their collections.

These miniatures were produced by Baitz, a company located in Australia. The bottles are not the standard shaped ones as you can see. Each foil label has the following words, "Bottled under custom supervision, Product of Australia". I would guess these are from the late 1930's or early 1940's.

There are two Advokaats pictured first. The third is an

Apricot Brandy while next is a Grande Curacao Orange. The fifth one is Liqueur of the Monks and the last is a Coffee Brazil. Not pictured is a Goldwasser.

You should also know that Baitz did some of the best blown glass animals and birds ever produced anywhere. The company was still active in the 1980's as Baitz Island Cream was issued then. Plans for a resurgence of blown glass animals ended with the passing of Mr. Baitz last year. --B.J.--



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in
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A Collector's Guide
to Whisky Miniatures

ALAN KEEGAN

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B

HAMM'S



Above is the initial set of Hamm's Bear salt and peppers. These shakers were designed to compliment the original 1972 set; however, as you'll notice there are considerable differences. Only 1,000 sets were produced and they will not be remade. In a few months the second set of free standing bears will be available.

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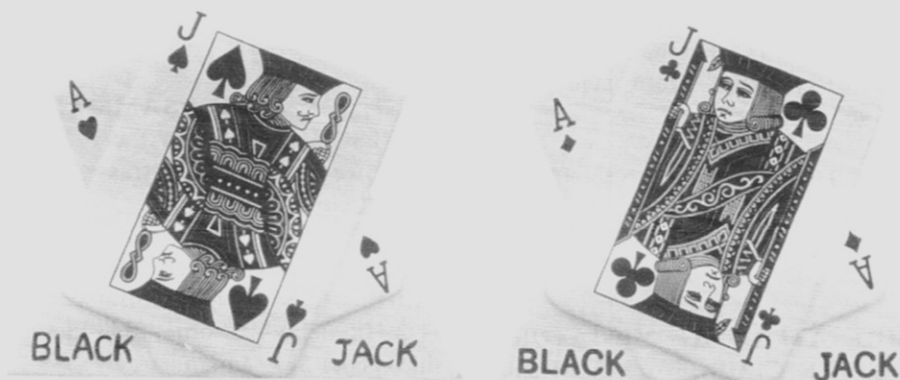
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CLASSIFIED ADS

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NOTICE: If you collect mini perfumes, you should have our books. Mini Flacons International I \$39.95, Mini Flacons International II \$29.95 and Mini Flacons Collectors Value \$15. Volume I presents approximately 3,300 different types of perfume minis while volume II presents an additional 2,000 minis. The price guide gives an average price in US\$, DM and FF on all the bottles pictured in Volumes I and II. You can call me, Malte Strauss, at (407) 699 8552 or send me a fax at (407) 699 8594. Or you can write to the Collectors Mail Service, L.C., P. O. Box 180 339, Casselberry, FL 32718-0339.

NOTICE: Indiana buyer/trader of mini whiskey bottles, glass, unopened, prefer boxfuls. Call (765) 463-5999. Lafayette, Indiana area.

FOR SALE: Over 200 mini figurals; most are full and all are old. Please send large SASE for revised list. I would also consider best offer on all as we will be moving out of state. I also have many liquor water pitchers for sale as well as older beer signs and beer ashtrays, beer "bar pieces" and older beer mugs. Juanita Rubio, 4326 Old Stage Road, Central Point, OR 97502 or call (541) 664-6555 before 7pm please.

FOR SALE: 536 miniature liquor bottle collection with 98% of the bottles full with seals intact. This includes 19 Dug's Brothel bottles, 104 ceramic, porcelain and specialty bottles (Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, Wild Turkey, etc.) and almost 400 standard bottles from all over the world. The retail on this collection is over \$3,200 and we're asking just \$1,584. That's less than \$3.50 per bottle. The complete catalogue is available if you'll call (206) 806-9965.

WANTED: Hoffman minis and large bottles. Mr. Lucky series also I'm looking for these Ski Country minis: Jaguar, Rhino Black and White, and Submarine. Please write to Derman Villegas, 105-25 64th Avenue, Apt. 6F, Forest Hills, New York 11375 or call (718) 275-4068 after 3pm New York time.

FOR SALE: A collection of 2150 minis which was begun some 50 years ago in London by A. Frumkin, a retail Wine and Spirit Merchant. Due to retirement and closure of the retail shop, the collection is now for sale. Included are blown glass, ceramics, and straight glass with many whiskies. The whole collection is 10,000 pounds but offers will be considered for particular categories if required. All inquiries to: Mr. Lionel Frumkin, 6 Grove End Road, London NW8 9LB, England, tel (011) 441 71 286 4338 from the States or fax at (011) 441 71 289 3242.

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.

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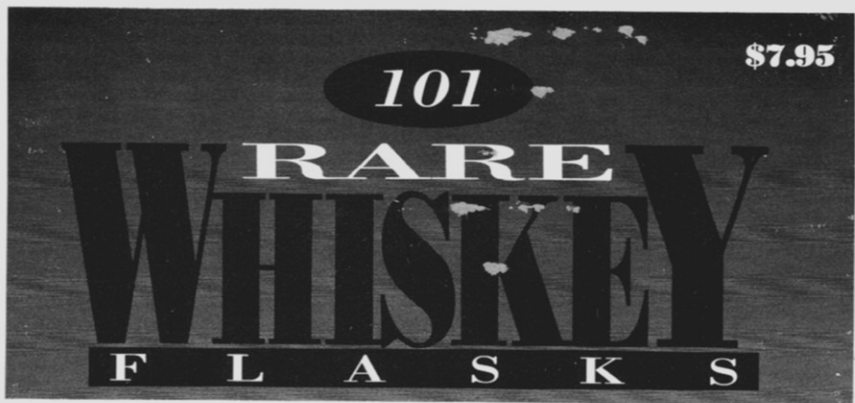
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