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VOL. XXIV No. 5  
No. 143 1997

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# HAMM'S

## S & P #2



Above is the second set of Hamm's Bear salt and peppers. These shakers were designed to compliment the original 1950's bear; 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 third set of bartender bears will be available.

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# Let's Talk

You know how I use this little column at times to clear up an error or two. Well, last time we ended up with the major error right here. "Let's Talk" we realize need only be stated once.

This is the first year in a long time that I've really been excited about a lot of the new bottles reaching the market. Some are here, some in Asia and some in Europe. But there does seem to be a new (albeit tiny) emphasis on quality.

The Grey Goose Vodka is stunning and that's now followed by Dvorak and Belvedere. The Gautier XO Cigar Blend sold here and the new Hennessy Extra are both excellent. In plastic we have some great new labels with superb artwork such as the Gallo Cask and Cream. Don't worry, all these will appear in these pages shortly, if they haven't already.

A lot of good feedback about Scott's article on the internet-web site. If you don't have a computer, go to a friend's home and see what's been done. More and more collectors are coming online with lists and information.

As of the first of the year when we start volume number twenty-five, there will be some changes both here and on the web site. Does the word "password" have any significance for you?

See you in December.

— DMS —

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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

Last time it was a pair of German giveaways, this time it's a pair of (less) old Scottish jugs or flagons. Since so many pieces today rely on either a silk screen process or a decal, we thought you'd like to see what nice old paper labels looked like. Glenfainn and Curious Old Monastors were both produced by the Wine Merchant, John Burnett & Co., Ltd. So you see, they do contain Scotch but they're actually English.

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## MEMPHIS BELLE



## MEMPHIS BELLE

As seen previously in the magazine, this new bottle from Dug Picking is already making its way toward the "Sold Out" column. 1500 were produced BUT only a few cases were held back for bottle collectors. Get it now or search diligently for it later. Only

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# WHAT'S NEW



What is most fun about the bottles for this column is that there is such a great variety. Bottles from all over the globe with all manner of contents. And, of course, this time is no exception.

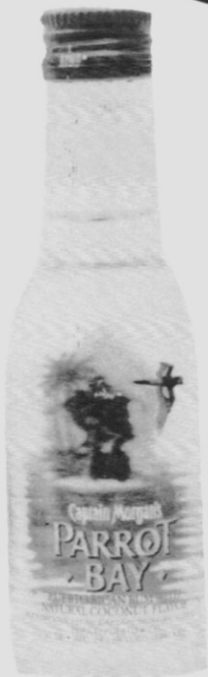
We'll begin with the set of Salvador's. The proverbial if-this-were-in-color rule is again true. Very colorful contents. All three are Margaritas. The first is Cucaracha (cockroach?) Blue, the seonc Green Iguana (made with Midori), and the third is Senorita Strawberry. You've got to give the ad man who came up with these credit. They are glass and were found in Wis-

consin.

Moving on we have the two Cream Liqueurs. Not enough of them for a separate article; however, they are surely worth showing. The Feeney is a plastic bottle while the new Devonshire label is on a glass bottle. Both were found in the midwest.

Two more plastics are the Canadian Mist (a new label) and Captain Morgan's Parrot Bay. The latter is highly colorful and very well done. It was found here in So. Cal but since this brand is a national roll-out, it should be available just about everywhere.







Our east coast bottle hunter Vic Visalli found Tarantula Azul (blue) in New York City. It's glass and contains tequila with added citrus flavors. It comes via Missouri.

The last two bottles are not available in the U.S. but were recently issued in the U.K. Both are products of Gordon & Macphail of Elgin, Scotland. They are cask strength which gives both an extremely high proof or percentage of alcohol. The Caol Ila is 15 years old while the Bruichladdich is 30 years old. You scotch collectors will surely find a way of getting them.

More next time. --D.M.S.--

# WHITE HEATHER

If you collect large ceramic bottles, you've undoubtedly seen the White Heather bagpiper. The White Heather Scotch company sold this large bottle here in the U.S. and then for years in Asia. It's been around approximately two entire decades.

However, you don't often see the miniature version. This is possibly true because it's doubtful that the miniature ever went past the mock-up stage. This particular one may be a production piece or it might be the mock-up. What is known is that this is one spectacular piece. Not only is it highly colorful but the number of molds needed to produce it would mean that its price would have been quite high. Today we could make that "astronomical".

Be on the lookout. This one was found at a bottle show...and it could be one of hundreds!



# NEW CZECH VODKAS

by IVAN UHLIK



This year a lot of new vodka miniatures were issued by several companies in the Czech Republic. To begin we have a company already well known in The United States. The Kord company is now producing Dvorak Vodka. It is a true reduction of the big bottle: a round, white frosted glass at 50ml capacity with a transparent locket in the middle where the portrait of A. Dvorak, the famous Czech composer, can be seen. This portrait on the back as well as the whole text is printed directly on the bottle. The closure is a black metallic screw cap.

An attractive series of vodka miniatures came out by Trul s.r.o. at the end of last year. This is the set of Stalinovy Slzy (Stalin's Tears). The group consists of four types: Original Vodka, Vodka &



Current, Vodka & Lemon and Vodka & Pepper. All brands are 37.5% alc. in round clear glass bottles with 40ml contents. The labels are printed directly onto the bottles. Additionally to the series, the Trul's produce a single bottle with Jemna Vodka Mikulovicka. This one features a paper label.

Finally we have two single vodka bottles. The first is Martoff Luxury Choice Fine Russian Vodka at 40% vol. Its producer is the firm Likerka A. Stefan. The last bottle and one which should be liked in the U.S. is Vodka Original Manhattan 40% vol. It is a clear glass round bottle of 40ml capacity. There is also a 50ml plastic bag available. The producing firm is Glenn Hill Drinks a.s.

In the future we'll look at more vodkas from Poland and Hungary.

# MALTA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



My business takes me to a lot of those famous far-flung corners of the world. I've hunted for bottles to add to my collection everywhere I go whether it's Siberia, India or Argentina. Recently I had to go to the island of Malta and was delighted with what I found.

At first I thought that I'd be fortunate to get a couple of different things; however, I wasn't

prepared for what I did find. Since you may remember that I've written previously on vodka, let that bottle start things off.

This is the very colorful Trosky Vodka which is produced on the island by Master Wine Ltd. The use of red, green, gray, and yellow on this bottle allow it to stand out.

Since Malta is an island, what



better motif than ships and you'll find them on both the Schooner Rum and the Black Eagle Anisette. They are also made by Master Wine Ltd.

The only plastic bottle in the group is the little Tamakari, the original Maltese Liqueur. This one is whisky colored while the other liqueur, Bajtra, is a light pink. Its label though features the famous Maltese Cross.

I suppose my other favorite among these is the John Brown Whisky. The John Brown character could have stepped from a 1930's clothing ad. Wonder what the name John Brown is to Malta?

There is a nice brandy not shown....but that makes for the basis of a future article! -J.S.-

# VIPERINE

This one is the original. Many of you have seen the bottle issued roughly fifteen years ago with the viper in it. That one was simply called Viper Brandy and it was essentially the same as this although the bottle itself was a bit shorter.

This version by Pierre Landry & Fils of Paris is the first and original version. Generically it is also known as Viper Brandy; however Viperine is the true name.

Who knows? Maybe drinking this would aid your digestion. Unlike Mezcal with its worm, it would be unusual for drinkers to want to eat the snake. Agreed?





# A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod

"Froggy went-a-courtin' and he did go, ahmmm. Froggy went a-courtin' and he did go, ahmmm." Well, as you can see, Froggy did go and he took his mandolin with him. Froggy didn't want to leave anything to chance. When he serenaded, he wanted decent accompaniment.

Our Froggy is from the marsh area of Boozeville. He lives near the giant fern. It's the one behind the saloon. This is where Froggy first learned about music.

To go courtin' with his mandolin, froggy is pretty spiffy. He wears his green pants, yellow waistcoat and pink jacket. He's made of majolica and you won't find him too often. One of his good friends is the cat who goes fishing with him. You'll meet the cat another time. --L.M.--



# WATCH BOTTLES

by TONY NATELLI



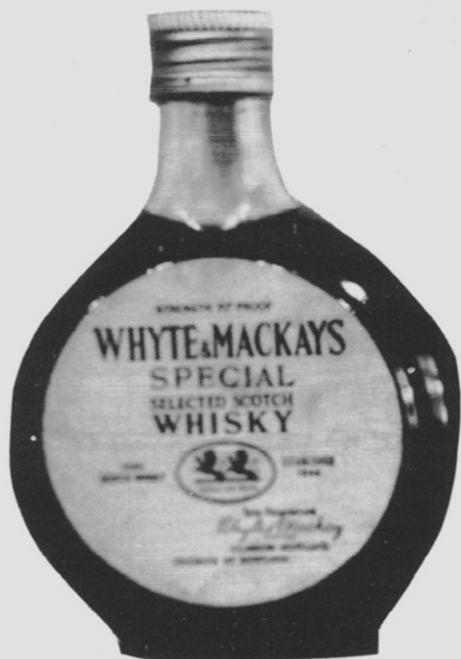
"Watch" bottles are among the most scarce and desired and unusual miniatures ever produced. Due to size regulation changes, there probably will be no more. While most of them contained scotch, they will also be found with Irish whiskey, rum, sherry and cognac. For the most part they are rarely seen. Other than a series of twenty-four, picturing different flowers, issued in England in 1981, they date from the 1970's back to pre-prohibition.

Our first pair, **GLENOVAN** and

**CURRIE'S NO. 10** are extremely good ones. The Glenovan is a rare pre-pro and this is the only one I've ever seen. Currie's No. 10 may be familiar to you in other types of bottles.

**YE OLDE MILL** and **STRONG'S** are also top notch miniatures almost never seen. The Strong's label lists the amount as a "half gill" (pronounced jill) but this would be incorrect as the bottle would then contain less than a half ounce.

Strong's also produced at least



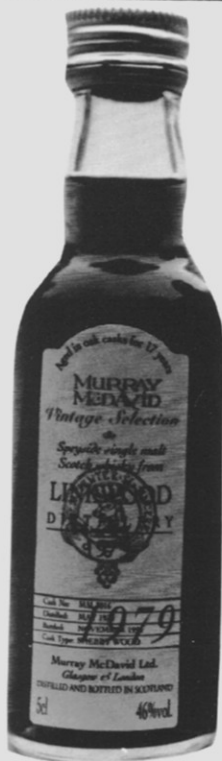
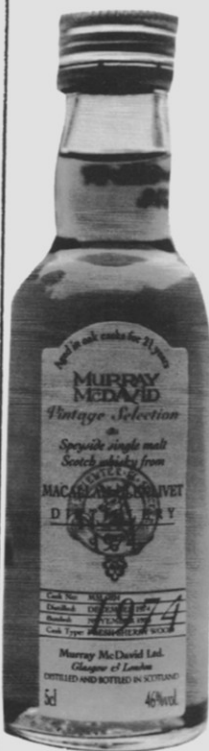
three other watch minis, Real Mountain Dew (two versions) and Strong's Dundee Whisky. All of these, especially the Dundee, are as rare and probably rarer than the version shown.

WHYTE & MACKAYS shows up from time to time and is considerably easier to find than the other four. Whyte and Mackay, coincidentally, owns W & S Strong so they have been very good to "Watch Bottle" collectors over the years.

--T.N.--

# SCOTCH

David Maund



This time we turn to sets...and sets of straight malts at that. Not a blend in sight. Both of these sets are from this year and there's something for collectors on both sides of the Atlantic.

On my side we find the Murray McDavid group of six which were issued last March. These are exact miniatures of the larger bottles which I have heard are available in the U.S., but you don't have these little ones.

Going from the oldest first we have Macallan-Glenlivet. This is a twenty-one old from 1974 which came from a fresh sherry wood cask. Next we have Royal Brackla, a seventeen year old from 1979. It was from a refilled sherry wood cask. Third in the



series is **Bunnahabhain**, a seventeen year old also from 1979. And, it's from a refilled sherry wood cask.

The last of the 1979 seventeen year olds is the **Linkwood**. This came from a sherry wood cask but no mention is given of it being from a refill or of new sherry wood. However, look at how dark the contents are. No question but there's a lot of sherry in this one. Number five in the lot is the 1980 **Glenturret**. This sixteen year old is the third to use refilled sherry wood. The youngest of the bunch is the **Laphroaig**. It's only nine years old, but it comes from a cask originally filled with bourbon!

In case you're wondering, all of the bottles are 46% vol., 5cl. and



bottled last November.

Now on the west side of the pond, you got a set of five that we didn't get here in the U.K. This is the latest group from Signatory, the Edinburgh based company which has released a goodly number of interesting malts in the last few years.

Continuing with our program of the oldest first, we begin with the 1964 **Longmorn**. This one is thirty-two years old and is 57.5% alcohol or 115 proof. Next comes the **Glen Grant** at thirty-one years from 1965. It is a 58.4% or 116.8 proof. Third we have the

**Port Ellen**. It's from 1980, sixteen years old and the highest alcohol of the lot at 59.8% or 119.6 proof.

Next is another 1980 sixteen year old. This is the **Dufftown** which is the only one of the group with a blue label. It's 55.7% alcohol or 111.4 proof. Last and youngest is the twelve year from 1984, the **Glen Grant**. It's 57.9% or 115.8 proof. Four of the five came from Sherry Wood Casks, but the Port Ellen isn't saying. This was a limited edition of 250 sets.

Next time we'll go back to our usual mix. See you then. --DLM--



## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by BUTCH JONES



Three super whiskies by Penn Maryland are featured this month. These minis are all from the late 1930's or early 1940's. The bottles are the same shape, short round clear glass with a narrow neck. On the bottom of each bottle is an embossed branch of leaves. This style of bottle is known as the barrel.

The first mini is Penn Maryland Deluxe Blended Bourbon Whiskey. The center of the label is yellow. The whiskey is 90° as are the other two in this article. The next mini is

also a Penn Maryland Deluxe but is a blended rye whiskey. The center of the label is red. The last of the three is Penn Maryland Regal Blended Whiskey. The center of this label is green.

I know of one more Penn Maryland not shown here, that being a Penn Maryland Imperial Blended Whiskey. Does anyone know of any more? If you have one of the Penn Maryland Imperials for trade or sale, please let me know. 'Til next time. --B.J.--

# RUM

OLD and NEW



You're used to seeing those nice new clean bottles with their pristine labels. So this time some of the older ones with a bit of grit from the ages will make an interesting change.

Everything shown here is a California 1930's rum. Previously you've been presented California whiskeys and gins, now it's time for some rums. And, if we can get Fred Hawley to take more pictures, he'll have some great brandies and liqueurs from the "Golden Age in the Golden State".

For those of you who remember the articles on the whiskeys and gins, you'll note some of the same names. It would appear that the

majority of names used were repeated from bottle to bottle. Thus of this group you can find Grizzly Club, Shots, and Montecito represented with just about every possible type of contents.

It's rather ridiculous just to list of the names of the ones here as you can easily see them; however, there are a few fascinating little items about some of these. Society Club has the little word "Imitation" above RUM. Two Swallows is a Jamaica TYPE Rum and Shots was "For Intrastate Sale".

In the future we'll continue to look at some of the old California bottles. Wait until you see Tiny Tim and The Warrior.





# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article we'll get back to the more mundane. I would like to feature six of the numerous flats containing Early Times Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. All of these were bottled by Brown-Forman of Louisville.

The labels on the later ones state that they were bottled for Early Times Distillery Company Frankfort, Kentucky. I have always liked the colorful labels on these bottles which should be familiar to most collectors. As a matter of fact, one of these was among my first "prized" bottles at the dawn of my collecting.

Anyway, we lead off with a

screw cap at 90 proof and 24 months old. I also have a screw cap at 26 months old and pull off caps at 24 months and 36 months which are not pictured. Bottle two is a pull off at 90 proof and 4 years old. The next pair are also 90 proof at five and four years old respectively.

The last pair are Bottled in Bond at 100 proof and are somewhat harder to find. They are BIB 1935-1940 and BIB 1936-1940. Finally, the good thing about variations such as these is that when you do find them they probably will not cost you an arm and a leg.

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



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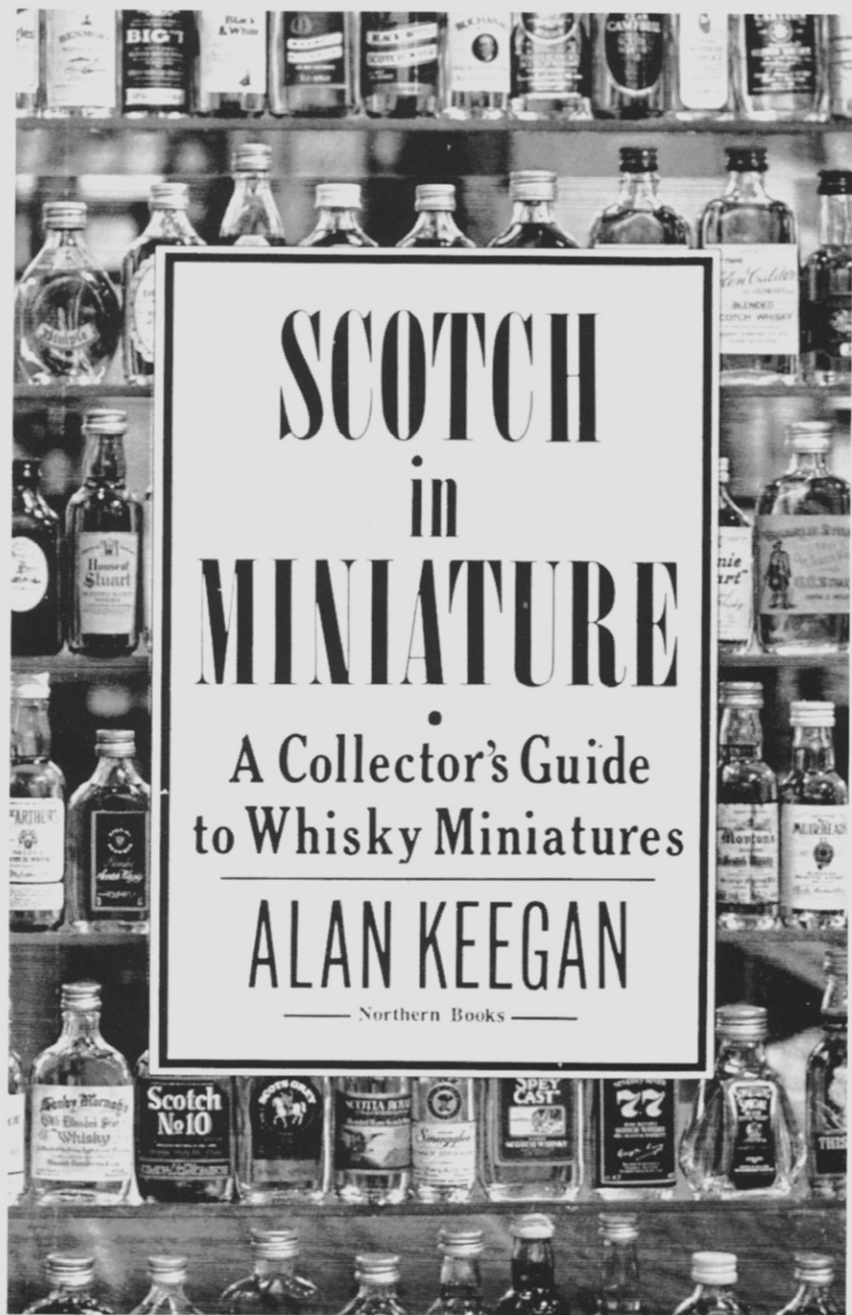
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