

**THE**

VOL. XXIV No. 6  
No. 144 1997

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# Let's Talk

There's a great deal to talk about in the bottle world these days. More and more good glass and plastic bottles are being produced and even occasionally a ceramic makes an appearance. The new Etiquette scotch ceramic is one of the more interesting ones to be seen (and you'll see it here next year).

The area where more and more collectors are finding one another is on the world-wide web. If you haven't checked lately, we're still there at [mediapulse.com/mbc](http://mediapulse.com/mbc) and once you've reached us, you can also see some other excellent sites.

If you'd like to find out something about vodka, go to [www.ivodka.com](http://www.ivodka.com) Alec Bargman's site will tell you more than you'd dreamed of knowing.

Want to see about what's happening in the U.K. or New Zealand? Those sites are there too. If you'd like to be a bit closer to home, check out the following:

[Pagedepot.com/worldofminiatures](http://Pagedepot.com/worldofminiatures). You'll see bottles for trade in this site.

If you also check out the collectors' guestbook on our site, you'll find collectors from all over the world who are looking to buy, sell or trade.

1997 has been the tip of the iceberg (apologies to Titanic) and 1998 will undoubtedly be even better!

Happy Holidays and all the best in the new year.

— DMS —

THE

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# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

We rarely have three bottles on the cover, but these are surely some of the best of the old and new put together. The new one is on the left and this is a limited edition of 1,000 pieces which were produced last year in Germany. The other two are of course S & V porcelains or giveaways from approximately 100 years ago. It would appear that an old mold was actually used to create the new bottle. Interesting!?!

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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



I thought we'd end up the year with an even greater hodge-podge than usual! So we've gone far and wide to bring you some truly interesting (and, at times, strange) pieces.

What could be more different than the Isotopes from New Zealand? Bringing up visions of Old Mr. Boston Thin Man pieces, these are also unique for what they contain. I can easily go along with

tequila lime and rum colada; however, bourbon mint?? Well, I guess someone must have gone to the Kentucky Derby and had one julep too many.

From Denmark we have the three aluminum-looking Danzka's. These will undoubtedly make their way to the U.S. but currently are only as close as Mexico. If you're on the other side of the pond, you can also find them in





London.

And speaking of Mexico, there are two new terrific tequilas from Don Julio. These might also make it here as fancy and expensive tequila currently is all the rage. Both the Blanco and the Reposado have wooden tops which make them especially nice. What's not so nice is their price. You won't get much back from a twenty with these two.

We come now to gimmick-land. I'm speaking of the Tattoo bottles. There is a third (Blue) which is, ah, well, blue. To get to the Jagermeister drinking crowd, the idea is that if the guy drinks the lemon or blue and the girl drinks the other of the pair they can then kiss and produce GREEN. Nifty. What they do with the red licorice I have no idea. These have been found in various markets...for how long who



knows. They are colorful though.

For you vodka lovers we have the new Iceberg. Our east coast bottle correspondent, eagle-eyed Vic Visalli, found this and the Tattoo bottles recently. Iceberg is a plastic but it's nicely done.

Finally, my favorite. This is the Breton's Hand & Seal Canadian

Whisky. It's glass, has a nice label and should really satisfy whisk(e)y lovers who want to add a quality bottle to their collection. If you're going to hunt for this, it was found in Denver.

Naturally we'll have lots of new ones for you in '98. See you then.

--D.M.S.--



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# SCOTCH

David Maund



To finish out the year, I thought you might enjoy seeing a quite special bottle and a very nice set which isn't the easiest to obtain.

The special bottle is the 10 year old Single Highland Malt from Johnstons of Elgin. This was filled for them at the Glenfarclas Distillery. You'll notice the dates on the label by the thistle, those show that this special bottle cele-

brates 200 years of business by Johnstons.

If you're not familiar with the name, you don't know one of the finest of the cashmere producers. Johnstons' goods are well known both near and far for their quality...hence the 200th year anniversary.

So other than being a nice commemorative, what makes this a



nice bottle? Well, for one thing you couldn't find it in an off-licence or what some of you would call a liquor store. It was not sold. Instead it was given away along with a nice little box of Walkers' shortbread. And it was given only to those who purchased a sweater or another item this summer and early fall. As the story goes, you had to be in the right place at the

right time AND wanted to buy a new sweater!

The set as you've no doubt noticed by now is from Black Adder International in Scotland. What intrigues me about the group is that there are four different types of labels. There are five with the Black Adder name prominently displayed, but while four of them give you the age of the scotch, one



only mentions the year. Next there are four which are shown to be limited editions but two are from editions of 288 pieces while the other two are from editions of 120 pieces.

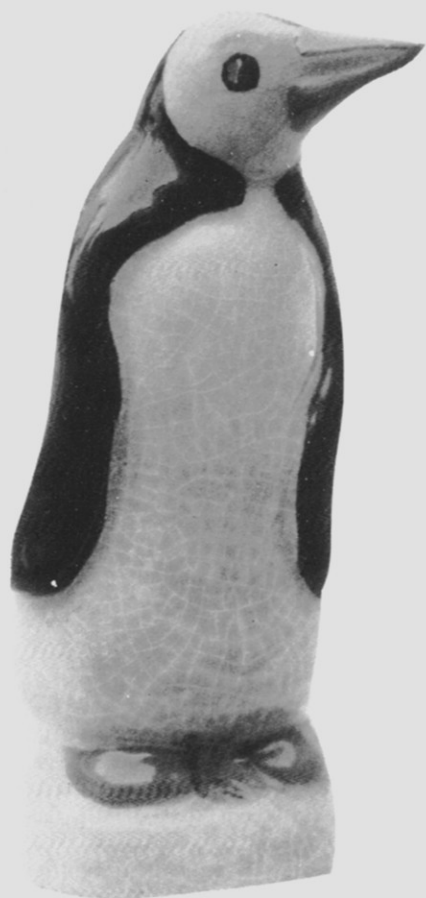
Finally we have one which is completely different and stands entirely by itself. This is The Old Man of Hoy and this one is the easiest of the lot to find. My

favorites from the group are naturally the Macallans: the limited edition 1976 and the 22 year old.

Purists may also take delight in the fact that these may be found in the larger 700 ml size.

I'll return in the new year with many more interesting bottles and news. Happy holidays! --DLM--

# W.L.S.



Down through the years, several bottles from the W.L.S. company have appeared here. Possibly the most recent was the "jolly farmer" with pitchfork.

This penguin is (as you'd think) in black and white with an orange bill. He contains British Apricot Wine and comes from the late 1950's, early 1960's. W.L.S. stands for Western Licensed Supply (of Torquay) and often the name will be used instead of the initials. This company was also responsible for importing some of the excellent Italian ceramics of the late 1950's.

# CREAMS



Liqueur lovers, rejoice. Here are a bunch of new cream liqueurs to hunt for. Through the years we've featured a great many of these and it would seem that of all the different types of liqueurs, the creams are the ones which continually are produced. Oh yes, there are some chocolate liqueurs and a few coffee liqueurs, but the creams with either whisk(e)y, rum or brandy are the perennial favorites.

Let's take the "toughies" first. Three of these were brought back from Germany. These are the Dino, Greizer Coffee-Spice and Stroh. If you know anything about German

bottles, the name Stroh surely is found a great deal. This is a nice glass flask and a 0,05l or 50ml size. This one just might be imported as many Stroh items are.

Dino of course is a cute one because of that dinosaur on the label. The Greizer Dream Cream is a rather uncomplicated label but the liqueur sounds delicious. Just think, if the U.S. had liquor advertising like most of the rest of the world, you could have something like "The Dream Team drinks Dream Cream". Well, it was just a thought

The two which are sold here in





the U.S. are the Millwood and the E & J Cask & Cream. The Millwood is simply a label variation of a long line of Millwood bottles. The E & J (Ernest & Julio Gallo of the wine fame) is a new one which just appeared earlier this year. It's in most markets across the nation now and is doing quite well. That's because it tastes good. It would have been nicer if the bottle were in glass, but it's still a nice label.

Undoubtedly 1998 will have its share of cream liqueurs and you'll see them here. Gee, I don't think we've shown you Country Satin yet or Conquering Lion. Soon.

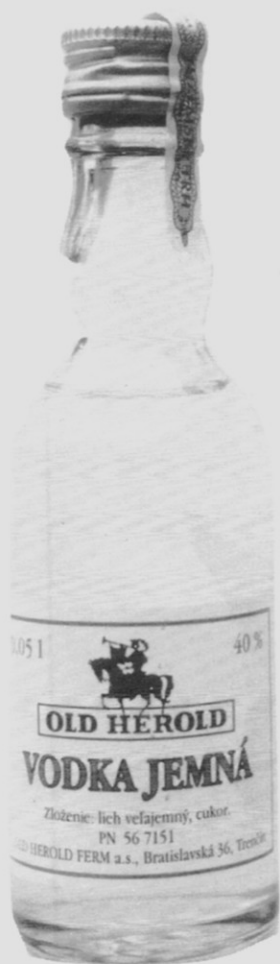
# VODKA



Thanks to the efforts of Ivan Uhlik of Germany, we have some very special vodkas to show you this time. And better yet, you'll be able to find a couple of these here in the U.S. either currently or very soon.

The Krolewska (Royal Vodka) or "stained-glass window bottle" is now in some markets here so watch for this one. This Polish

bottle is part of that new super group of vodkas which includes Grey Goose and Belvedere. Ah, yes, here's the Belvedere mini. You can see the distillery in the background. If you've never picked one of these bottles up and held it so that the light comes through, you're in for a treat. As with the Dvorak last time (and maybe the Chopin in the future), this one is a



delight to behold.

The next two bottles are Prazska and Old Herold. The names may seem familiar but not the labels. That's easily explained in that these are new labels!

Number five is T34 and pictures the tank which was the T34. In all probability this is the first bottle to ever picture a tank. That alone makes it of interest

The last bottle is the Gorroff. This was a special bottling for a "Common Meeting of Czech and German Collectors" in Decin, Czechia (Czech Republic) on October 5th of this year. Mr. Uhlík was the organizer of this event which was very successful.

We look forward to more new vodkas from Eastern Europe.

# A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



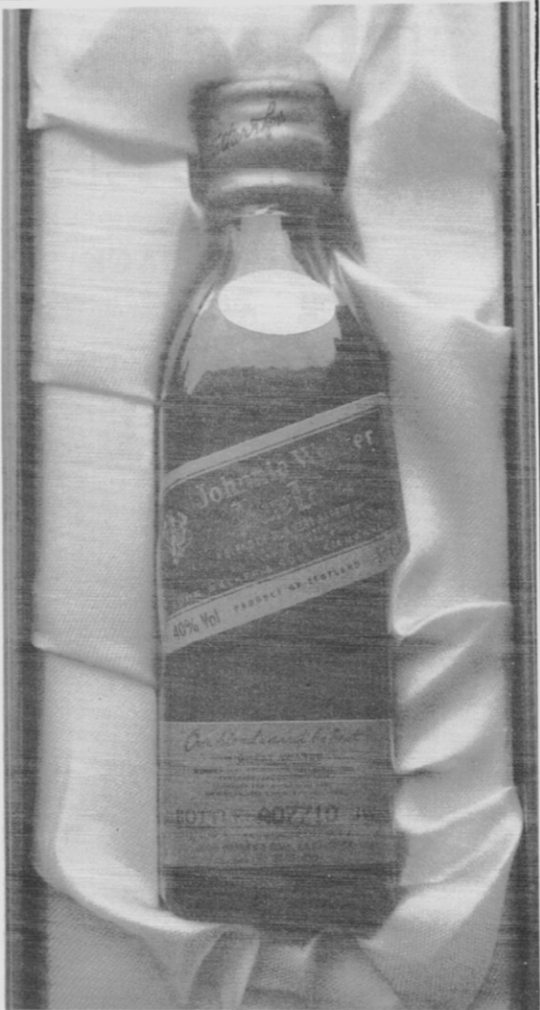
This fierce little creature is only passing through Boozeville. It seems someone must have been trying to get rid of him. However, he's not making the best of a bad situation and isn't making a good impression. That wary look askance tells us he doesn't know what to make of the situation.

We do. This little fellow is a Goebel bottle and not one of the usual S & V characters which in-

habit Boozeville. We'll certainly accept him though as he's quite a nice piece of work.

His color is a bit strange, somewhat of a greenish-yellow but not really puce. His stopper is behind the head and features an eye looking down on the cat which is featured in relief. Standing only about 4 inches high and the same across, this fellow makes a charming addition.

# BLUE



Am I blue? You'll be too (with apologies to a marvelous song) if you don't get the new Johnnie Walker Blue Label. This scotch has been seen once before but in a different bottle. Earlier it was in a round bottle with a "nosing" glass and a booklet all enclosed within a very nice package.

Now we have the bottle in the normal Johnnie Walker square or rectangular shape. Currently it is being sold in three ways. In England and Scotland (and possibly elsewhere in Europe) it is as seen here...languishing in a satin-lined box which is an exact

replica of the larger size.

In both California and Florida (and who knows where else), it is available as part of a four pack which also features the red, black and gold bottles. In New York it has been sold as an individual bottle in a plain package completely unlike the one shown here.

Whichever you choose, you'll have a very nice new Johnnie Walker to add to your collection. In the future we'll talk about Swing Superior, Premier, and the fifteen year old malt in green!

# THREE MIDWEST 'GOLDEN OLDIES'

By JACK SULLIVAN



Here are three pre-Prohibition miniatures, each from the great American Midwest and each from a distiller that long since has disappeared from the whiskey scene.

**BROOKFIELD RYE.** This attractive canteen shaped mini features a rich brown glaze that covers the entire body on which the label has been embossed. It is "Rare Old Perfection" Brookfield Rye. This was a brand of the Geo. Bieler Sons distillery of Cincinnati, Ohio. A monogram of "GBS" can be seen at the center of the jug.

The Bieler firm, according to Cincinnati directories, was established by George Bieler in

1887 (although the mini has the date "1867" embossed on it). By 1889 the firm had become known as Geo. Bieler Sons, a name it maintained for five years before becoming Geo. Bieler Sons Co. in 1905. With business offices at 5th and Main Streets, the firm featured the slogan, "The Brookfield Rye Men," an allusion to its best-selling brand. The Bielers frequently packaged their liquors in attractive ceramic products and this mini is evidence of their taste in containers. The firm went out of business with the coming of Prohibition.

**ISAAC WEIL & SONS.** This



Minneapolis distiller also had an eye for putting his distilled products in interesting and attractive containers, often ceramic. Weil each year would make a trip to Europe during which he would visit ceramic manufacturers and order from them designs for "nips" and other give-aways to be given to favored customers at holiday times. This jug, which is virtually identical in size, shape and glaze to Brookfield Rye, may well have been such a give-away, but my belief is that it probably came from an American pottery, though I have yet to identify its origins exactly.

Isaac Weil first opened a saloon on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis in 1881. By 1887 he had expanded into a whiskey distribution business as Isaac Weil & Co. As the business prospered, he moved to larger quarters on South 6th Street. Weil was known as a man who liked to keep his customers happy. His slogan was "Everything Drinkable," which shows up on some of his give-aways. With his business growing annually, in 1905 Isaac brought his five sons into the business, all of whom were still living at home. It remained a highly profitable, well regarded firm until the "train wreck" called the Volstead Act in 1918.



**FATHER MARQUETTE** was a rye whiskey that celebrated the famous Jesuit priest and explorer of the Middle West, who also gave his name to Marquette University in Milwaukee. This mini is distinguished by featuring a long slender neck and a pouring spout, similar to a decanter.

Father Marquette was one of several brands from the F. P. Gluck Co. of Cincinnati. Perhaps fearing that "Gluck" was not a good merchandising name, the firm opted for the Scots-sounding "Barclay" as its primary brand name and sold straight and blended American whiskey, scotch and gin under that label.

The Gluck firm appears to have had a relatively short life span. It first appears in Cincinnati city directories in 1905, listed simply as a whiskey wholesaler located at 11 East Pearl Street. By 1911 apparently had added a distilling capacity and had moved to 101 E. Pearl. But only three years later, about the time of America's entry into World War I, the F. P. Gluck Co. disappears totally from view.

Behind each of these whiskey mini-jugs is a business history which reminds us that in collecting them we are keeping alive a bit -- perhaps even a precious bit -- of Americana.

--J.S.--

# HENNESSY



Earlier this year Hennessy issued two new bottles, a boxed Bras Arme (to be shown another time) and this exquisite Extra.

Normally this one might first appear in duty free shops; however, this is for sale in selected outlets in France and then brought into Hong Kong by Man's Chan at the Hong Kong Miniature Collection.

The picture doesn't do it justice but you can easily tell from the shape and size that this one is quite special. Since the cognac it contains is even better than the superb X.O., this is one which goes "to the head of the class".





## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by  
BUTCH JONES



Four super foreign whiskies are featured this time. The first is Age-wood from Panama. This clear round bottle contains finest bourbon whiskey, 6 years old. The label is a bright red with wood grain running lengthwise. I also have this one in a clear flask.

Number two is also from Panama. This is a Kentucky Cream Whisky. The label is yellow with a woman standing next to a cow. What's interesting about this is that there is

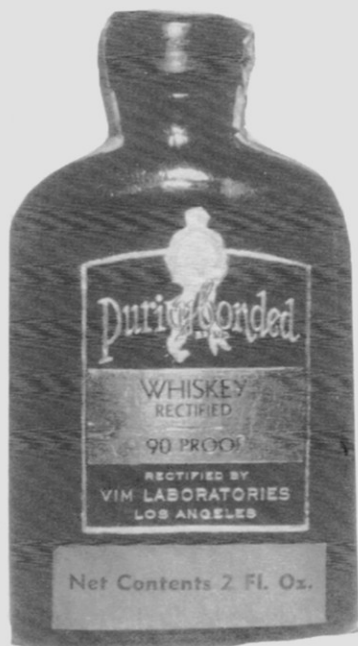
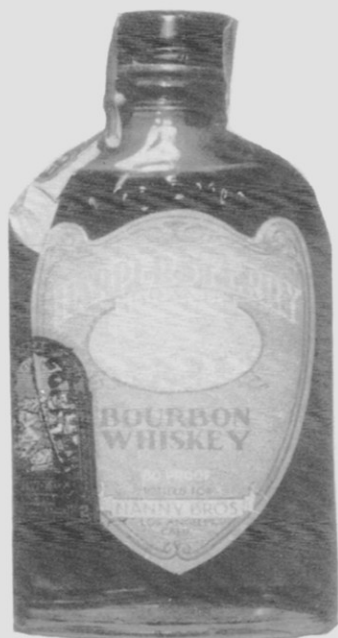
a straw hat on top with bongo drums attached...and they've survived since the 1930's.

The next two are both from Mexico. The Mellwood contains Straight Bourbon at 86 proof. This is the smaller size. I also have this one in a larger size (about 1/8 pt). The last bottle is a VAT 100 V.O. Bourbon. This whisky is 100 proof.

Hope you enjoy these foreign whiskies as much as I do. Until next time....  
--B.J.--

# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article we'll take a look at some of the less well known California whiskeys. I have noticed that even the rarer California bottles can be found in different variations. Swell. Also, California bottlers produced very few Rye Whiskeys.

Anyway, we'll lead off with a bottle which has been shown previously in an article by Fred Hawley. This is the Harpers Ferry Bourbon Whiskey Bottled for Nanny Bros. Los Angeles. It is 80 proof, one year old, has a yellow label printed in light brown and gray and was purchased March 26, 1937.

Bottle number two is Purity Bonded Whiskey Rectified by Vim Laboratories Los Angeles. It is 90 proof, has a gold foil label printed

in black and was rectified February 1934.

The remaining two are both ship decanter type bottles. The Whiskey A Blend comes from Dwarf Liquor Distr. San Francisco. It is 90 proof, has a gold foil label, was drawn from tax paid containers and is from Dec. 1933. The J R B was Rectified by Edward J. Goldie Imp. Co. S. F. Cal. It is 90 proof and was Mfg. Feb. 1934. Both of these brands can be found in standard type bottles with completely different labels.

Finally, the hated California decal state tax stamps do not appear until the later 1930's. At least they could not ruin the labels on the earlier bottles.

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



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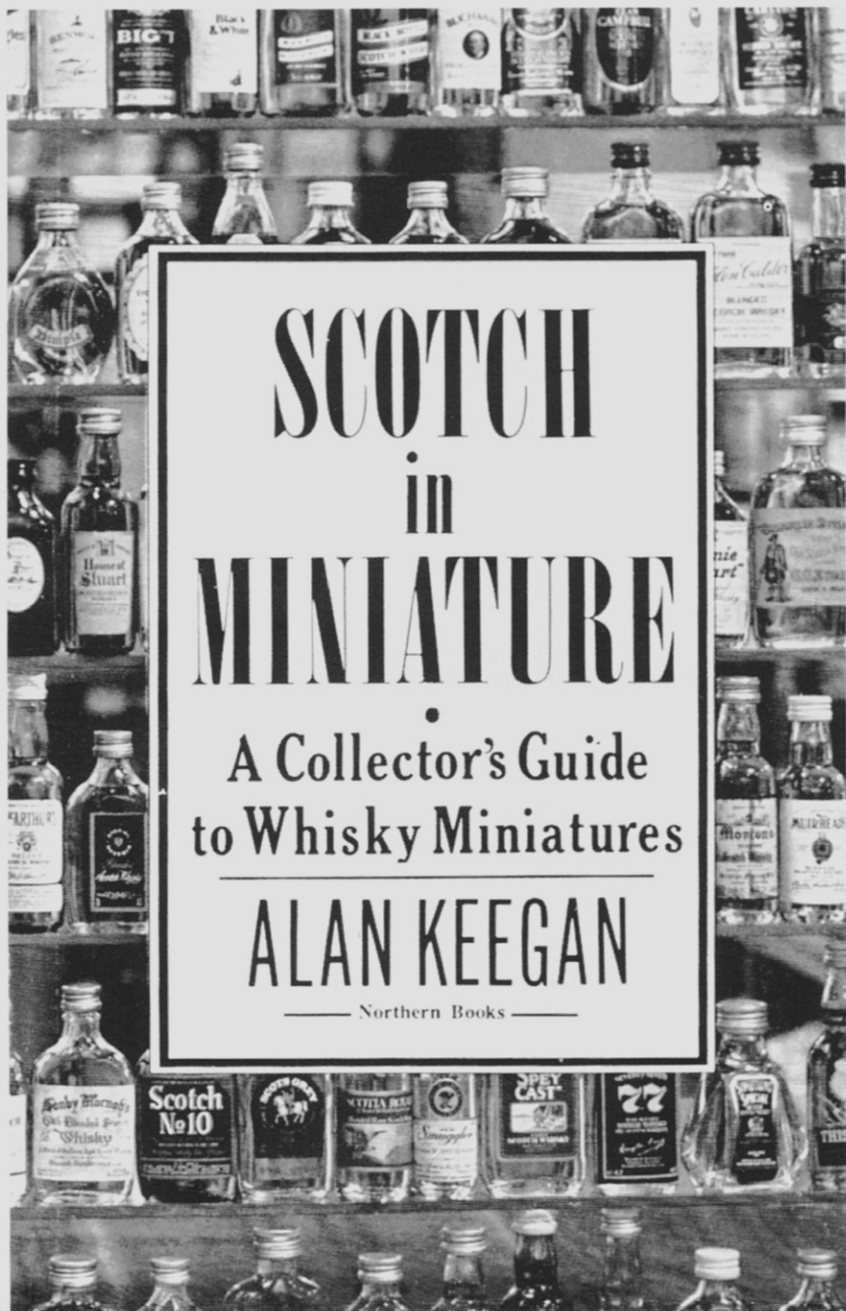
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