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No. 157 2000

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Let's Talk

Naturally I have to begin by mentioning that this is the start of our 27th year. If nothing else, we do have longevity! Of course we think we have a great deal more than that.

One aspect of bottle collecting we have always tried to foster is the bottle club. No club has ever paid for any advertising in the magazine. And, we do try to let you know what's happening. With that in mind, you'll be delighted to learn that the Northwest Miniature Bottle Club of Washington and Oregon is now producing a bulletin. Certainly you'll want to find out more so we direct you their address in The Club Directory. Memberships are what[®] keep all clubs going.

Next we want to once again emphasize the importance of the internet to collecting. We have picked up a great many of subscribers among whom are undoubtedly those who never knew that "anyone else collected those tiny bottles". As we think about the twenty-first century, it is important to realize that what were the utilities of yesterday and now things we take for granted and the utilities of tomorrow are just beginning to form with the new technologies. So be a part of it and get with it on-line. Remember you can find us at

www.bottlecollecting.com

and if you'd like to e-mail me at the magazine, it's

david@spaid.org

This year will definitely see some changes on our web site and we hope to get many more of you involved. Let's work on it!

Until next time...keep thinking small.

— DMS —

THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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Our Cover

The two ceramics on the cover this time are two variations of a piece made by Spode in England. Both were produced for James Hawker & Co. Ltd., Wine Merchants of Plymouth, England. As you note, the piece on the left contains Hawker's Sloe Gin while the one on the right contains Mayflower Sherry, an Amontillado. This latter bottle was issued to commemorate the sailing of Mayflower II in 1957. It is not known which is the older of the two.

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Above is our new Hamm's Bear Christmas Cookie Jar. Measuring approximately 15" tall, this Bill Stein designed piece is both extremely colorful and beautifully detailed. We can only say that the picture surely doesn't do it justice. Only 500 numbered pieces have been produced. Price is \$160 postpaid.

We believe this will sell out as quickly as the Wade produced Ted, Jr. Salt & Peppers which were completely sold out within six weeks...with no advertising whatsoever. Also with the purchase of this cookie jar you will be placed on our "elite" list of customers who receive a special offer on each new item we produce.

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WHAT'S NEW



To begin the new year we have a good number of excellent new glass bottles for you. As usual, they come from here and far, hither and yon, and ???

Previously I showed you a very nice pair of molded glass figurals (bear and Christmas tree) from France. Now the company (Grande Collection de Mignonnettes of Jarnac, France) has issued a figural pumpkin complete with "carved" face. It contains pear liqueur and is only a 4cl so unfortunately it can't be sold in the U.S. The picture isn't the greatest, but you get the idea.

Also from France is the Remy Red from Remy Martin. This is being sold here and is available on both coasts. As you might guess, it's now a competitor of the well known Alize. Finally we have the Whisky Breton which is now found unfortunately only in France. Too bad.



Since all the rest of our bottles are also European, we will take them by country regardless of whether they are sold here in the U.S. So we'll venture northeast to England, Scotland and Ireland. From England we have the new Daresbury's Q for Quintessential Gin. This is one of those great ones you can hold up to see the figure through the bottle. It's available at least on the west coast.

From Scotland we have an old standby, The Glenlivet. This is a new one with the French Oak Finish. Haven't tried it yet...have to





find a second mini. This one should roll out across the U.S. It is now available in Scotland and the New York area.

Heading east we come to Holland for a new Lemon-flavored Boomsma Vodka and a sure-fire winner, Van Gogh. Boomsma is here on the east coast while Van Gogh will be available in a variety of markets this year. It's a superb "see-through" bottle. However, it has a companion piece in Vodka. Van Gogh is a gin while Vincent is a vodka. All I'll tell you is that it's the best of all the "see-through" types I've yet seen. Absolutely outstanding.

Now we move south to Italy and Spain. The Lemoncello is from the old firm of Toschi (well known to figural collectors) and is found in New York as well as Italy. It tastes wonderful! From Spain we have the Torres Brandy in a very nice fancy

bottle. This one is found throughout Europe but not in the U.S.

Finally, we come to a real surprise. This is the Prague Absinth from the Czech Republic. There's no wormwood in it so you won't go crazy but it is strong. Watch for another absinth here in the U.S. It's now here in big bottles and should be in a mini version soon.

All for now. See you next time.

--DMS--

A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Everyone has heard of the Ladies of Leadville, well here is one of the Ladies of Boozeville.

She isn't worried about the millennium because it's still about 90 years away.

She is in multicolor with purple grapes and yellow grapefruit which are quit prominent. In fact, they may be the two most prominent things about her.

With **HELP YOURSELF** printed on the base and measuring in a 5

1/2 inches, she's quite a find. On the back is printed **COMPLIMENTS OF AIROLA & CALLERO 501 BAY ST, SAN FRANCISCO.**

I would like to nominate this bottle for the Giveaway bottle of the century!

I also have a strong feeling that I know this girl from somewhere. I'm thinking of seeing a hypnotist for past life regression treatment.

--L.M.--

SCOTCH

David Maund



The Christmas season was a good one for all of us who are scotch collectors. A good many new bottles were issued and some of them I'll show you now.

Let's begin with the James MacArthur Millennium 2000. This is a 10 year old Single Malt and one of several millennium malt minis issued. Hopefully I'll be able to get the others to show you soon.

Loch Katrine is another nice new malt even though it's a specialty

item produced for collectors. Those of you with literary backgrounds will no doubt remember Sir Walter Scott's Katrine.

The third bottle here is a 1989 Scapa which comes to us in a tin tube from Signatory. There are a good number of Signatory bottlings recently and all are quite interesting.

One I'm particularly fone of in this new group is the Calchou



Orkney Malt. This is a splendid squat pinched bottle with a very nice label. It's a good counterpoint to all the straight round bottles such as our first three.

Another interesting shape is found in the two Balblair bottles. These are Elements and the 16 year old Single Malt. Except for the center portion of the label, the bottles are identical.

Now we come to the most well known of our brands this time. We

have both Glenmorangie and Glenfiddich. The Glenmorangie bottles are new labels for the Wood Finish series which have been sold here and in the U.S. It isn't known if this set will leave the UK or not. Mine came from the well known Fortnum & Mason on Piccadilly in London. If we're indeed fortunate, possibly Glenmorangie will even do a Claret label mini for us!

For those of you who are enamored of all the Glenfiddich

bottles, these two are must haves for your collection. The 15 year old is notable because it is the Solera Reserve. However, the 18 year old is even more notable because it's simply a fantastic malt. As you can see, both come in tubes and are surely a welcome addition to your Glenfiddich section.

See you next time with more excellent blends and malts.

--D.L.M.--



TREASURES OF THE PAST

by BUTCH JONES



Four great whiskies are shown this time. All of these miniatures have three things in common. They are all clear flasks, all filled with Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey and all have the word "Kentucky" as the first word of their name.

The first miniature is Kentucky Wedding. This KSBW is four years old and was distilled and bottled by John A. Wathen Distillery Company Incorporated Lebanon-Marian County Kentucky. The second is Kentucky Pride. The Calvert Distilling Co. of Louisville,

Kentucky bottled this 90 proof KSBW.

Next is Kentucky Capitol. The black and gold foil label doesn't photograph very well. This KSBW is three years old, 90 proof and was produced by the Paramount Distilling Corp., Chicago, IL. The last miniature is the newest one in the picture. This is Kentucky Life, a four year old, 86 proof KSBW. The Standard Distillers Products Inc. of Baltimore, MD produced this KSBW.

'Til next time. --B.J.--

FERDINAND WESTHEIMER A WHISKEY FAMILY

By **ROBERT E. SNYDER**

Ferdinand Westheimer was born in 1825 and died 1913, age 88. Ferdinand and his brother Samuel started business in the late 1850's as a general store in St. Joseph, Missouri. They outfitted riders in the Pony Express in 1860-61 as well as the settlers heading West.

They split into two different companies in 1870.

Samuel had one son Ben and seven daughters. Ferdinand had eight sons and one daughter, who died at age 2. The sons were Eugene (1861-1957), Morris (1863-1927), Leo (1868-1956), Henry (1870-1960), Milton (1872-1956), Sidney (1874-1952), David (1877-1969) and Irvin (1879-).

Business was brisk, but trying to keep eight sons busy and making a living from one business was too much. In 1898, Ferdinand told the boys they had to leave St. Joe and go in business elsewhere. He sent Henry and Milton to Baltimore to open a branch. Later, the old firm of Cahn-Belt Co. with its famous "Maryland Club" was

purchased. Morris and Leo went to Cincinnati and opened a branch for their dad. Sidney was sent to Louisville, Ky., in September 1899 after Ferdinand bought the "Old Times Distillery" for \$50,000.00 and renaming it "Number One".

By 1913, Morris and Sidney purchased the famous "Tea Kettle Distillery" from H. M. Levy at Milton, Ky., using "Old G.W.H.", "Richwood", "Susquehanna", "Pilgrimage", and "Crab Orchard" brands.

In 1892, Ferdinand had whiskey stored at the "Sour Mash Distillery" at Owensboro, Ky., and the "Boone County Distillery" at Petersburg, Ky., owned by Freiberg-Workum.

Ferdinand's brands were "Pathfinder", "Planet", "Pennland", "Triplets", "Number One", "White House Club", and "Elevation Rye". Ferdinand was on the advisory board of the Wine and Spirit Association in 1897. Morris served several terms as Chairman of the National Wholesale Liquor Dealer

Association. Henry and Ferdinand were also on the Board of Control.

None of the boys got back in the whiskey business after Prohibition. Morris founded the prestigious firm of "Title Guarantee and Trust" before his death in 1927.

Ferdinand died in 1913 and the business was closed in St. Joe in 1915 as Prohibition was fast approaching. The other branches stayed open until 1920.

Irvin, born in 1879, had two sons (Charles, born 1912 and Robert, 1916). Irvin never got into the whiskey business. He opened his own brokerage office in 1916 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Two brothers opened branches in Baltimore.

One day Irvin was sitting in his office, looking out the window, and saw a scruffy-looking kid going through the trash barrel for something to eat. That day was July 4, 1903. He took the boy, one

of nine children, fed him, and became his mentor. This hungry child inspired Irvin to become the found of "Big Brothers". Irvin spent the rest of his life and his finances supporting Big Brothers (and now also Big Sisters).

It's ironic that his whole family was making and selling whiskey in four cities and Irvin was trying to solve the ills that whiskey brings to some families.

The last letter I got from Irvin, at age 100, was dated November 6, 1980. He stated his foremost concern was finding enough volunteers to mentor all the needy boys and girls.

Won't you look out your window and find a needy child and become a Big Brother or Big Sister?

—Robert E. Snyder—
Author of **Whiskey Paper** (1980).

THE "BIG BROTHERS" IDEA GAINS FAVOR



MONKEYING AROUND



Well, it seemed like a good title at the time! Of course, for you **PLANET OF THE APES** fans the resemblance between one of these characters and Cornelius is moot at best.

Enough silliness. These three miniature figural decanter bottles are from a full generation ago and this may be the first time they've seen the light of day. Produced

SAMPLES



slightly after the mid-1970's, these three were made by Goto of Japan who produced bottles for McCormick, Lionstone, and Ski Country among others.

In all probability these were to be part of an African wild animal set as other animals were also produced and you'll see those in future issues.



FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



This time I would like to present to you some Japanese spirit miniatures, Shochu and Awamori.

Shochu is a peculiar spirit from Japan and is distilled from the strained lees of Sake by a pot still. In a limited local area, Kagoshima, Kyushu, there was a spirit distilled from a sweet potato with added koji. At a later time the material

diversified and rice, barley, buckwheat, etc. were used. This was called OTSU-RUI in the local tax system.

There are four Otsu-Rui Shochu. The Taikoban, a black square bottle, is from rice. Kannocho, a clear dumpy bottle, is from barley and black sesame. Two Shiranami, a white frosted oval and a black



frosted, are from sweet potato. Shochu.

In 1910 there appeared the patent still in Japan and the spirits distilled by patent still were approved as the New Shochu. This is KO-RUI.

I have shown four Ko-Rui Shochu where were launched from Takara Shuzo Co. Ltd. (the owner



DAMBLAT



As promised in issue #155, here is the other recent bottle issued by Damblat in France. Naturally it contains their excellent armagnac and as you can see, the bottle is a very good representation of the Eiffel Tower or Tour Eiffel. There are any number of molded glass

Eiffel Tower bottles which may be found in Paris. Some are smaller and some have a completely different type of closure; however, most collectors who have seen enough to compare will pick this one by Damblat.

VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN



Last time you saw three of my "finds" on the cover. This time I want to introduce you five other interesting ones from my collection. So that no one gets to be disturbed trying to find these, one of them is available here in the U.S. Well, actually two...

If you've become excited at some of the extremely well done pieces issued recently such as Grey Goose,

Belvedere, and Mezzaluna, then you're bound to be delighted with our first bottle from the Ukraine. In English we'd say Hetman just the way it looks; however, the Cyrillic is quite different. In any case you'll find a picture of the old man when you hold the bottle up to the light.

The second bottle is sold here in the U.S. but with quite a different



label. This is the Russian version of Smirnoff as it is now being produced there once again after all these decades.

Slava is another Ukrainian bottle and I like it because of the label. That's quite a family(?) crest; don't you agree. Hanacka is from the Czech Republic and has quite a striking label which this picture doesn't really show.

Our last bottle is the import from Holland, Cardinal. You might think this is a black glass bottle, but it isn't. However, the shape of the bottle itself makes it quite attractive.

I'll be back later this year with more of my vodkas. —J.S.—

MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



I remember in the distant past of another century when older whiskeys were available for purchase. It was always fun to add new brands to my collection, but I also tried to acquire label and/or bottle variations. Anyway, the good old days are gone so let's return to another group of Centuries.

The first pair are Century Bonded Straight Bourbon Whiskey. They are BIB 1936-1941 and 1935-1940. Next is Old Toddy Straight Rye Whiskey in clear glass. I have

never seen any of these three in the amber glass variation.

The Stone Haven Straight Bourbon comes in both variations as does the Northmoor Straight Bourbon. The Northmoor is probably the most common of the Century brands and I have more variations than shown.

We close with a pair of Dixie Dew Bourbon Whiskeys. Next time we'll look at some nice Century Ryes, plus two fairly rare Bourbons.

Until then, . . . MELO. . . .



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