

THE
MINIATURE
BOTTLE
COLLECTOR

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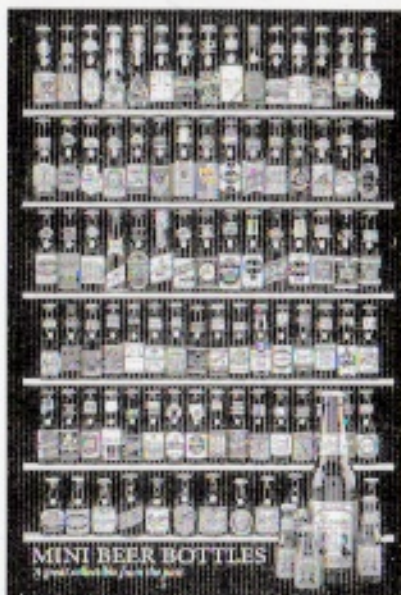
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Let's Talk

Hey, summer is here so I'll do my yearly pitch. When you're out there on vacation and just happen to be looking for bottles, let others know of your finds. And by all means get the names and addresses of the stores. I've found lots of bottles because I'd ask friends if they knew of any stores in such-an-such city or state. It pays off.

Now, the last issue. Due to some problems with a person who used to work for our printer, the magazine got pretty well screwed up last time. Fortunately our printer, Gary Anderson, more than understood and the magazine was reprinted. If you received an issue with pages out of order and did not receive a replacement, let us know and a new one will be on its way to you.

We've got some new writers for you this time. Ivan Uhlik lives in Germany and is active in European clubs and also writes a good many articles for club newsletters. Giuseppe Savoca is from Sicily and is active in the Italian Club. From his article he obviously has some great old bottles.

Next time we'll have John Sullivan back with some new bottles he found in Russia and Ukraine. Holm Hars will also return as will Jaroslav Kuba with more of the Czech jugs/flagons. And, of course, our regulars will be here.

Now a last minute plea. If anyone finds the Vincent Vodka mini, please let us know. This is one every straight glass collector will have to have...and we want to show it to you.

See you in August. Keep

— DMS —

THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAIN

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Our Cover

This is the last of the Lionstone sample bottles we have to show you. If you have the version which was issued, you will easily be able to tell the differences. Sample bottles represent quite an interesting aspect of collecting. It doesn't seem to matter whether it's a straight glass bottle or a ceramic, some sample bottles make it into collections and give you an extra something to talk about!

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Take another look. This is not the cookie jar we've been advertising these past two issues. All five hundred of those have been sold out...and if you'll check the Internet, you'll note that the price is going up! Okay, so what is this, you ask. Why it's the matching salt and pepper. As you might guess, the head is one piece while the body is the other.

1200 sets of these were produced and they've already proved as popular as the bear in the canoe and the bear in the teepee. You can secure your set by sending \$49.95 ppd to our address below. Now how many chances do you get to buy a Christmas gift this early in the year!

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WHAT'S NEW



It surely is a mixed bag for you this time. There are bottles from all over. So we'll begin with the ridiculous and hopefully work our way to something sublime.

The ridiculous to me is represented by the three Tootlers. Found in Gatlinburg, TN, these adorable (he said with tongue firmly in cheek) plastic creations are Kamika (a blend of vodka and curacao), Melon Ball (a melon liqueur which won't have the Midori company quaking in its boots), and Purple Tooter (a blackraspberry liqueur). Need more be said.

Now if it 's vodka you're craving, there are eight for you to consider. The set of five Zone bottles comes originally from Italy but was found in So. California. You'll note everyone and his brother seems to be producing flavored vodkas today. Zone has banana, lemon, melon, peach, and tangerine. Nice frosted glass bottles though.

Our other three vodkas are the Ketel One Citron (lemon) which is available in almost all major markets, Skyy Citrus in a plastic bottle and the ever so chic Blavod in its plastic incarnation. (Maybe they



thought the airlines would buy since it changed to plastic.)

Continuing with our plastic orgy is the Canadian Mist which is simply a new label variation and Admiral Nelson's

Spiced Rum which has a very nice label indeed. This last one is found in TN and FL.

Okay, we're heading toward sublime. The prize this issue is the Courvoisier Millennium



Cognac, an exact replica of the larger bottle. This is on the east and west coasts but doesn't seem to be too many places in between. Nice bottle with an interesting label.

Our last two are the Wild Turkey Rare Breed which sports a new and (I'd definitely say) improved label. Soon it will be available just about everywhere. But we end on delightful note...even if you

can't read the label of the bottle. (Yes, we know red photographs as black.) This is Hamashkeh Blended Kosher Scotch. It's been around for some time since this is a new label variation. I believe this year it was brought out on the east coast for Passover. Hey, interesting name on a glass bottle...only praise, no complaints! --DMS--

SEA CAPTAINS, ADMIRALS, Etc.

by TONY NATELLI



Scores of miniatures, many of them containing rum, feature "Men of the Sea" on their labels and make up a substantial part of many collections.

Three from Great Britain: **Admiral's**, **Old Mo**, and **Skipper** (all rums) are excellent examples of this

genre. The first two are old corks and will be harder to come by than our third bottle. None were sold in the U.S.A.

Admiral Nelson, a famous historical "sea man" can be seen on at least three entirely different types of minis: **Beltran Gin** (Spain), **Admiral Nelson Rum** (Germany) and



Nelson's Scotch (Scotland).

All are very recent, sold in the 1980's and with the exception of the scotch, might still be available. The Beltran label titled **Lord Nelson** is pictured here on a mini crock. Again, none of these were sold in the United States.

--T. N.--

SCOTCH

David Maund



I'm back with a dozen new ones for you. And I'm also happy to say that none of them are plastic!

To begin let's look at six bottles from The Whiskey Connoisseur of Biggar, Scotland. I've shown you many of their bottles previously and these fit in with their usual scheme of things. Three are commemoratives: the dragon, lion and "U Sent Us Convicts" were all made to commemorate special events. The last of the three pertains to a match won by an Australian team. It is the

second group of three that I find much more interesting. These three are part of a much larger set which depict famous pub signs. My favorite, of course, is the Sherlock Holmes one.

I have two more commemorative bottles for you and both of these celebrate the millennium. The 12 year old Walkers is from those people who make the marvelous shortbread while the other piece was produced exclusively for the Whisky Castle in Tomintoul. I still have at least



one more of these millennium bottlings to show you and I shall do so soon.

The Formidable Jock of Bennachie is one of a pair of bottles both of which feature this fine specimen of shaggy Highland cattle. The Bennachie bottle itself I've shown in a previous issue.





My next bottle is Scalloway and if memory serves, this one is done only as an export from the U.K. I must have picked it up at one of our MBC meetings.

At last we come to two very nice bottlings, the new Dalwhinnie 15 and the Glenfarclas Heritage. Again both of these were done for a foreign market which I believe was either Holland or Germany. Both of these countries have very enthusiastic collectors.

Well, see you next time with more from the Highlands...and even the Lowlands! --DLM--



A Visit To Boozeville

by Lloyd McLeod



Very few of the homes in Boozeville have indoor plumbing.

The kid shown on this bottle must have rich parents. They can afford a tub with shower; most people just have a large round tin washtub. The nice thing about that was you could move it right next to the old wood stove and stay warm.

This little giveaway bottle is four inches all including the cap. It is all blue. The child is trying to pull the cat into the tub saying, "Come into the bathrub, Maud".

Nowadays we go into the house to use the bathroom and go out into the back yard to cook. --L.M.--



TREASURES OF THE PAST

by
BUTCH JONES



Four great figurals are featured this time from a company that didn't make a significant number of bottles. However, what they did produce are quality bottles and a great addition to any

collection. The company is Delatour

In the first picture you see a ceramic Scottie Dog. The dog is black and is filled with Magic Punch. Next to it is one which I find extremely unusual. I have



never seen a pink Penguin before, have you? The bottle does have gold trim and lettering and is filled with a Pineapple Liqueur.

The second picture shows a deer which is a little taller than most miniatures. This blue piece is about the size of the deer by Rynbende. This bottle also has gold trim and lettering. It is filled with F and B Liqueur. The last one is a blue squirrel which again has

gold trim and lettering. The bottle contains Strawberry Liqueur.

Victor Nelson (nec Ramirez) of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, created many of the liqueurs used in the bottles. His Delatour brand was very successful until his death approximately twenty years ago.

Hope you enjoyed these rarely seen Delatours. 'Til next time. -BJ.-

BLOSSOM IN GLASS

By IVAN UHLIK



Every four years there is a big garden show in Germany entitled B U G A (Bundesgartenausstellung...in English... Federal Garden Show). Last year the BUGA '99 took place in Magdeburg. Now some readers will surely think what has this to do with miniature bottle collecting. But in this East German town there is also a traditional distillery, Abtshof GmbH which bottles some of its products in miniatures. This distillery created a set of very original liqueurs for sale at the BUGA show.

These are based on infusions of various kinds of blossoms and each has 17% alcohol contents by volume. There are five brands with the titles Erika, Kamille, Lavendel, Löwenzahn and Veilchen. All five brands are available in miniatures, originally shaped flat clear glass bottles with a capacity of 0,02 litres, stopped with golden metallic screw tops.

All the bottles have the same main and back labels. The main labels show a real picture of a blossom with the brand



title in white letters at the bottom. On the back labels is the firm's logo in red at the top, below the text Blütenlikör (blossom liqueur), the name of the distillery, the Grüner Punkt sign (German recycling symbol), the information about the alcohol contents and the bottle size as well as the logo of the BUGA '99.

Colours of the single liqueurs and the main label backgrounds are blue (Lavendel - lavender), green (Kamille - camomile), pink (Erika - erica), purple

(Veilchen - violet) and the last one which is yellow (Löwenzahn - dandelion).

The whole series was sold in a display box decorated with blossoms. The cardboard gift box also contained two tasting glasses with the firm's logo on them.

Unfortunately this set is very difficult to obtain today as the firm has been successful in selling out nearly its whole production in its stands during the BUGA '99. A small quantity is available directly from the distillery.

...from ITALY

by Giuseppe Savoia



To begin I would like to show you some of my bottles from Italy. The first two are Amaro Averna and Anice Averna. Averna is a Sicilian distillery which produces very nice spirits. The two miniatures shown are about fifty

years old. On top of the bottles are the sigillo stella (the little silver seal). The value of the amaro (bitter liqueur 32%) is about 160,000 lire (US \$70+) while the anice is about 200,000 lire (US \$90+)

Next we have two from Cin-



zano, Amaro and Amaro Savoia. Cinzano is a national distillery established in Torino which is famous for its vermouth. These two miniatures are also about fifty years old. The spirits inside the bottles are the same, just change the name. The only difference is that one was issued about two years before the other. They also have the sigillo stella. The value of the pair is about 700,000 lire (US \$300+).

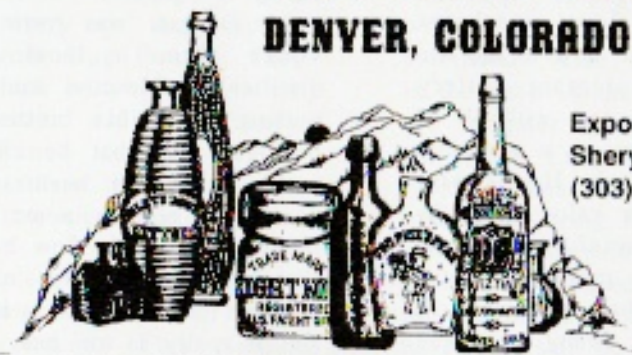
If you have bottles with the sigillo you can date them. Before this one was the sigillo monarchia which was from about 1935-1940.

I hope you enjoy my bottles.

--G.S.--

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VODKA

by JOHN SULLIVAN

I am very sorry to have to report the demise of one of the finest producers of miniature vodka bottles that I have seen. This is the Dovgan distillery in Moscow. Mr. Dovgan was a real self promoter. He put his picture on his labels. He was also a very clever marketer who understood how to sell his vodka. A hologram lottery ticket was included with all of his large bottles as a gimmick to sell the brand. He likewise understood the value of packaging and therefore created some of the most beautiful bottles and labels yet seen on vodka bottles. Many of these were made in miniature.

The set of three 100 ml bottles featuring a winter

scene, an autumn scene and a Czar Nicolas scene are among the most excellent miniature bottles that I have ever seen. They were recently pictured on the cover of the magazine, so many of you may recall them easily.

Mr. Dovgan was buying his vodka from a local vodka distiller in Moscow and then putting it in his bottles. His problem was that he couldn't build his export business fast enough to recover some of his investment. Cash flow became the problem and his supplier cut him off. The rest is history and it really is too bad. But if any of you have any Dovgan bottles in your collections, treasure them! --J.S.--

SHADY LADY



Yes, you're looking at the newest entry in the brothel series from Dug Picking. This series which is now well into its third decade adds the Shady Lady Ranch to its roster. However, there are some interesting little permutations this time.

The piece was made in Mexico and only 127 of them were produced. This ridiculously low number came about because of production problems. As you'll note, the

statement "A Legal Brothel" is written on instead of being embossed. What you can't see is the back of the piece where the transfer which pinpoints the Shady Lady Ranch Nevada location has been glued on instead of being fired onto the ceramic. Dug said "whoa" and production ceased. No matter the problems though, if you have the set, you'll definitely want to finish up with this very Shady Lady!

MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article I would like to feature Overbrook's Straight Rye Whiskey Bottled by The Overbrook Co. Inc. Baltimore, Md. This company also produced brands such as Washington Club Bourbon and Rye, Overbrook's Reserve Blended Whiskey, Southern Bar and Green Springs Blended Whiskey. All the Overbrook bottles in my collection are from the 1930's. These bottles are all attractive and may occasionally be found...with the possible exceptions of Green Springs and Southern Bar which are fairly rare.

Anyway, bottle number one is a private label which was bottled for Bushmill Products of Scranton, Pa. It is 90 proof and has a decal label. The next three bottles are embossed flats with red and black labels. They are 93 proof 2 1/2 years, 93 proof 3 years, and 90 proof 3 1/2 years old. The last two bottles are 86 proof 4 years and 90 proof 4 1/2 years old.

Finally, it seems that I will have to travel to Norway in the future to see my friends' collections. Until next time....

-MELO-



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LANDY



The Landy Cognac name is one which many of you will easily remember from the marvelous glass bottles with the blown glass zodiac figures and also the similar bottles with different ships inside them. Those were done some years ago.

Now Landy has issued two more fancy bottles, the first of which you're seeing here and one which has been actually available for almost two years.

I first saw this bottle in the famous Kawata shop in Ueno/Tokyo in late 1998. I was told it had been available that summer in the duty free shop at the Singapore airport.

Currently it may be found through the Hong Kong Miniature Liquor Collection (see ad elsewhere). The bottle is noteworthy because it has been plated with 24k gold! It surely will look stunning up there on your shelf! --DMS--

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NOTE: Collector seeks Rynbende Distilleries miniature delft blue Dutch farmhouses either empty or filled with Cherry Brandy to complete my collection. Missing #2 and #6. If you have any to sell please e-mail me at Michelle@Dazzling.Freeserve.co.uk or write to me with details: M. Smith, 14 Milton Park Road, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 8DY, England

WANTED: Still looking for Garnier blown glass, Anglo Swiss Clown, Gagliano Pagoda, Hine Stags and other newer duty free Larsen & Camus bottles like globes, Luxardo Clown, Pear; Manhattan fruits, Pinocchio bottles, cart, blown glass, novelty bottles, baseball; Papillons, Drambuie Castle/Books, Robj bottles, Jataca; Rynbende Ballerina, bulldog, pink elephant, some houses; Southern Sales, Elvises, Lionstone Shootout at the O.K. Corral, Monarch Loch Ness Monster on Water; James Bond 007, etc. Have traders/sales list. Contact: Robert Waldman, 1102-1835 Morton Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6G 1V3. fax (604) 687-2491 or tel (604) 228-8989.

FOR SALE: Cognac collection 2400+, whole collection or in part, also some quality whiskies available. Contact Ed Neugass, 6601 E. Jupiter Hills Circle, Apt. E, Alexandria, VA 22312 or call (703) 256-4450.

NOTICE: If you collect mini beers and we haven't communicated, you don't know about my duplicates list. Write to John Weatherhead, 10630 Haynes Forest Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 or call (678) 393-8501.

WANTED: Still looking for those bottles with natives, sea captains, Napoleons, etc. Let me hear from you. Tony Natelli, 3848 Coral Tree Circle #A14, Coconut Creek, FL 33073 or call (954) 972-2108 or fax (954) 972-1596.

WANTED: (TRADE OR BUY): I am looking for any type of miniature liquor bottles made or bottled in the Azores or Zambia. I will pay top dollar, or trade multiple minis for any mini bottles from either of these two countries. I have over 120 countries available for trade. Contact Jim Crawford at (513) 467-9113 or e-mail me at shooter@fuse.net.

WANTED: Every kind of Italian spirits which were produced in Italy for export. Write to Savoca Giuseppe C/o Hotel d'Orange d'Alcantara Via Dei Mulini, 16 98034 Francavilla di Sicilia, ME Sicily or fax 39 942 981 704 or e-mail me at orange@mail.pandorasicilia.it

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