# VOL. XXVII No. 5 No. 161 POLITICA BOTTLE COLUMN COLOR VOL. XXVII No. 5 2000 COLOR COLO



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### Let's Talk

Welcome to Fall. The seasons surely do change quickly enough these days. But it's okay by me as I'm not a summer person. Anyway, enough of this idle chit chat.

First. I must fix an error. Issue number 158 showed the Dewars and Teachers jugs/flagons on the cover. It was stated that only six sets had been produced. Well, it ain't so. Exactly twenty of the Dewards and twelve of the Teacher's were made. Still makes them quite nice rarities though.

Promised you the Grey Goose Orange this time and it's not here. In fact, several bottles were to have been in "What's New" got lost. Not the bottles, just the pictures so you'll seathern possibly next time. To tease you, two of the best glass bottles of the year will be available by December and you'll see them here.

For those who like to sample what's in the nips but hate to open the bottles, here's some info which was cut due to space in John Sullivan's article. The Sotol bottles he writes about are available in large size in Nevada. You tequila lovers should be intrigued by that.

Now since we begin the time of year when there are a good many holidays, have you ever thought about decorating with your bottles. Not too many Halloween bottles to grace a display, but surely there are many which are quite apt for Thanksgiving. The local Lilliputian Club usually has a theme at many of their meetings and lots of interesting bottles do appear.

That's all for now. Keep thinking small.

-DMS-

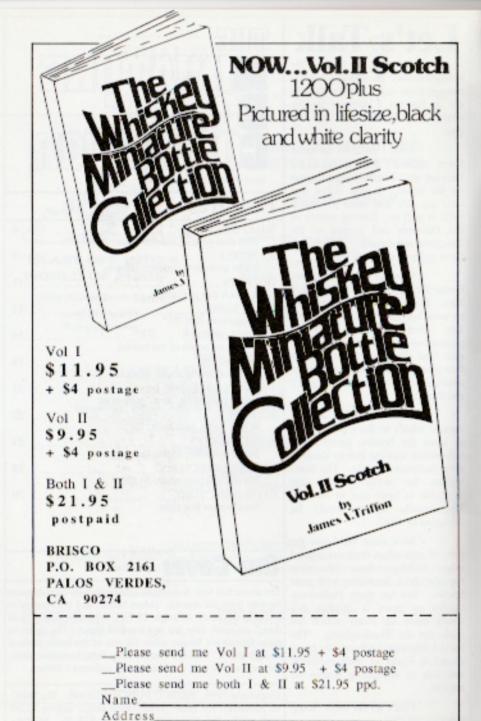
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### **Our Cover**

The cover this time features to extremely well done ceramic figurals from the Azores. (More bottles and information is found in the article on pages 18-20.) When the words "well done" are used, they are just bandied about. The faces on these figures are bisque while the rest of the bottle is done in high glaze. Possibly representing local historical dress, this pair will be well received on any collector's shelves.

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### WHAT'S NEW



What's new this time may not look too new to many of you. That's because the ones we're leading off with surely seem old. Well, they are. However, you must buy the whole set of three (J.D. and S.C. are both glass, not plastic) to get the prize in the center. If you are a bourbon collector, this FORESTER 1870 KSBW is one you'll definitely want.

Now...where to find it. Some collectors were fortunate and got the set at the Midwest Show in April. Otherwise you can always go to Scotland. Yes, that's where the set was marketed. To add to this little mystery, take a look at the spelling of whiskey on the Forester label. Hmmmm.

The next three were all found on the east coast. The new glass CINZANO BIANCO and the plastic kë kë (Key Lime Cream Liqueur) hail from New York while the plastic McCALL'S GIN is sold only in Maryland where McCall's is a very well known name.

The plastic OLD MILL RUM



was found in Reno, Nevada. It's from the Caribbean but was bottled in Oregon...not exactly a rum area.

The final bottle is the glass ALMENDRADO liqueur. It's produced from blue agave tequila and mixed with crushed almonds. Imported from Mexico, it's found here in Calfornia.

Next time some real goodies such as Vincent and Van Hoo Vodkas as well as many others. --DMS---



### RAINTREE



Remember the set of six porcelain Raintree Clowns which were issued almost a generation ago? They were commissioned and distributed by the late writer and collector, Al Halpern. Since Al was a circus buff also, each clown had to be absolutely "just so" and indeed they were.

Originally Al had wanted to do a second group of six, but that idea never came to complete fruition. However, recently three samples from that second grouping were unearthed. Again you'll note that same quality and craftsmanship as these samples were produced by Mark Goto in Japan.

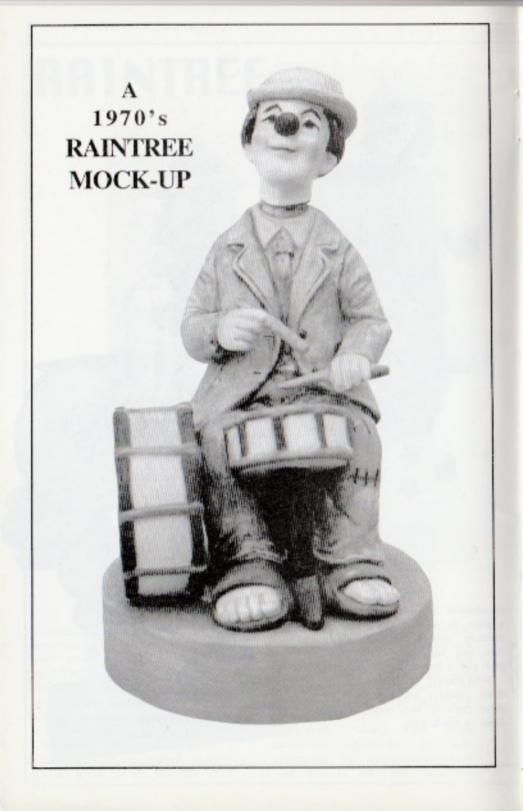
All three would have been excellent additions to our collections, but unfortunately that was not to be. Although the



trombonist is very clever, the prize winner is surely the clown and monkey with drum. Two views of this one have been included to give you a better idea of the bottle.

Who knows? Possibly the other three samples will turn up one of these days...if they were ever even done as mock ups.





### **OUZOUNIS**



When is a mini a mini? Or, how mini can a mini be? This is a set of eight miniatures in plastic from the M. Ouzounis Company in Greece. Each bottle is actually a miniature of a stightly larger 50ml mini. They all contain a small amount of

Ouzo. This set was a gift from friends who recently traveled to Greece. As the set itself proclaims, these are classic Greek souvenirs. Elegance is in the eye of the beholder.

## FRORN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



A

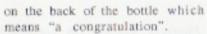
This time I would like to present to you some changes in SUNTORY OLD Whisky miniatures, as the Suntory Co. launched two types of OLD Whisky last September. One is a SUNTORY OLD MILD & SMOOTH (40%) and the other is SUNTORY OLD RICH & MELLOW.



B

(A) is the oldest one in my collection. The first issue of SUNTORY OLD miniature was in August 1961. It is unknown if (A) is the first one. As you see, it has a red capseal and there are 'Finest Old Liqueur' and 'Suntory Whisky', no 'Old' on the label. This has an embossed Japanese letter





(B) and (C) are 'Genuine Quality' and 'Very Rare Old Suntory Whisky'. A shoulder label of (C) connects with a main label and it means (C) is newer than (B). After this they have the embossed trademark on the back of the bottles, not a Japanese letter.

'Suntory Old' 'Special Quality' (D) appeared in 1979. (E) is a variation.

In 1987 there was a small change on the main label. Please see (F), a red 'S' and 'O' are larger than the other letters. The trademark of the main label is black, not brown.

Next there appeared the labels with the golden frame in 1988 (G). The class-system of



D



F







G

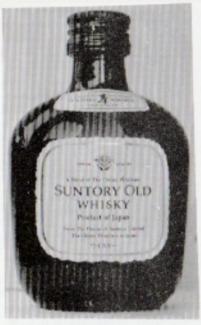


H

Japanese Liquor Tax classified at an alcohol volume was repealed in April 1989 and a Japanese word meaning a special-class disappeared from the bottom of the main label (H). In 1991 Suntory Co. changed its trademark (I), an embossed mark on the back of the bottle, too.

Suntory Co. launched a new Suntory Old called 'Mild and Smooth' at 40% alcohol in 1998 (J). (K) is a variation in 1999 and described 'Finest Old', not Special Quality. At the same time the usual 43% Old became 'Rich & Mellow (L) which was available in March 2000. There is nothing on the back of the bottle.

Until next time .... -T.S.-









### **CACTUS SPIRITS**

### by John Sullivan

I have always wanted to write an article about cactus spirits since I started collecting miniature tequilas many years ago. The reason that I didn't do it sooner is that the third part of the story had always been missing. On a recent trip to Chihuahua, Mexico, I finally resolved the missing part of the puzzle.

To begin with, the most famous cacus spirit and getting more popular every day is tequila. Tequila is a name given to the cactus spirit that is distilled from the agave cactus in Jalisco State in Mexico. Only the cactus spirit that is distilled in Jalisco State in Mexico may be called tequila. It is like scotch or cognac in the regard that the spirit can only be called its name if it distilled in a certain region, state, or country. The capital of Jalisco State is Guadalajara. However, the center of the tequila distilleries is a small city called Jalisco in the State of Jalisco.

Tequila at its best is not an aged spirit. Even the best tequilas are quite young compared to other spirits like whiskey or cognac. Tequila is usually sold with an age identifying name on the label. The names that you usually see on the label are: joven, blanco, reposado and anejo. Joven is the youngest in terms of aged spirits and anego is the oldest.

If you are able to find a mini bottle of tequila that is distilled in other parts of the world, as I just did in Cyprus, you should grab it. This is because the Mexican government is cracking down on these distilleries and is letting them know they must cease and desist from making this spirit and calling it tequila. Remember, it is the name tequila and not the fact of how it is distilled or from what it is distilled that is unique. Now remember also that the tequila spirits can be exported to other countries and bottled in those countries and still legitimately be called tequila on the label.

The second cacus spirit you might be familiar with is called Mezcal. Mexcal is also made from the agave cactus and it is made in the same manner as tequila. The only different is that it is made only in the state of Oaxaca (pronounced Wha-ha-ca). So, again we see the same thing. Only cactus spirit that is distilled in Oaxaca State in Mexico may be called mezcal.

Now many of you may think that mezcal is just tequila with a worm in it. Actually, the worm has noting to do with the fact that it is called mezcal. There are many mexcals that do not have a worm in the bottle. So this cactus spirit does not have to have a worm in it to be called mezcal. Just the fact that it is distilled in Oaxaca State is the reason it is called mezcal. Since Oaxaca State is quite a bit farther south in Mexico than Jalisco State, the water and the agave cactus are a little bit different than the water and agave in Jalisco. This, as with scotch whisky, can account for some of the difference in taste of the mezcal and the tequila.

Now we come to the third part of the story. This is the part that was



eluding me for so long. This is the cactus spirit called SOTOL. For many years I had heard references to this drink called Sotol, but I could never find any of it. People said it was like tequila but just a little different. Also, some told me it was the "moonshine" of Mexico...never sold in a store but only from a friend to a friend. Then one day, I got a big break. Someone told me that Sotol came only from Chihuahua State.

When I asked my friends in Chihuahua about Sotol, they gave me ambiguous answers that only heightened my suspicions that this was really a "moonshine" product. Then one day recently, a friend of mine in Chihuahua told me that he had seen some miniatures of Sotol in a liquor store. Since I was going to Chihuahua for business in a few weeks, I got really excited.

When I got to Chihuahua, I asked my distributor to take me to this liquor store. Eureka! There they were! Two beautiful miniature bottles of Sotol. Both different. I immediately asked if thee were any large bottles of this spirit available and they pointed to the shelves where the big bottles were sitting. They said that the miniatures were new but that they had been selling the big bottles for many years.

I asked them about the spirit and they told me that Sotol is distilled from the high mountain agaves that grow in the mountains around Chihuahua State. Furthermore, thee was only one distillery called Hacienda Distillers that makes Sotol. I don't know if that is true or not, but Haclenda is the only name I saw on the bottles and I didn't see any other bottles of Sotol in the store in any size. Belive me, I was so happy find bottles of Sotol sold in the store that I didn't care if there was only one or ten.

So now the story is complete and you have read the article!

--J.S.--

### MINI WORLD







The dictionary defines the Azores as "a group of islands in the North Atlantic west of and belonging to Portugal." We can now further define them as islands which have produced some very nice miniature liquor bottles. As you've already noticed from the cover, quality does seem to be a definite criterion.

The bottles shown here are not the entire range, but they are all current. They come from three different companies which are Amaral (one bottle), Eduardo Ferreira (five bottles), and Ezequiel Moreira da Silva (six bottles).

We'll begin with the single bottle from Amaral & Filhos (sons). This is the Banana and the label shows the fruit basket. Next is the Ananas or Pineapple followed by the Banana, Amora (Blackberry),





berry). Again, highly colorful

labels. Liqueurs seem to be the

preference of the Azores.

TREASURES OF THE PAST

by
BUTCH JONES



Giveaways come in all different sizes, shapes and colors. As you can see in this picture, this giveaway is one of the multicolored, glossy ones from Germany. I have seen many diffeent drinkometer bottles, but has anyone ever seen a "Donkey Barometer" before?

This bottle is about 7 inches tall. The donkey is on a stand and is a gray color with a white blanket on its back. On the base of the bottle.

the following words are printed: Donkey-Barometer Go be put in the air.

As you can see, the donkey has a rope tail. Depending upon the condition of the tail as indicated by the instructions, you can determine the current weather. I thought this was comical and unusual when I found it in an antique shop in southern Ohio. Den't you?

'Til next time. -B.J.-

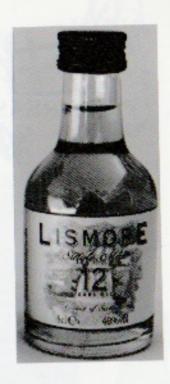
### SCOTCH

### **David Maund**



I don't know when you'll read this, but it's still summer for me. And since we take our summer whenever we can get it. I've been concentrating a bit more on the garden and a bit less on the bottles. So...I don't have too much for you this time. However, they are definitely worth a good long look.

The set of six is a commemorative grouping that I really like. The labels may not state that each contains a highly at d., difficult to find scotch; however, they are very nicely delineated drawings of six incidents or people from World War II. The pieces are surely self explanatory but it must be



mentloned that this is another very interesting set from the Whisky Connoisseur in Scotland.

It is also quite a limited set of, if memory serves, 250 sets.

The remaining two bottles are both unique in that I don't believe either has ever been sold in the UK. Pipers Clan is a blend which was produced for the island of Cyprus back in the 1980's (if my source is correct) while the 12 year old Lismore Malt is much newer and was made for Spain. The larger size 70cl Lismore is seen in many outlets, but this mini is one to hang on to.

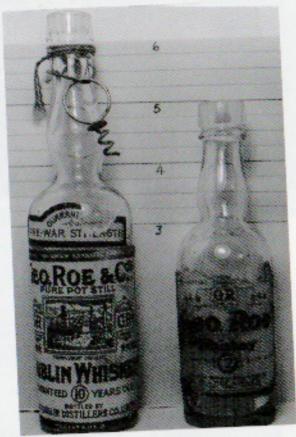
I promise more next time. The weather will have changed and I'll be back at the desk. —DLM—





### IRISH WHISKIES

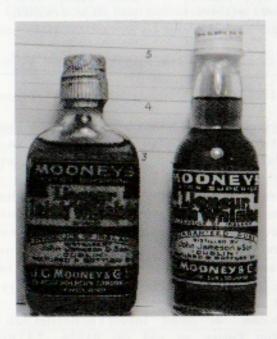
by TONY NATELLI and BILL ORR

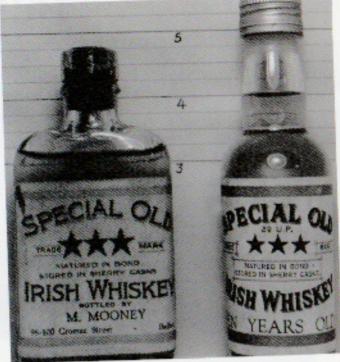


There are nine absolute knockouts pictured for you this time. Five different Geo. Roe's start us off. Photo number one shows two incredibly rare miniatures, dating back to pre-World War II. These two non-imports are a 10 year old and a 7 year old. The other three Roe are a 10 year old, a 15 year old and another 10 year old. These aren't exactly run of the mill, either. The first 10 year old, the only import featured this issue, turns up from time to time, but bottles two and three are virtually unknown.

The remaining four bottles are all from Mooney's. The first two







were distilled by John Jameson and Son and matured and bottled by J. G. Mooney & Co. - London, England. While M. Mooney produced our last two pieces, bottle number two contains 10 year old Irish Whiskey. All four of these Mooneys are very, very scarce.

-T.N. & B.O .-

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### HUSSINIAD A

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, 1.4 Milton Park Road, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 8DY, England #4.50.

NOTICE: If you collect mini beers and we haven't communicated, you don't knew 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, H. 33073 or call (954) 972-2108 or fax (954) 972-1596

WANTED; Every kind of Italian spirits which were produced in Italy for export. Write to Saveen Giuseppe C/o Hotel d'Orange d'Alcantara Via Dei Mulini, 16 98034 Francavilla di Sicilia, ME Sicily or fax 19 942 981 704 or e-mail me at grange @ mail.pandorasicilia.it

WANTED: Complete set of Famous First Medieval Warriors (10). Contact Neil Trager, 321 Harwich Place, Rockton, L. 61072 or Trager@inwave.com

WANTED: Nassau Bahamas Poticeman 18"
tall; Camus Cognac Books (The Irises,
Moulon de la Galette, After the Bath,
Spring Bouquet; Gautier Cognac Concord
plane in all three different colors;
Rynbende Cow and Policeman, and Scotch
whisky mini jugs. FOR SALE; Christian Di
Mare minis with fruits and vegetables
inside; KLM Canal Houses (high numbers);
Inpanese musical instruments and Scottish
Leader ceramic 25yo Scotch Whisky, only
available at the duty free in Taiwan. Please
cull (718) 275-4068 or write to Derman
Villegas, 105-25 64" Ave., Apt 6-F, Forest
litts, NY 11375

FOR SALE: Five different trarreds jugs made in 1991 by Glen Fiona Scotch; a set of seven Glen Fiona Wildlife jugs; various famous Scotlish characters (eg. Mary, Queen of Scots, William Wallace, etc.) and six different English Characters (including Winston Churchill) containing Lindisfarne Mead. Each jug or flagon is \$10 plus postage. Send an SASE for the complete list. And finally, if you just can't find the Vincent, Youri Dulgeruki, or Van Hoo Vodkas, let me know, David M. Spaid, P. O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

WANTED (TRADE OR BUY): I am looking for any tyupe of miniature liquor bottles made or bottled in EL SALVADOR, UGANDA, or ZAMBIA. I will pay top dollar or trade multiple minis for any mini bottles from any of these countries. I have over 130 countries available for trade. Contact Jim Crawford at (513) 467-9113 or e-mail me at shooter@fuac.net

WANTED: Puerte Rican collecter is looking for a Johnnie Walker Green label. I know it is difficult to find, but can somebody help? Also looking for Caribbean rums and mixed rums. Write to Arnalde Barrete, 1875 Avenue Las Americas, Pence, PR 00728 or call (787) 842-9256.

RETAIL: The Hong Kong Miniature Liquor Collection is the largest miniature liquor online store in the world. More than several hundred of various types of miniatures are available. Brands come from other countries throughout the world. You are welcome to navigate our web site at www.miniaturehk.com. Any information you might need, please call (852) 2770 8398 or fax (852) 2314 8022 or e-mail enquiry@miniaturehk.com

FOR SALE: Miniatures from Jordan: whisky, gin, vodka, cognac, scotch, arak (ouzo), etc. Write Mitri Manneh, 11333 Lorene Street, Whittier, CA 90601 or call (562) 692-2928.



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