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# Let's Talk

We may have crossed a major stepping stone of life with the new millennium; however, this is the beginning of our 28th year and we're heading to the home stretch of our third decade. So let's hope that these are filled with great bottles!

To start with I'll mop up the mistake from the last issue. It would be nice if all errors were in tiny print, but they seldom are. On the cover last time it should have been "Herengracht" but somehow that little "n" got lost.

Have had some input from several of you about my choices for great bottles of all time. Not much disagreement, just a few "how about such-and-such?" So I confess I forgot the "brother" bottle to Vincent Vodka. I'm talking about the Van Gogh Gin. I also didn't even think of the Remy Martin beauty which graces our cover this time. So really the list could go on.

As a reminder for those who've been with us but something new for those just joining, don't forget the web site. We're not doing any new articles, but we are allowing you to contact other collectors and post your own ads. It's [www.bottlecollecting.com](http://www.bottlecollecting.com) if you've forgotten.

So, see you in two more months and keep thinking small.

— DMS —

# THE MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor / Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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## Our Cover

The two bottles on the cover this time should need no introduction. If they do, you're probably a recent enrollee to the mini liquor bottle collecting fold. These are two variations of the famous Remy Martin Louis XIII or Louie Tres as some call it. You can find out more about these two on pages 18-19. Wouldn't it be interesting to know how many of these are in collectors' hands?

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# WHAT'S NEW



We have eleven new bottles for you this issue and all but one may be found in one or more areas of the U.S. Let's begin with our little PETs.

Long time readers will remember the different articles on cream liqueurs. It's been some time since then but we have three new ones for you. **Caribbean Cream** comes to us from that sultry island of.....Lewiston, Maine. That's what happens when you read the fine print on a label. **Saint Brendan's** is a new round version of the nice old fancy glass bottle. **Duggan's** is indeed an import with a nice label. The first bottle was found in New York, the second in Tennessee and the third

in California.

One more PET for you is the **Marti Mojito**. This is the first time I've ever seen a mojito bottled in miniature. It's an "autentico licor de rum" which most of us would simply call a cocktail. It also hails from that caribbean paradise of.... Lewiston, Maine.

From the south of France we find **La Muse Verte Pastis**. Since there seems to be a new interest in absinthe, several new pastis have been appearing. This is new in both France and the U.S. Most of these are produced from the distillation of beets. Yummy. Nice glass bottle with interesting label which will make sense only to those who have seen the absinthe





paraphernalia.

Going northwest we come to the U.K where our next two bottles come from. Dewars 12 year old is rolling out across the U.S. and is the first new Dewars product in scores of years. It's a replica of the large bottle and is boxed which definitely adds a bit of class to a bottle and drink which already have an abundance of class. Tears of Scotland is a malt scotch liqueur found in Tennessee. It's an import in a Johnnie Walker style bottle. You won't find it in Scotland.

While we're talking about Scotland, let's look at our one ceramic this time. This Rutherford Scotch book was a





special edition celebrating "Gridley's Pacific Record Breaking Mallard". This was found at one of the UK MBC club meetings.

Closer to home are the two tequilas from Casa Real, blanco and reposado. Very attractive bottles with wooden stoppers and colorful labels. Oddly enough only one of the pair seems to be turning up on store shelves.

Our last bottle is the companion of the vodka found elsewhere in the magazine. This Hampton's Gin is a replica of the large bottle and is found in a frosted green glass. Both it and the vodka are sure winners.

So lots for you to hunt for this time. Back in two months. —DMS—





## TREASURES OF THE PAST

by  
BUTCH JONES



Four gems are shown this month. The first is Valley Cream. This clear flask contains 2 year old 42 proof diluted blended whiskey and was produced by the Parnell Co. of Cincinnati, OH. The white label has a picture in the middle of a green valley.

The next three minis were all distilled by the John A. Wathen Distillery Co. of Lebanon, KY. First we have the Wathen's Old Reserve. This clear flask is filled with 4 year

old 100 proof Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. Next we have Wathen's Gold Label 2 year old 90 proof KSBW. Finally there is the Wathen's Kentucky Leader. The clear flask contains 1 year old 90 proof KSBW. The label is black with the banner in the middle being red with white letters. As I am sure you are aware, there are several more varieties produced by Wathen's.

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

# SCOTCH

David Maund



I thought I'd welcome in the new year with a dozen bottles which came my way the last part of 2000. You know, it was that last century.

Macallan have always been one of my favourites so I thought you'd like to see the most recent issues. They rather speak for themselves; however, I can tell you that the 1981 has been quite difficult to find. Possibly there weren't as many bottled as usual.

Since all the 18 year olds list their bottling date, you'll note that we have 1998 and 1999

respectively. Wonder when the 1982 or 2000 will be released? I'm still missing one or two years of these bottles. Anyone out there have them all?

The Glen Moray 1971 is another rather rare bottle (and contents). It's also quite an expensive miniature when you can find it. This is another of those great Speyside whiskies with several variations of the regular bottle available.

Edradour, the smallest distillery in Scotland, issued this new



# SCOTCH



version last year. It's a bit more short and squat and comes with a nice tube. (I know many of you really enjoy those tubes.) Several years ago I visited this distillery and found it quite charming as well as the producer of an exemplary malt!

Speaking of special malts, Springbank is another distiller which have given us many wonderful bottles and drams down through the years. This is a new version of the 10 year old.

Our last six bottles come again from the Whisky Connoisseur up in Biggar. This set celebrates the stars of the cricket world. William Grace has been immortalised many times but this may be the first time on a whisky bottle. I understand this company did a marvelous Twelve Days of Christmas set in December, but I haven't seen it yet.

That's all for now. If you 're making plans for the St. Louis show, I'll see you there! --DLM--

# GLASS

by HOLM HARS



Today I show you a photo from the producer Bokma. Four years ago I found this wooden box in a little delicatessen. This was the only one in the shop and I have never seen it again. Here is what the box contains:

A. Jonge Graanjenever, 4 cl, 35%

B. Volmout, 4 cl, 35%

C. Oude Genever, 4 cl, 38%

D. Jonge Korenwijn, 4cl, 38%

E. Royal Dark, 4cl, 38%

F. De Vijf Jaren, 4cl, 38

Bottles D and F are frosted glass.

I hope you enjoy this interesting little set. --H.H.--

# VODKA



There are some real beauties for you this time. Of the nine, only four are available here in the U.S; however, three of the remaining ones are definite additions to anyone's collection. Let's begin with those which aren't sold here.

The first three are all from England. Vladivar Peach and Royal Czar are interesting labels but they are on plastic bottles. The Prince Consort is glass and another nice label. Note that all three are 37.5% alcohol. The fourth bottle is Vertical which is produced and found only in France. Even though it looks "traditional", it only

contains 4cl so it could not be legally sold here.

Moving on we have a very nice bottle from Russia which I believe is Flagman. This is a very nice glass bottle, but you'll have to find someone going to Russia.

Now we come to those sold here. All of these are found in California, but not too easily. Hertekemp is a little plastic bottle from Belgium. It's an inexpensive, but quite good vodka. Next is Vox which is found in a few other states. Depending on the local wholesaler, this one ranges in price anywhere from \$2 to \$5. It's a very good Dutch bottle.





Saving the best for last, we have Hampton's and Salute 2000. Hampton's is a frosted glass replica of the large bottle and is one of the more expensive vodkas around. The matching gin is shown in the *What's New* column. Salute 2000 is the real prize winner here. This is an American "picture window" bottle which shows the Statue of Liberty as you look through the vodka. It too is an exact replica of the larger bottle. It is believed this is only found in California.

We'll have another look at vodka when John S. gets some more pictures taken! --DMS--



# SOUTH of the BORDER



From time to time we try to bring you the latest from various areas, companies, etc. Once again we have quite a few tequilas for you. Unfortunately none of these are found in the U.S....solamente en Mexico.

There is one qualification. The first bottle is a tequila liqueur. This is the Agavero which is shaped like the agave cactus. Next to it is the Misionero, also in a distinctive bottle.

Then we have two from Jesus Reyes, the reposado and a special anniversary bottling. Neither of these labels will set the world on



fire. Two more similar bottles but with slightly better labels are the Fogonero and the Rey. This last one has been around for many years with slight label variations.

The last two are definitely the best. On the left is another variation of the Dona Carlota bottles with this one in frosted glass but it is the new version of the 1800 Anejo Reserva with its wooden stopper which wins the prize this time.

Many of these will no doubt show up on sales tables at the next show in St. Louis. Will you be there to see them?



# LOUIS XIII



It doesn't matter what you call this miniature, it will undoubtedly always be the most sought after, highly desired, and monstrously coveted of all mini bottles. I suppose that's an opinion, but with the majority of collectors, it's fact.

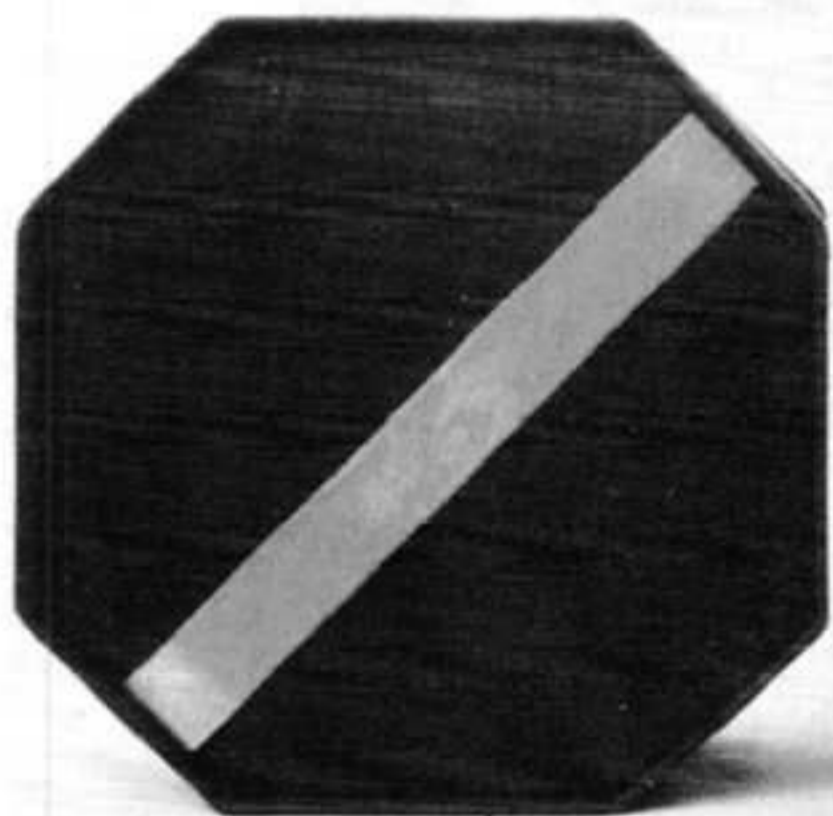
The pair on the cover and again above are from different generations. The one on the left comes from 1976 while the one on the right is from 2000. In fact if you look at the other two pictures, the packaging for the older bottle is always on the left, newer on the right. The second picture (opposite right) shows the inner box that the bottle fits into and the third picture (opposite left) shows the outer packaging. Since the newer boxes are in red, you may not be able to read the printing.

There are several differences between the two bottles. First, of course, is the stopper. The newer has the fleur de lys shape while the older carries on the idea of the shape of the original bottle.

Next note the projections or spires from the sides. The older version has much greater definition than does the new. The actual length of the spires is almost doubled on the original bottle.

Third there is the actual shape of the bottle itself. The newer one is slightly taller and thinner than the original. The picture only hints at this. Finally there is indeed the price of the bottle. The original was sold at Fauchon's in Paris for the franc equivalent of \$36. A few of the new bottles were sold in Japan some months ago. Shall we say that the price has gone UP...or maybe we'll just leave it at WAY UP.

In the approximately fifty years this bottle has been sold (first known in Las Vegas for \$14.95 back in the 1950's), there have been a number of variations because, after all, they are hand blown by Baccarat. Some collectors are known to have several.



REMY MARTIN *Louis XIII Cognac*

# SCOTCH/ HORSES

by **Tony Natelli**



As anyone who knows me will tell you, I collect, among other types, all bottles whose labels depict a horse or horses. I have in excess of 500 different, including over 60 Scotch (my first love). The nine shown here are among the rarest scotch miniatures known and, in most cases, only a handful are known to exist.

**SPORTSMAN** is a scotch-type produced by Gallagher and Burton during the 1930's. **BLACK HORSE** is a product of 1950's Italy and **GOLD SCOTLAND WHISKY** was sold in Cuba, probably in the 1930's.

**BLACK KNIGHT** was imported into the U.S.A. right after prohibition (1934) while **THE HUNTING SQUIRE** was sold in Great Britain and probably dates back to the 1940's. **JAMIE MAC DUGAL** was sold during the 1930's in Shanghai, China!!!

The three **SCOTS KNIGHT** (deluxe, superior, and blended) are thought to have been exported to South America, perhaps circa the 1950's/early 1960's. They are seen occasionally (very occasionally) but are by no means easy to obtain. The first six are "other worldly". --T.N.--



# MELO'S MINIS

by MIKE OLSON



In this article I would like to feature five sample bottles from Barton, plus some of the matching production bottles. The samples are painted brown and have paper strips to resemble tax stamps. I'm not really sure what they were used for, they may have been a salesman's samples or possibly for display purposes. Anyway, they have production labels and are from 1960.

The Old Barton has a black and gold label and is shown with its

whiskey counterpart. The Tom Moore is a new label to me. I have several of this brand, but they have different labels. The Four Score and Old Cummins are two nice bottles which are not often seen. The last of these is Kentucky Gentleman Bourbon Liqueur which is a New York label.

Finally, the snow is falling and we are just starting winter. I'm already looking forward to our bottle show in St. Louis.

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





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# FROM JAPAN

by TAIZO SHIRATSUCHI



A



B

This time I would like to present to you some changes in miniatures of the **SUNTORY ROYAL** Whisky. Suntory Company launched the Royal Whisky to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment in 1960.

The first miniature appeared on June 16, 1978 (A). this is "Special Reserve" and 60 has an apostrophe, as you can see. There is embossed a symbol mark on the back of the bottle and The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Established In 1899 on a red round seal. (B) is a

variation label which became available in 1983. There is "Special Quality" and no apostrophe.

In 1985 there was a large change on the main label. Please see © where there is an "SR", not "60". Next (D) is a variation which appeared in 1988 and here there are a few changes. The Royal does not have double quotation marks and 'SPECIAL QUALITY' are in capital letters.

There is a new label with golden fram (E). The classification-system of Japanese Liquor Tax classified at



C



D

an alcohol volume was repealed in 1989 and the Japanese word meaning a special-class disappeared from the bottom of the main label leaving a Japanese word of Whisky. In 1991 Suntory Co. changed its symbol mark (F) and also the embossing of the back to the letters 'ROYAL'. Their labels have a golden line frame on the labels.

Suntory Co. then launched a new Suntory Royal 12 year old in 1995 (G). There are 'Product of Japan - Establish in 1899' on a golden round seal. The label color changed completely from tan to blue with the golden belt frame and letters. In 1997 the Royal 15 year old was born and at the same



E



F



G

time the 12 year old label was renewed (I). Both round seals have 'Suntory Whisky Aged 12 Years (red) and Aged 15 Years (gold)' for each.

Until next time when we look at some newer bottles. —T.S.—



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**FOR SALE:** The newer vodka and tequila list is ready. The new Vincent is available and it's a treasure, also Thor's Hammer, Mezzaluna, Royalty, Rain, Vox, Hampton's and Salute 2000. In tequilas there is the set of 30/30, Casa Real, Patron and the new Milagro set of three. So if you'd like some of these you'll have to send a note with an SASE. David M. Spaid, P. O. Box 2161, Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

**WANTED:** Complete set of WF finest Dutch Liqueurs, miniature glass animals - Anno 1679, Wynand Fockink, Amsterdam, Holland. Write to: J. B. Bhandari, B. U. Bhandari Auto Ltd., Mumbai Pune Road, Wakdewadi, Pune 411 003, INDIA or email [bubhandari@vsnl.com](mailto:bubhandari@vsnl.com)

**WANTED:** Irish whiskey collector looking for new and different bottles. Will pay top dollar or trade multiple bottles of any type or category. Contact Bill Orr, 1680 Glenwood Drive, Twinsburg, OH 44087 or email me at [shamrock@stratos.net](mailto:shamrock@stratos.net)

**FOR SALE:** Both my collection of about 1,000 straights (all types) and my figural, glass and ceramic minis about 500 including Beneagle, Drioli, Dug's, Famous Firsts, Garnier, Hawaiian Distiller's, Hoffman, Inca Pisco, Isaiah, House of Koshu, Lionstone, Luxardo, McCormick's Elvis, Maryily and J. R. Ewing, McLech, Meiers, Michter, Mohawk, Old St. Andrews, Potters, Raintree, Ski Country and many more. Write to Sandra Twaddle, 435 3<sup>rd</sup> Street N.E., New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

**WANTED:** Still looking for Garnier blown glass, Anglo Swiss Clown, Gagliano Pagoda, Hine Stags and other duty free Larsen and Camus bottles; Luxardo Clown, Pear; Manhattan fruits, Inocchio bottles, cart, blown glass, novelty bottles, baseball; Papillons, Drambuie Castle/Books, Robj Bottles, Jataca, Rynbende Ballerina, bukldog, pink elephant and some houses; Southern Sales, Elvis, Lionstone Shootout at the O.K. Corral, James Bond 007, etc. I have a traders/sales list. Contact: Robert Waldman, 5730 Chancellor Blvd., Vancouver, B. C. V6Y1E5 Canada. Phone (604) 228-8989 or email to [rw007@home.com](mailto:rw007@home.com)

**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](mailto: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 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:** Nassau Bahamas Policeman 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); Japanese musical instruments and Scottish Leader ceramic 25yo Scotch Whisky, only available at the duty free in Taiwan. Please call (718) 275-4068 or write to Derman Villegas, 105-25 64<sup>th</sup> Ave., Apt 6-F, Forest Hills, NY 11375

**WANTED:** Puerto Rican collector 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 Arnaldo Barreto, 1875 Avenue Las Americas, Ponce, PR 00728 or call (787) 842-9256.

**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@fuse.net](mailto:shooter@fuse.net)

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